

How many have seen the news in the last couple of days that we have gun battles going on just south of Douglas, Arizona? We may have 9 or 10 people who have lost their lives. We had a teenager get hit by a stray bullet. We have had a couple of folks—apparently, one crawled to the border and is now in an Arizona hospital. A couple are in Arizona hospitals.

Where is the press? Where is the discussion of what is going on? Apparently, we have a war going on in Agua Prieta, just south of Douglas, between these cartels that not only move drugs, but they also exploit human beings.

These are the very cartels that are taking humans, smuggling them and trafficking them up to the border. They are using assault weapons and killing each other. Of course, we would care about that, wouldn't we? Except it doesn't get any news here because it doesn't fit the narrative.

If you love and care for people, could we at least have an honest discussion of what the President has asked for, with some money for humanitarian aid to take care of those who have presented themselves at the border for refugee status? Understand the violence that is spilling over into my State of Arizona and what is going on.

I guess I come to this microphone just frustrated that this story broke yesterday in Arizona. Where is the national outcry? Where is the national understanding of the chaos that is happening along our southern border and the lives that are being lost? Do we or do we not care about people?

There were two things I wanted to do, and I know we are up against a very tight time, so I am just going to do one of them.

We have this theory that basically says, if you look at U.S. demographics, in 8.5 years, it is two workers, one retiree. In 8.5 years, 50 percent of the budget from this body, less interest, will be to those 65 and older.

Demographics aren't Republican. They are not Democratic. They are math.

We must do a number of things to keep the economic vitality of this society going if we are going to keep our promises. One of those things in our five points is the way we deal with regulations. We have this one area we talk about, whether it be tax policy, trade policy, or regulatory policy. Just in a couple of minutes here, I wanted to explain what smart regulation is.

So often when hearing the rhetoric, we will have: Well, we need to deregulate. We need to reregulate.

That is wrong. We all walk around with these supercomputers in our pockets. It turns out, technology is the rational place where regulation should go.

Here is my thought experiment. Let's use our own neighborhoods. We are the businesses in those neighborhoods. We need to get air quality permits for manufacturing. Does filling out a bunch of paper and shoving it in file

cabinets make air quality cleaner in our neighborhoods? Do file cabinets full of paperwork at the local, county, State, wherever our regulators are, does that make the air quality in our communities better? Of course not. It just creates a lot of documents so that we have someone to sue for the trial lawyers and those things.

I want to propose the concept of crowdsourcing environmental information, particularly for air quality. It turns out, we are living in a time where there are now sensors we can attach to our phones that are highly accurate that will do PM10, hydrocarbons, and volatile organics. What would happen in our communities if we were willing to take this tradeoff?

We are not going to make everyone fill out lots of paperwork. We are going to promote businesses, let them grow. But here is the trick: If they screw up, we catch them instantly.

Also, the clowns painting cars behind everyone's houses in their backyards, we are going to catch them, too.

This thought is very simple. We have a YouTube cartoon that is about 1.5 minutes that walks through this concept of crowdsourcing environmental data. It shows that it is time to use this type of technology. Think of the economic growth tradeoff.

We are not going to fill up file cabinets full of paperwork. Because we are going to be crowdsourcing environmental data, when there is a bad actor, or someone's scrubbers are out of compliance, or there are clowns painting cars in backyards, we will catch them instantly.

Wouldn't that be a lot more powerful, where environmental regulators of communities, States, and counties are now a quick reaction force that goes to where the bad acts are happening instead of basically being paperwork domiciles?

That is an example of smart regulation. It makes communities healthier. It makes air quality better. It still has businesses growing because they are not buried under consultants and mounds of paper. That is an example of smart regulation.

How do we drag this institution into understanding the incredible opportunities that technology is bringing in crashing the price of healthcare and making the environment healthier? In the coming weeks, I am going to come back to dive into this much deeper, but let me salt the mine a little bit for a thought experiment.

What would happen if we had technology that could protect houses of worship, schools, this body, and public buildings? It turns out that it exists today.

