

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, on July 12, 2019, my vote for Roll Call 462, Turner of Ohio Part B Amendment No. 386, was recorded incorrectly. I intended to vote NO on Roll Call No. 462, but I was recorded as voting AYE.

RECOGNIZING THE ONTONAGON COUNTY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Ontonagon County Veterans Association (OCVA) for over sixteen years of service to Veterans and their families. Through their dedicated service, exceptional leadership, and steadfast devotion to its community, the OCVA has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

First formed in 2003, the OCVA represents all eight VFWs and American Legions in Ontonagon County. The organization was first brought together to provide full military honors at all military burials in the county—an endeavor that requires significant coordination and participation from local Veterans. Today, the OCVA Honor Guard leads dozens of burials for Ontonagon Veterans each year. The group also schedules and operates the DAV Van, taking Veterans from throughout the county to the VA Facility in Iron Mountain. This work is made even more difficult by the extreme geographic size and low population density of Ontonagon County. Despite these challenges, the OCVA consistently rises to the challenge in service of our local Veterans.

In addition to their regular work, efforts from the OCVA were critical in returning LS2 Lowell Valley, a sailor on the USS *Oklahoma* killed during the attacks on Pearl Harbor, home for final burial in 2018. Its members are also highly involved in community activities, churches, government, and local businesses. Day after day, the OCVA continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Ontonagon County Veterans Association for decades of success and service to the Veterans of the Upper Peninsula. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the OCVA all the best in its future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MR. HARRY WATKIN

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of the late Mr.

Harry Watkins of Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, who passed away late last year at the age of 72.

Harry Watkins got his start in architecture after studying at North Carolina State University. After a 40-year-long career, Harry has left a lasting imprint on Wrightsville Beach, Bald Head Island, Figure 8 Island and many other surrounding communities where he designed many of the homes that still stand there today. He always held a special place in his heart for Bald Head Island.

Harry also helped to grow Wrightsville Beach true to his vision: "The architect must understand the community, the environment, and especially the characteristics of the specific site," Harry said of his design philosophy. He described his idea of what a good home can be as "a joy when things were going well, and a comfort when they were not."

Harry left a legacy of architectural vision and excellence that is visible in each and every community he touched. He is survived by his wife Vicki, his daughter Brooke, and an entire community of friends, neighbors and clients who are forever grateful for his love and influence in their life.

Madam Speaker, Harry Watkins was a great American who has left an enduring and exceptional legacy for which we are all proud.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL LANE HARVEY ON HIS ELECTION AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE 2019 ILLINOIS FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Michael Lane Harvey on his election as vice president of the 2019 Illinois FFA.

Mr. Lane's background should serve him well in his new position. He served the past few years as his school's FFA representative and more recently as president of Illinois FFA Section 23. In that post, he served the farming interests of thirteen area schools as a state officer. After being voted in by over 400 delegates and over 5,000 members from across Illinois at the 91st Illinois FFA State Convention held in Springfield, Mr. Lane will be taking on even greater responsibilities as he represents over 20,000 FFA members and advisors.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Michael Lane Harvey on his election as vice president of the 2019 Illinois FFA. I have always enjoyed working with our agricultural leaders, especially those in the blue jacket. I would like to extend my well wishes to Mr. Lane, the entire State Officer Team, and all members of the Illinois FFA.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY SAINT PAUL'S STERLING CLUB

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of

Saint Paul's Sterling Club, the oldest African American men's club in the nation. Founded at a time when racism and segregation were the norm, and African Americans could not access the same accommodations as white community members, the Sterling Club provided a strong community to allow neighbors to come together and to host and celebrate visiting African American dignitaries.

On a bright and cold New Year's Day in 1918, men from Saint Paul's Rondo neighborhood chartered a bus to spread the word of a new club created for African Americans. The Sterling Club, and later the Women's Auxiliary, would quickly become a cornerstone of the social and civic strength of Saint Paul's African American community. During its first hundred years, the Sterling club has hosted countless events, balls and social gatherings. Above all, the organization's principal purpose was "the proper entertainment of persons of note who may visit."

Officially incorporated on August 28, 1919, the Sterling Club was not a social club in the same vein as others, which typically only catered to community elites and the professional class. Among its ranks one could find, lawyers, architects, government employees and decorated war veterans. Officers and members also included railroad workers, janitors, meat packers, elevator operators and postal workers. Then as now, the egalitarian ethos speaks to the community-building and organizing principles of the Sterling Club.

In 1900s Saint Paul, African American community members were eager to hear from leaders speaking about overcoming the adversity and racism that was commonplace throughout our nation. To address this desire, the Sterling Club began hosting notable and national leaders including Booker T. Washington, William Monroe Trotter and W.E.B. Du Bois. The club remains actively focused on civic engagement and has hosted forums for generations of candidates seeking elected office in Saint Paul. The development of the Sterling Club Charitable Fund has also contributed greatly to the community, sponsoring student scholarships and honoring volunteers who give back to our community.

Despite being a men's group, the longevity and success of the club would not have been possible without the women of the Auxiliary. Spouses of club members long played a significant role in fundraising, planning and organizing. Without shrewd and savvy women of the Auxiliary scraping together enough funding, the club likely would not have been able to survive past the Great Depression and World War II to flourish in the post-war years.

The Sterling Club has always relied on the collective experience and abilities of members to organize, resist, thrive and give back to the community. Founded in a time and place where the color of your skin could mean the difference between a comfortable life or a life at the margins, the Sterling Club stands tall as an example of how a community coming together can claim the American Dream in the face of adversity of prejudice and discrimination and forge a new and better future for everyone. Madam Speaker please join me in celebrating 100 years of Saint Paul Sterling Club.