

knew struggle and he knew sacrifice. He understood the power of empathy for a neighbor in need and he felt deeply that you are judged not by what you create or build, but what you give back to your community and your neighbors.

A love of automobiles led Don to drop out of high school and enlist in the U.S. Army as a mechanic. Upon completion of his service, he married the love of his life, Marilyn, and began a career in the auto industry.

His talents, intuition and vision didn't go unnoticed for long, as Ford offered him a small dealership in Foxboro, Massachusetts. Working closely with his brother Gerry on this new business, he didn't let that dealership stay small for long and quickly grew it to one of the largest in our Commonwealth.

But if you asked him what he cared about most in life beyond his family, he wouldn't have given it a second thought: it was always philanthropy and giving back.

As he often said, "You can give your time. You can give your shoulder. You can give your heart."

And that's exactly what Don has done for decades. After supporting the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, he founded the Rodman Ride for Kids which has raised nearly \$150 million for at-risk children. Even on the day he passed away, 150 kids were enjoying an all-expenses paid trip to Disney World sponsored by his charitable organizations.

You didn't have to know Don to know the impact he had on our Commonwealth and our country, but knowing him was simply inspiring and I was lucky to have grown close to him over the years.

To Don's five sons, Brett, Gene, Bart, Curtis and Craig, I thank them for sharing their dad with us for all of these years. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF DAVE CROMELL FOR RECEIVING THE "HUB" PERREAULT CITIZENSHIP AWARD

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Sheriff Dave Cromell for receiving the "Hub" Perreault Citizenship Award from American Legion Post 131 in Munising, Michigan. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to his community, Dave has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Born and raised in Munising, Sheriff Cromell has dedicated decades of his life to the people of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Dave first joined the Alger County Sheriff's Office in 1975 as a Deputy Sheriff/Animal Control Officer. After revamping Alger County's animal control system, Dave attended Northern Michigan University's Police Academy, where he graduated as a Certified Police Officer. Following the retirement of Sheriff Malone in 1980, Dave was appointed interim Sheriff and was elected by the people of Alger County later that year. Sheriff Cromell would eventually be elected eight consecutive times. Over the course of his extensive career, Dave improved the county's EMT and 9-1-1 emer-

gency response services, oversaw the repair and improvement of the Alger County Jail, and ensured the continuation of the DARE program in area schools—to only name some of his accomplishments. Sheriff Cromell's unwavering dedication to the public good is commendable, and the impact of his work for the people of the Upper Peninsula cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Sheriff Cromell for his decades of service to the people of our state and for receiving the "Hub" Perreault Citizenship Award from American Legion Post 131. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Dave all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW CONTON FOR RECEIVING THE MENTEE OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE 100 BLACK MEN IN AMERICA ORGANIZATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrew Conton for receiving the Mentee of the Year Award from the 100 Black Men in America organization.

Mr. Conton is a member of the Mentor for Life Program, Central Illinois Chapter. He has been a member since 2016, when the Central Illinois Chapter expanded to Peoria. He is the second individual from Illinois to win this prestigious award. Mr. Conton earned a 3.8 GPA from Peoria High School and has been involved in a variety of extracurricular programs, such as the Peoria High marching and concert bands, the Peoria Jazz All-Stars, the Bradley University and Eastern Illinois University Honors Bands, the Solo Ensemble and the Illinois Music Education Association. Mr. Conton has a strong passion for science, art, politics and music. He further plans to use his strengths to reignite the Peoria community. His determination and drive have earned him a full ride scholarship to attend Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. I am proud there is such young dedication in our community.

It is because of remarkable leaders like Andrew Conton that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Andrew Conton for receiving the Mentee of the Year Award from the 100 Black Men in America organization.

RECOGNIZING THE JESSE CLIPPER AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 430

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100-year anniversary of the Jesse Clipper American Legion Post No. 430 in Buffalo, NY.

The Jesse Clipper American Legion Post No. 430 was founded by 15 African American

World War I veterans on September 16, 1919 to honor Corporal Jesse Clipper who was the first African American soldier from our region to die during World War I. While fighting on the front lines in France, he was badly injured, hospitalized, and unfortunately passed away in February of 1919 before he could return home from the war.

Corporal Jesse Clipper and many other brave African American soldiers who fought for our country have helped to plant the seeds for greater equality and respect for African American soldiers. Their bravery eventually led to the desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Civil Rights Movement. Corporal Jesse Clipper's willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice proved he was an American patriot worthy of honor and respect.

In honor of this trailblazer, members of the Jesse Clipper Post dedicated the corner of Michigan and William Streets in the City of Buffalo as Jesse Clipper Square in honor of all wars fought by African Americans. This was the same area that Jesse Clipper lived during his formative years that helped shape him into a dedicated and honorable soldier. Later, members of the Jesse Clipper American Legion Post No. 430 petitioned the Buffalo Common Council to establish a memorial to Clipper and all African American soldiers. Since the initial dedication of the monument, the dates of other wars in which African American soldiers fought have been added to the memorial.

As time goes on, we have a duty to remember and honor all those who fought for our country regardless of race and we must never forget the contributions they have made to protecting the security of our nation. We must promise to never forget the burden they carried both on the battlefield, and in their hearts when they returned to a country that did not treat them like the heroes they were and are, solely because of the color of their skin.

Thank you to all the members of the Jesse Clipper Post over the past 100 years who have helped to ensure that all veterans receive the honor, respect and benefits that they deserve.

IN HONOR OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEGAL SERVICES ALABAMA

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Legal Services Alabama on their 15th Anniversary Award Dinner. Legal Services Alabama provides quality legal services to low-income residents of Alabama, filling a gaping need in a state that does not offer a statewide public defense program.

So often our legal system, whose creation and purpose is to maintain equal justice under the law, regardless of economic factors, connections or other indicators, fails to do so. The reality is that under-resourced individuals are provided decreased access to quality legal counsel, while those who can afford it are granted superior services. This fundamentally contradicts the intent of our court system and undermines the very framework of our country. The work of Legal Services Alabama is to