

HONORING CONSTITUTION WEEK

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Constitution Week, which is commemorated from September 17–23 annually. The observance of Constitution Week was established by law in 1956 after the Daughters of the American Revolution petitioned Congress to set aside these days to celebrate the document which established the framework of our government and maintained our liberties.

Author Catherine Drinker Bowen called it the “Miracle at Philadelphia.” In May of 1787, delegates from several of the thirteen states met in what we now call Independence Hall. The representatives included some of the new country’s greatest luminaries, names we still know and honor today. Among others, Virginia sent James Madison, George Mason, George Wythe, and George Washington, who was elected as the convention’s president unanimously.

Their goal was to revise the Articles of Confederation then governing the Union, but soon a new charter took shape. They met through the hot Philadelphia summer, thinking, debating, and compromising about the nature and particular forms of the government that would serve the people of the United States. The Constitution emerged from their months of deliberations and was signed on September 17, 1787. Madison and John Blair signed for Virginia, while Washington signed as the convention’s president. Mason refrained from signing it without a Bill of Rights.

Virginia ratified the Constitution in the following year, calling for the Bill of Rights in exchange for the Commonwealth’s consent. In 1789 it took effect with Washington as the first president of the United States under the new Constitution. With Virginia’s ratification of the Bill of Rights in 1791, ten amendments were adopted, and more followed in the centuries since, but the Constitution endures to this day as our great charter.

Constitution Week recognizes the anniversary of this document, the ideals that inspired it, and the men who wrote it. I ask my fellow Virginians and Americans to join me in observing this occasion and reaffirm the timeless principles represented by the Constitution.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID ROUZER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on September 9, 2019 because I had an obligation in the state of North Carolina. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 516 and YEA on Roll Call No. 515.

PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2, 2019  
AS SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARE-  
NESS DAY IN NEW YORK STATE**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 proclaim November 2, 2019 Science Education Awareness Day in New York State. The recognition of this day serves as a reminder of the importance of science education, at all levels, in the State of New York.

The Science Teachers Association of New York State (STANYS) is New York’s first science teacher organization. Under the leadership of Kenneth Huff, President of STANYS and a Middle School Teacher at Williamsville Central School District in the 26th Congressional District, the association is dedicated to promoting excellence in science education. Its mission is to work with educators, school districts, and communities to provide opportunities for students to actively participate in science education. STANYS is a leading voice in legislative affairs that affect science teachers and the teaching of science. This vital organization brings the collective concerns and suggestions of science educators to NYSED and state government officials. This organization also acts as a multi-purpose network for science educators of many levels and disciplines.

Science Education Awareness Day 2019 on November 2nd will fall during STANYS’s Annual Conference. This event draws a large community of Pre-K to University and Informal Science educators from across the state. The conference offers workshops for all teaching levels, information on the newest tools and technology, and prominent keynote speakers from the field. The theme for the 2019 conference is Transforming Innovations into Reality in Science. The conference offers 2.5 days of workshops for all science teaching levels and disciplines, renowned panelists, subject area institutes, receptions and socials, and vendors with new materials and technologies. The celebration of Science Education Awareness Day will add to the inspiring and energizing atmosphere of the event.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to proclaim November 2, 2019 Science Education Awareness Day in New York State. This celebration is a fantastic way to increase public appreciation for science education and to showcase its importance in our schools and communities.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 525, I mistakenly voted and would like to correct my vote to a YEA. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 525.

CONGRATULATING BILL HAMMES  
OF SHERRARD, ILLINOIS, WHO  
WAS NAMED CONSERVATION  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bill Hammes of Sherrard, Illinois, who was recently named the “Conservation Teacher of the Year” by the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Audubon Society.

Bill Hammes is an agriculture teacher at Sherrard High School where he has dedicated the last couple decades of his life to agricultural education. Hammes’ work has not gone unnoticed as his class received the “Environmental Youth Group Award” in the 1980s and “lowater Award” in the 2000s. Hammes has supported his students inside and outside of the classroom, teaching them essential agricultural skills and helping them coordinate a Cover Crop Tour in 2017. As an FFA mentor, his students went on to positively impact the community from cultivating crops, serving local food pantries and more. Additionally, he has enriched the local community by developing an outdoor learning campus which includes a garden, greenhouse and cropland for Sherrard students. It makes me immensely proud to see such dedication to our environment and community.