I want to propose that this body put together an XPRIZE for nonlethal protection of our buildings and our houses of worship. We already know there are experiments out there with pods that go on the wall, so if someone comes in and is engaged in a bad act or discharges a firearm, instantly, just like

the Taser darts, it lays them down. Yes, innocent people will get hit with them, but they don't die.

It turns out that there are technology solutions that will make us safer.

□ 1700

How do we drag the conversations around this place to understand there are really great, exciting opportunities for all of us out there, whether it be in smart regulation, whether it be the end of killing using technology, whether it be the fact we are about to get dramatically healthier, and that the cures that are about to come on the market for diseases that have been with us for so long, we are in a time of amazing disruption?

How do we future-proof our policies, and how do we get this body to stop thinking everything is either Democrat or Republican, but understand there are actual solutions, you just have to be forward-thinking with technology?

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING JOHN RUFFIER DURING PRIDE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Pride Month, I would like to honor John Ruffier.

John Daniel Ruffier is an attorney and leader of the LGBTQ community in central Florida. John was born in Orlando, Florida, and attended Edgewater High School where he was part of the State champion men's crew team.

He went on to attend Vanderbilt University and then the University of Florida College of Law. Upon graduation from law school, John joined the law firm of Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed in Orlando where he practices to this day, sitting on the firm's executive committee and leading the firm's senior housing practice group.

John has been involved in numerous community activities having served on the board of directors for both the Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless and the Hope and Health Center of Central Florida.

Along with Jennifer Foster, John founded the central Florida chapter of the Human Rights Campaign and later joined HRC's national board of governors. Following his term on HRC's board of governors, he was asked to join the board of directors for the HRC Foundation. John was also elected to the Human Rights Campaign's political board where he rose to the role of board chair in the years 2018 to 2019.

For that, John Ruffier, we honor you.

HONORING DR. GEORGE WALLACE DURING PRIDE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Pride Month, I would like to honor Dr. George Wallace.

Dr. George Wallace was born in New Hampshire and moved to central Florida in 1992. He returned to New England in 1995, and after finishing his undergraduate degree, he returned to Florida in 2002.

George spent the first half of his career advocating and working with persons with disabilities as a case manager and later turned his passion for arts into a career as a senior leader of the Orlando Fringe.

During the Pulse tragedy, George was serving on the board of the LGBT+ Center of Orlando. Knowing that he wanted to continue serving his community, he accepted the role as executive director of The Center in Orlando in 2017. Dr. Wallace has since grown the organization to include a programming center at its satellite office in Kissimmee in our district.

George is a very visible leader within central Florida and enjoys travel, photography, and cheering on the Boston Red Sox in his free time.

For that, Dr. George Wallace, we honor you.

HONORING ERIC ROLLINGS DURING PRIDE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Pride Month, I would like to honor Eric Rollings.

After 30 years of change, of loss, and of victories, Eric Rollings continues to be one of the most active and visible LGBT leaders in Orange County.

Eric started volunteering at the Hope and Help Center in the early 1990s because he witnessed the injustices and stigma that his friends suffered from HIV/AIDS as they were dealing with it every day. In 1993, he was awarded the Volunteer of the Year for his dedication.

In the present day, Eric is serving his sixth term on the Community Development Block Grant Board and helps secure funding for the LGBT+ Center of central Florida and helps make recommendations for housing and services for people living with HIV/AIDS and low- to moderate-income households in the Orlando area.

In Eric's early small business career he was discriminated against for being gay. He saw an opportunity to help educate other business entrepreneurs and worked to provide a safe business environment. With that, he helped grow the Metropolitan Business Association, the LGBT Chamber of Commerce, serving on the board of directors twice.

Eric, with many of his friends and activist allies, was instrumental in passing ordinances and protections for the LGBT people of the city of Orlando and Orange County. In the early days, nothing was certain, but because they did not give up on Orlando and Orange County, today our home is one of the most inclusive, welcoming, and economically vibrant areas in the Nation.

After the Pulse tragedy, all of Orlando came together and became Orlando United. Eric was honored with an Orlando United Medal from Mayor Teresa Jacobs. Eric was elected as one of

the first openly LGBT people to serve in an Orange County-wide position. He worked as chairman of our Soil and Water Conservation Board. He continues to work now politically to improve our environment and to stand up for equality for all, including a ban on conversion therapy.

