

Mrs. Parker was a loving mother of three and wife of longtime newsmen, Glynn Boyd. She was a veteran journalist at FOX 8 News where she was both a nominee and awardee of several Emmy Awards. Outside the newsroom, Mrs. Parker wrote two beautifully written children's books tailored in the culture of New Orleans. She was also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Mrs. Parker was a treasure to us all. She lived a fulfilled life doing what she loved to do for so many years. We are forever grateful to Mrs. Parker for her eternal impact and we keep her friends and loved ones near and dear to our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mrs. Nancy Parker.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE GREG
HORTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Greg Horton with the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department for being named one of the Top 10 Computer Forensic Examiners in the country by the United States Secret Service.

Detective Horton is one of 3,000 examiners on the United States Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force. Detective Horton has been working with the Electronic Crimes Task Force since 2011 and has performed over 2,200 forensic examinations. Out of all his peers, the United States Secret Service has ranked him number four in the country.

I thank Detective Horton for his dedicated service to our law enforcement community and the nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR.
GEORGE T. FRENCH, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. George T. French, Jr., the 14th President of Miles College, on his twenty-three years of exemplary service to Miles College and his recent appointment as President of Clark Atlanta University. Under the impressive leadership and oversight of Dr. French as President since 2005, Miles College has met unprecedented fundraising goals, has more than doubled its existing campus size through land acquisition and, most importantly, has continued to fight for and implement the values upon which it was founded—providing its students with quality, first-class higher education. A man of steadfast and unwavering faith, Dr. French's experience as a pastor in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has lent him strength and purpose as he has navigated his impressive career.

Miles College was established over one hundred years ago in 1898 in Fairfield, Alabama. The college is a historically black college, whose mission has always been to pro-

vide top-tier higher education to the African American community and to educate the minds of future local, national and global leaders. Miles College has deep roots in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, whose guiding principles helped to shape the school's mission and curriculum. Miles College also played a major role in Birmingham's struggle for civil rights. When the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was scouting a city in which to test methods of peaceful protest, Birmingham was decided upon in large part because members of Miles College were already engaging in activism.

A native of Louisville, KY, Dr. French joined Miles College with a strong educational background, having earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Louisville. He was then competitively accepted to the University of Richmond Law School before being recruited by Miles College's former President Albert Sloan to join Miles College as the Director of Development. Dr. French completed his final year of law school at Miles Law School where he earned his Juris Doctor. He received his Ph.D. in Higher Education from Jackson State University in 2018.

As Director of Institutional Planning and Development at Miles College, Dr. French oversaw the offices of Alumni Affairs, Federal Contracts and Grants, Title III, Institutional Research and Effectiveness, Congressional Relations and Public Relations. He was also primarily responsible for fundraising, a task he met handily. As part of the Capital Campaign Fund Drive, Dr. French raised twelve million dollars, making it the largest drive in the history of Miles College.

During his fourteen-year tenure as President of Miles College, Dr. French has worked to strengthen the college's academic standing and offerings. Under his direction, faculty has secured some of the largest grants in the college's history, and the initiative of "culture, class and civility" has been put into action, in the classroom and throughout all other initiatives. During his presidency, Miles College received a federal grant to become a Center for Academic Excellence in Intelligence. As a senior member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I am especially proud of the work of Miles College within the Intelligence Community. During visits from the Director of the Office of National Intelligence to campus presentations before two Directors of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the students and professors at Miles College brilliantly personified why diversity in the Intelligence Community is so important. In addition, Miles College was rated by HBCU Digest as one of the "Top Three Most Underrated Historically Black Colleges and Universities."

Under his impressive leadership, Dr. French has also increased Miles College's allocation to education and educational support services by 11.03 percent. The school's total operating budget has increased significantly as a result of Dr. French's superior fundraising abilities and has realized a 32.28 percent increase in operating revenue thanks to state and federal grants and contracts aimed at reducing student debt. Dr. French's administration has also worked to progressively increase student access to education funding through a 54.31 percent increase in awarded Pell Grants.

