

to assist his father in tending to the needs of the family farm, he remained passionate about learning. Consequently, as an adult, he continued to learn and prepare for his future employment opportunities, such as the United States Civil Service, the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, and the Muscogee County School District.

On April 27, 1939, at the age of 19, Robert married the love of his life, Flossie McCray. They were faithfully married for 56 years until Flossie's passing in 1995. Over the years, they were blessed with eight children: Zelma (deceased), Robert, Jr., William, Carolyn Ann, Shirley, Doris, Dorothy, and Rosalyn; 14 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. As doting parents, Robert and Flossie always created a nurturing environment of unselfish love, encouragement, and values to carry their children, grandchildren, and a host of other family members through life.

In addition to being a committed family man, Mr. Kelley is also a proud Veteran who served his country during World War II, receiving an honorable discharge in 1944. His service was a true testament of his devotion to his country, as African-American soldiers during this time were in a segregated Army and fought in a war with limited chances of receiving a promotion or even an acknowledgment.

After his distinguished military career ended, Mr. Kelley continued to contribute to his community. On September 29, 1944, he became a member of the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia and served over many years in several leadership capacities including Chairman of the Deacon Board, Chairman of the Trustee Board, Church Clerk, Financial Secretary, Boy Scout Leader, and Tribe Leader. He continues to serve to this day.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 says "The race of life is not given to the swift nor to the strong, but to those who endure until the end." Robert F. Kelley, Sr. has run the race of his life with zeal and dignity. As patriarch of his family, the legacy of the exemplary life he has led stands as a guiding light for the Kelley family and generations yet to come. God has blessed him for over 100 years and for that, and the lives he has touched, we can only say "To God be the glory!"

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the almost 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in honoring an outstanding citizen, family man, and man of God, Mr. Robert F. Kelley, Sr., for a lifetime of dedicated service to his family, his community, and his Nation. We extend our best wishes and God's blessings to him on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

IN HONOR OF THE VISION  
FORWARD ASSOCIATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2019*

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Vision Forward Association which serves Southeastern Wisconsin, as they mark their centennial in 2019. For more than 100 years, Vision Forward has provided services to a diverse community of individuals who are

blind or visually impaired as well as their families.

What began as an advocacy group for the blind has transformed itself into a consortium, which provides comprehensive services to individuals experiencing all stages of vision loss. From birth through adulthood, this organization provides critical resources to those who have been impacted by vision loss, helping them achieve important developmental milestones, as well as, educational, personal and professional goals.

As an organization, Vision Forward chooses to focus on enhancing every client's ability not their disability; they know what people can achieve is far more impactful than what they can't achieve. Vision Forward clients are talented and spirited citizens who want the same things as all of us: a good education, a loving family and community, and a fulfilling career with success. They are a part of all of our lives in Southeastern Wisconsin; they are our family members, coworkers, friends and neighbors.

The success stories of individuals who came through the doors of Vision Forward on Hawley Road are countless. All their stories touched my heart because they demonstrated the resilience of people under extreme adversity. At Vision Forward, they give every client hope and show them the amazing things they can achieve.

The work of Vision Forward has helped create a reality in which all individuals with vision loss can reach their full potential to lead active and independent lives. The empowerment, education, and enhancement Vision Forward has provided over the years serves as a national model to the adage: "it doesn't matter who you are, every person has the potential to do great things." Madam Speaker, for these reasons I am pleased to honor the Vision Forward Association, because they make the 4th Congressional District a better place to work, live and play.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL  
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2019*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial of The American Legion, which was founded in Paris, France on March 15, 1919 by delegates from combat and service units of the American Expeditionary Force. For those who do not know this history, the United States Congress granted a national charter to the delegates on September 16, 1919.

While initially The Legion was composed only of those who served during World War I, it later admitted veterans of World War II (1942), the Korean War (1950), the Vietnam War (1966), the Lebanon, Grenada, and Panama hostilities (1990), Operation Desert Shield/Storm (1991), and the wars in Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (2001).

To this very day, the focus of The American Legion is on the care of disabled and sick veterans. The American Legion has been instrumental in establishing hospitals and other support services for veterans. The hard work of those involved with The American Legion was

influential in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Administration in 1930 and the enactment of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944. These two policies have helped more than 10,500,000 veterans afford college or vocational training programs and assisted more than 5,600,000 veterans in their efforts to purchase homes.

The American Legion does not just help the veterans who are members. It is an organization dedicated to charity and community. Posts across the country donate more than 3.7 million hours of volunteer service. Posts have also helped collect more than 80,000 pints of blood every year for donation. This makes The American Legion the single largest blood donor. And The Legion and its members are focused on future generations by awarding more than 8,000 medals to Junior ROTC students and sponsoring more than 2,500 Scout units that serve over 64,000 young people. Finally, they have awarded more than \$4 million in awards to support individuals to go to college.

In New Jersey, The American Legion is currently led by Department Commander Robert B. Newell. It does an extraordinary job advocating on behalf of veterans and their families. With a membership of over 4,000, American Legion Posts in Bergen County, New Jersey are celebrating 100 years of service with a celebration in Lodi, New Jersey on September 29. I am pleased to recognize the positive contributions and role The American Legion serves in our community. The Legion's myriad of contributions to the good and welfare of veterans, service members and the community at large cannot possibly be measured. But it is important that they continue to receive our full support.

IN RECOGNITION OF BEVERLY  
ELIAS MILLER

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2019*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her well-deserved retirement, I rise to honor Beverly Elias Miller, an exceptional woman, an exemplary community leader and an extraordinary human being. In her 29 years on the coast of San Mateo county, Bev touched the lives of just about every coastsider and her contributions are ingrained in the fabric of this wonderful community. I feel very fortunate to count her as a close friend. We first met in 1992 at a Soroptimists award event that she, of course, choreographed.

Originally from Marinette, Wisconsin, Bev launched her career in the banking industry in Spokane, Washington in 1967. Starting out as a trainee in the key punch department she learned almost all aspects of banking over the following 32 years. She came to the coast in 1991 and served as the branch manager of First National Bank before being promoted to vice president and regional manager. When the Bank of America shut down its earliest branch, located in the tiny rural town of Pescadero, Bev and local farmers and businesses came together to open a branch of her bank so that loans and banking services remained available. In an era before the term "unbanked" was popularized, Bev ensured that farm workers could cash their paychecks