For that, Mr. Eric Rollings, we honor you.

HONORING RICARDO NEGRON-ALMODOVAR DURING PRIDE MONTH.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Pride Month, I would like to honor Ricardo Negron-Almodovar.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Ricardo obtained a master's degree in education, a juris doctorate, and is a licensed attorney in Puerto Rico.

In 2015 Ricardo moved from Yauco, Puerto Rico, to Orlando, Florida. During his first year in Florida, he taught English to adults and became involved in civic engagement efforts to register new voters.

After the Pulse tragedy on June 12, 2016, of which he is a survivor, Ricardo worked to empower the LGBTQ Latinx community and has advocated against discrimination and gun violence. Ricardo currently serves as a legal service coordinator for LatinoJustice where he has had the opportunity to assist those transitioning from Puerto Rico to Florida after Hurricane Maria devastated my family's native island.

Recently Ricardo obtained a master's degree in nonprofit management and launched the community organization Del Ambiente, which is an effort led by the LGBTQ Puerto Rican community to build up the LGBTQ Puerto Rican community in Florida's activism in environmental work.

For that, Ricardo Negron-Almodovar, we honor you.

HONORING KAREN CASTELLOES DURING PRIDE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Pride Month, I would like to honor Karen Castelloes.

In 1971, Karen graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a BA in Spanish. After moving to Orlando in 1975, she attained her master's degree in education from Nova University and was employed by Orange County Public Schools as an English to Speakers of Other Languages teacher, an ESOL teacher, for 31 years.

She retired in 2007 and became involved in volunteer work. She is the cofounder of the Jefferson R. Voss Scholarship for Zebra Coalition youth. She served as a member of the Equality Florida Steering Committee for 3 years and presently holds the position of vice chair.

She continues to volunteer at IDignity of Orlando and at the food pantry at Joy MCC. In addition, she proudly serves on the education fund at the Zebra Coalition organization which serves LGBTQ youth.

For that, Karen Castelloes, we honor you.

HONORING DAVID ARTHUR JONES DURING PRIDE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Pride Month, I would like to honor David Arthur Jones.

David Arthur Jones, son of Mary Lou Jones and the late Arthur Henderson Jones, Jr. was born and raised in a union household in upstate New York. The environment of David's upbringing provided a foundation of values associated with human rights to which he has been largely committed to over the course of his lifetime.

After surviving a raucous adolescence, David served with the United States Jaycees and the New York Young Democrats and was awarded the prestigious Governorship Award which confers an honorary lifetime membership. Among his proudest works was the establishment of a spacious town park in Whitestown, New York.

David went on to enroll at the Mohawk Valley Community College and Utica College of Syracuse University where he earned his degree in occupational therapy.

Together, John and David moved to Lake Wales, Florida, in 2004, in Florida's Ninth Congressional District. As a committeeman, David incorporated LGBT issues as part of meetings of the Polk County Democratic Committee.

In 2001, David and his life partner, John, officially certified their love for each other by virtue of marriage in Utica, New York. David and John spearheaded the effort to establish the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Allies Democratic Caucus of Polk County. In that same year, David became a Florida LGTBTA Democratic Caucus regional director serving six counties, including Polk, Lake, Osceola, Orange, Seminole, and Volusia County, of which I am proud to represent much of that area.

David is now in his fifth term serving as the area's regional director. Currently David Jones is focusing on securing all-inclusive human rights ordinances in municipalities within Polk County. Thus far, David has spoken before the commissions of three Polk County cities and has recruited a number of supporters to do the same in the quest to secure fundamental rights for all, and our office has helped in that effort.

David is extremely grateful for the public support that has been given by Florida House Representative Sam Killebrew and our office, Team Soto, towards securing all-inclusive human rights ordinances, securing the effort as being one of bipartisanship.

For that, David Arthur Jones, we honor you.

HONORING ANTHONY H. SANDONATO DURING PRIDE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Pride Month, I would like to honor Anthony H. Sandonato.

Anthony is a proud Orlando resident, human resources executive, LGBTQ community advocate, and a member of the Human Rights Campaign's national board of governors.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Anthony currently resides with his husband, Tracer Foster, in downtown Orlando, Florida.