Dr. French has also kept an eye to the future, acquiring the North Campus, a forty-one-acre site whose inclusion doubles the size of

Miles College's existing campus. He has seen the college successfully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, an affirmation that will stand through 2023.

In addition to his exemplary work at Miles College, Dr. French has been a true servant leader within the broader Birmingham community, boasting numerous awards and accomplishments. In 2011, Dr. French was appointed Treasurer of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and in 2013 he was named the Birmingham Spotlight "Man of the Year." He currently serves on the Regions Financial Diversity Advisory Council and as an officer of the Birmingham Business Alliance Executive Committee. Dr. French was invited by former President Barack Obama to a meeting at the White House and, per the recommendation of U.S. Congressional leaders including Reps. NANCY PELOSI, John Boehner and TERRI SEWELL, was appointed to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, an entity which serves to advise the Secretary of Education. Dr. French was also appointed by the U.S. Congress to serve on the U.S. Department of Education Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, which was established ahead of proposed regulations for the Federal Student Aid programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

On a personal note, I have had the great honor of knowing and working with Dr. French for over a decade. He has been an exemplary President of Miles College, an outstanding mentor and a dear friend. I know that Miles College stands tall today as one of the "Crown Jewels of Alabama's 7th Congressional District" because of Dr. French's visionary leadership, fundraising prowess and inspiring and infectious charisma. Thank you for your twenty-three years of supreme service to Miles College and congratulations to you for the outstanding legacy that you will leave here. I am forever grateful for our friendship and for the amazing partnership that my congressional office has enjoyed with Miles College. From growing the college financially and literally to all of the outstanding academic programs and athletic events, you will leave this institution a stronger and better place. For that I say, "Well done," my friend. I know that your brilliance, love of learning, faith and determination has and will continue to serve you well in your new endeavor as the incoming President of Clark Atlanta University.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, the Miles College family, the Birmingham community and the State of Alabama, in paying tribute to the extraordinary life and legacy of Dr. George T. French, Jr., the beloved 14th President of Miles College.

IN HONOR OF FRANCISCO
PORTILLO

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Francisco Portillo, the Honduran political activist who fought for immigration reform in the United States. He passed away earlier this month at the age of 64.

Born in Honduras, Mr. Portillo dedicated his life to defending and advising Central American immigrants. He founded the Francisco Morazan Honduran Organization in 1996. The organization advocates to improving conditions for Central American immigrants and extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Central Americans, Venezuelans, and Haitians living in the United States. Until his death, Mr. Portillo served as president of this organization and the Coalición de Organizaciones Latinas Unidas por una Reforma Migratoria.

Mr. Portillo received multiple awards for his work, including the 2018 Pride Hispanic Prize. His dedication to public service and immigration reform changed our South Florida community for the better. We will remember him with love and honor him by continuing his work for immigrant rights.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAWYER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Sawyer International Airport upon the occasion of its 20th Anniversary. Through its outstanding service and commitment to excellence, Sawyer has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

With the expansion of the U.S. Air Force following World War II, a small airstrip near Marquette, Michigan, was chosen as the site for a new base. After signing a 99-year lease on the land, the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base officially opened on May 8, 1959. For nearly 40 years, the base hosted thousands of airmen until its eventual closure in September 1995. In its place opened Sawyer International Airport, a public-use airport owned and operated by the County of Marquette. Its first incoming commercial flight landed on September 22, 1999.

Since that first flight, more than two million commercial airline passengers have been served by Sawyer, with more than a hundred thousand flyers going through the airport each year. Sawyer has also constantly worked to improve and expand over the last two decades—shaping the airport into the first-rate option for businesses and travelers that it is today. In addition to its passenger air service, Sawyer's campus is home to over five dozen businesses with more than 1,200 employees. It should be no surprise that Sawyer was named the 2019 Airport of the Year by the Michigan Department of Transportation, while Airport Manager Duane DuRay was named Airport Manager of the Year. Day after day, Sawyer International Airport demonstrates its commitment to connecting those in the U.P. with the rest of the world, while allowing those from around the globe to visit and experience the best that Michigan has to offer.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Sawyer International Airport for 20 years of success and service. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to such an outstanding institution. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Sawyer all the best in its future endeavors.