After completing his bachelor's degree in education from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Anthony relocated to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1995 to pursue his career. It was there that he took on his first role in human resources with a Miami-based retailer.

Anthony began volunteering to effect change for the LGBT community. He took on volunteer leadership roles with south Florida's volunteer committee for the Human Rights Campaign, the Nation's largest LGBTQ advocacy group and political lobbying organization in the United States.

Anthony volunteered through HRC to protect Miami-Dade's hard-won human rights ordinance and to attempt to stop the passage of Florida's 2008 amendment which ultimately banned gay marriage and civil unions in that State until 2015.

At the Federal level, Anthony championed HRC's efforts in south Florida to achieve the passage of the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act, the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, and the decade-long effort to pass the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, otherwise known as ENDA.

Anthony moved to Orlando in 2012. Shortly after relocating, he joined HRC's Orlando/central Florida volunteer committee and continued his LGBTQ advocacy as a political and community engagement leader. His focus in central Florida has been to continue his efforts to influence policy by coordinating local get-out-the-vote campaigns and by working with community leaders and Members of the House and Senate for repeal of the current administration's transgender military ban and the passage of the Equality Act, which I am proud, Madam Speaker, we passed out of this House earlier this year.

For that, Anthony H. Sandonato, we honor you.

HONORING NIKOLE PARKER DURING PRIDE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Pride Month, I would like to honor Nikole Parker.

Nikole Parker is a transgender woman of Puerto Rican, Italian, and African American descent. She was born and raised in Orlando, Florida, and at the age of 19 left her job and her home to begin her transition. After 3 years of black-market hormones and unsafe lifestyle practices she came back to Orlando to restart her life.

Nikole's passion in advocating for the rights and dignity of transgender and gender-nonconforming community is legendary in central Florida. She currently works for onePULSE Foundation as the event and community outreach coordinator. Nikole also sits on various nonprofit boards within the community, including the LGBT+ Center and the Orlando United Assistance Center.

In addition to her work with the onePULSE Foundation, Nikole coleads the work of the Orlando Trans Awareness Collective, a collaborative group of transgender and gender nonconforming leaders of color who have focused on community building and advocacy efforts for the central Florida transgender community.

In 2018, Nikole was honored with the Humanitarian of the Year Award by the Miss Glamorous Pageant for her ongoing advocacy and empowerment of the transgender community and work with the onePULSE Foundation.

She hopes to educate individuals from the community on healthy and safe ways to undergo transition, providing resources so black-market hormones and unsafe lifestyles can be avoided.

For that, Nikole Parker, we honor you.

□ 1715

HONORING DIEUSEUL BERTO DURING CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Caribbean Heritage Month, I would like to honor Dieuseul Berto.

Dieuseul Berto is a Haitian American immigrant who was a former kick boxer and founder of Tiger's World Martial Arts and Boxing Fitness, founded in Winter Haven, Florida, in Florida's Ninth Congressional District. He competed in the UFC.

Berto was known as the man who helped so many people. He was recognized for his conception of a cardiovascular weight loss training program.

Although Berto was injured in a horrendous car accident that left him in a wheelchair for over a year, he did not let the accident define or confine him. Therefore, Dieuseul Berto began creating ways to self-train in his wheelchair by including pushups and the use of a punching bag, which served as a catalyst for his cardio program. He then incorporated those techniques used in the workout.

Berto's fitness program is credited with helping more than 1,200 people gain access to better health by shedding unwanted and unhealthy pounds, resulting in lowering blood pressure and cholesterol concerns over the past 20 years. He is considered a pioneer in helping people with their health and, consequently, their self-confidence.

He was also a family man who helped many kids and tried to keep them out of trouble with his kids program. Berto also mentored children and encouraged them to never sell themselves short by reiterating that any dream is possible and attainable with hard work and dedication. He is credited with teaching children to set larger-than-life expectations for themselves.

He interacted, impacted, and inspired people from all aspects of life.

Berto and his wife are the parents of seven children, including Andre Berto, a two-time former welterweight world champion; Edson and Revelina, who are also professional mixed martial artists; and his son Cleveland, who is an actor.

Madam Speaker, for that, we honor Dieuseul Berto.

HONORING CASMORE SHAW DURING CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Caribbean Heritage Month, I would like to honor Casmore Shaw.

Casmore Shaw moved to Osceola County in the mid-eighties from New York, where he worked as associate dean for the International Students and High School Program and as the director of admissions and student enrollment at Technical Career Institutes. Before that, he taught at Mona Preparatory School in Kingston, Jamaica.

Casmore currently serves on the Osceola County Housing and Finance Authority Advisory Board and the regional board of MetroPlan Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee as well.

He is also the State committee man for the Osceola Democrats and the vice chair of the Osceola Democratic Executive Committee. Casmore is the State secretary for the Florida Democratic Party. He is also a member of the Osceola Education Foundation and the Caribbean and Floridian Association.

Casmore is a founding member of the Kissimmee and Kissimmee South Poinciana Rotary Clubs. He served as past chairman of the Osceola Charter Review Commission, past chair of the Osceola Land Conservation Advisory Board, past chairman of the board of directors of the Osceola County Library System, past president and vice president of the Caribbean and Floridian Association, past chair of the Osceola County School District's Affirmative Action Advisory Board, and the conflict resolution officer and mediator of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Osceola County.

Casmore holds a graduate degree in curriculum instruction, with a minor in reading intervention, from Concordia University, as well as degrees in elementary education and business administration, with a concentration in supervision and management, and an advanced certificate in healthcare administration.

He worked at Polk State College in the Student Service department and was director for My Brother's Keeper, a program for homeless and vulnerable students. He was also the co-adviser to the Pearl of a Nation Haitian Service Club.

Casmore is married to Jennifer Mitchell, and they have four daughters: Toni-Ann, Deirdre, Dionne, and Jennise.

Madam Speaker, for that, we honor Mr. Casmore Shaw.

HONORING WAYNE GOLDING DURING CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Caribbean Heritage Month, I would like to honor Wayne Golding, Sr., Esquire, who was born in Kingston, Jamaica.

After his graduation from high school, he immigrated to New York

with his mother and younger brother in 1981. He went on to graduate from Queens College, CUNY, with a BA in economics and worked on Wall Street.

In 1988, he moved his young family to Orlando, Florida. Wayne earned his juris doctorate of law from Barry University School of Law.

Even as an accomplished attorney practicing in the Florida State courts, the United States courts, and immigration court, he has continued his work as a community leader and activist.

In 2004, he established the litigation law firm, The Golding Lit Group, PLC, based in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Golding has served as president of the Caribbean Bar Association's Central Florida chapter.

As an immigrant, he made history when he was selected to serve as chairman of the Orange County School Board Biracial Committee.

Since August 2015, Mr. Golding has been selected to serve as the Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board member of the southern USA. In this role, he confidently advises the minister of foreign affairs for the Government of Jamaica on Jamaica diaspora issues.

He has been laser focused on methodically galvanizing the skills and talent of the members of the Caribbean community and strengthening the voice of the Caribbean communities in the spaces they reside.

Notably, he continues to be involved with the planning and execution of the annual celebration of Caribbean American Heritage Month.

Wayne credits his drive and commitment to his community to the lessons learned from his grandparents; the support of his wife of 30 years, Lois A. Golding; from their two children, Tassanee Golding and Wayne Golding, Jr.; his mother, Minett Gayle-Brown; as well as a host of mentors and leaders on whose shoulders he stands.

Madam Speaker, for that, we honor Mr. Wayne Golding.

HONORING JOHN PERRY DURING CARIBBEAN
HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Caribbean Heritage Month, I would like to honor John Perry.

Mr. John Everton Perry was born in Kingston, Jamaica, in August 1955. He migrated to New York in 1967 and attended junior high school at Mount Vernon's Washington Junior High, where he received the certificate for outstanding writing presented by the actor-community activist Mr. Ossie Davis.

Mr. PERRY went on to attend Mount Vernon High School, where he lettered in football as a quarterback and also in track. He was a voice on the student council as head school marshal.

After high school, Mr. PERRY enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served honorably for 5 years. During this time, Mr. PERRY found time to attend The Ohio State University, Park College, and Rollins College.

Mr. PERRY's first passion is as a fishmonger. He has worked in the seafood

industry since the age of 13, but, along the way, he has worked in corporate America: in sales for Brach's Candy, as a tile and gap filler specialist for the U.S. Space Shuttle program at KSC, and financial labor auditor with the Lockheed Corporation.

John now works as an independent insurance counselor in the employees' benefit arena, a relocation specialist, and a LegalShield director.

For the last 4 years, Mr. PERRY has been on WOTS 1220AM in Kissimmee, Caribbean Rhythms Radio Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the "A Little Bit of Everything" commentary show on the subject of the day.

Mr. PERRY has been a devoted husband to Mrs. Cecilia LaVerne Perry for the last 43 years. They were blessed with two outstanding children, John, Jr., and Jonnell Evette Perry, and also their two grandchildren, Makayla Perry and Johntae Perry.

Madam Speaker, for that, we honor Mr. John Perry.

HONORING LOUIS WITTER DURING CARIBBEAN
HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Caribbean Heritage Month, I would like to honor Louis Witter.

Louis Witter has been a longstanding businessman in the hospitality industry in the central Florida area since 1992.

He attended Florida Technical College, where he gained his knowledge in business administration and management. He is a current member of the Caribbean and Floridian Association, Inc.; Restore the Path for Christ Church; and the Jamaica Diaspora group, Southeastern Division.

Louis Witter is an entrepreneur, a Caribbean restaurant owner, and a producer and host of Caribbean Rhythms Radio Network AM1220 WOTS, a local Caribbean radio station in the Kissimmee, Florida, area.

This radio station provides vital sources of business, social networking, events, and community information, interviews, and has been a voice to the central Florida Caribbean communities for the past 20 years.

He has used the radio platform to provide internships to over 50 individuals who have successfully completed programs at the radio station and have moved on to pursue careers in the radio broadcasting industry.

Louis Witter is from the Caribbean island of Jamaica. He has lived in the United States for over 30 years.

When he is not involved with business, he enjoys listening to cultural reggae music. He believes that reggae music speaks to all nations, with a strong message in each song.

Louis Witter lives in Davenport, Florida, and can be heard online every Saturday at www.crrnetwork.com, on his broadcasts.

Madam Speaker, for that, we honor Mr. Louis Witter.

HONORING SHELLEY BRIGGS DURING CARIBBEAN
HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Caribbean Heritage Month, I would like to honor Shelley Briggs.

Shelley Ann Briggs was born in London, England, on July 5 to the late Joan Ann Grant. Joan had migrated to London from Georgetown, Guyana, to complete her studies, and, due to hardships, Shelley was sent to Georgetown, Guyana, to live with her grandmother when she was a baby.

Seeking better opportunities and a better life for her family, her grandmother migrated to the United States of America when Shelley was 4 years old, soon settling in Brooklyn, New York.

As a child growing up, Shelley was raised under Guyanese traditions and customs, and, even though she lived in Brooklyn, the neighborhood reflected the West Indian culture Shelley grew to admire.

Shelley attended several private schools and graduated from Catherine McAuley High School. During this time, she also became a U.S. citizen through the help of her mother, who had joined the family in the U.S. when Shelley was 10 years old.

After high school, Shelley made the decision to join the United States Army after attending college for one semester. Shelley then relocated to Florida to help take care of her mother, who had been diagnosed with cancer.

While in Florida, her mother introduced her to the Caribbean and Floridian Association, and soon Shelley became a member. She has served CAFA in a variety of capacities over the last 20 years, and currently she is chairperson for the Service and Education Committee.

She is currently employed as a dean at Gateway High School, located in Osceola County School District in Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

Shelley's life passion has always been children, and there has been a special place in her heart for children whose parents left their home country and came to the United States in search of a better life for their family.

Shelley is happily married to Dennis Briggs and is the proud mother to Jada; Jourard; Dennis, Jr.; and Deyonce.

Madam Speaker, for that, we honor Mrs. Shelley Briggs.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2105

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN) at 9 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.