Madam Speaker, I want to again formally congratulate Bill Hammes for being recognized for his great work. I am hopeful that communities across the state can learn from Hammes’ leadership and agricultural success.

RECOGNIZING NORMAN R.  
VELIQUETTE FOR HIS INDUCTION  
INTO THE MICHIGAN FARMERS  
HALL OF FAME**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it’s my honor to recognize Norman R. Veliquette for his induction into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame. Through his unparalleled leadership and devotion to excellence, Norm has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

The Michigan Farmer’s Hall of Fame was created to promote excellence in farming and recognize those in Michigan who have made an extraordinary impact on the industry and their communities. None are more deserving of this honor than Norm. Over his nearly 50 years of farming, Norm has served as an active member of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Charter President of the Lowell Area Jaycees, and a founder of CherryKe, Inc., Great Lakes Packing Company, Cherry Bay Orchards, and CherrCo, Inc.—to name only some of his endeavors. In his long and successful career, Norm has tackled the challenges of an ever-evolving industry head-on and proven himself to be a leader in Michigan’s cherry sector.

In addition to his work for Michigan’s agricultural industry, Norm has a long history of

erving his community through the Elk Rapids School Board, Sacred Heart Church, Rotary Club, Northwestern Michigan College, and as the founder and long-time chairman of the Meadow Brook Foundation in Antrim County. He has also participated in multiple Agricultural People-to-People missions in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, and has performed comedic monologues for the Elk Rapids Rotary Show for the past 35 years. Additionally, Norm has dedicated himself to public health through fundraising for the Rotary Foundation and the World Health Organization's Global Polio Eradication Initiative. He has also participated in multiple missions for India's polio National Immunization Day, and has published five books recounting his experiences.

Agriculture is the second-largest sector of Michigan's economy, and the cherry industry serves a vital role for the people and communities of Northern Michigan. With today's ever-evolving world, the work of industry and community leaders like Norm has been critical in shaping Michigan's agricultural industry to the success story it is today. His impact on the people of Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Norman Veliquette for his decades of service and his induction into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Norm all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING LILI MARSH AS THE  
BAKERSFIELD POLICE ACTIVITIES  
LEAGUE HOMETOWN HERO

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lili Marsh, a constituent and community leader from Bakersfield, California. Today, Lili is being recognized as the 2019 Bakersfield Police Activities League Hometown Hero for exemplary service and leadership to the people of Kern County, which I represent.

Lili earned her Bachelor of Arts from Wooster College and has been a longtime leader in the Bakersfield community. While she has committed herself to an impressive number of civic organizations, her most passionate work has been in service to Kern County's veterans. As Executive Director of Honor Flight Kern County, a chapter of the national organization she helped start, Lili organizes travel and accommodations in Washington for Kern County's heroes so that they can see the monuments built in their honor. Many times, Honor Flight marks the first visit to our nation's capital for these veterans, and Lili has been instrumental in giving these men and women the hero's welcome they deserve upon reaching their nation's capital.

However, Lili's involvement with our veterans does not end with Honor Flight. Her most recent community improvement project has been the Portrait of a Warrior Gallery. This moving gallery is filled with portraits of today's generation of men and women in the Armed Forces who have lost their lives following the 9/11 attacks. The Portrait of a War-

rior Gallery is a project born of passion, love, and admiration of those who defend America and her ideals. Having worked with Lili on Honor Flight and numerous other veterans issues, she has the uncanny ability to identify the needs of our veteran community and the determination to see those needs met.

Along with being a businesswoman and an entrepreneur, Lili is many things to our community. But her passion and determination have enriched the lives of Kern County's veterans and helped ensure our community continues to recognize these heroes among us.

I rise today to recognize Lili Marsh as a Hometown Hero award recipient who continues to positively influence our county through her character and leadership. A true signature of leadership is the generosity of time and talents that one gives on behalf to their neighbors and community. Lili exemplifies this time-honored tradition, and I would like to thank her and her husband, Troy, for their life-changing work. On behalf of a grateful community and the 23rd Congressional district, I recognize Lili Marsh's achievements and look forward to her many future successes.

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST  
ENSLAVED AFRICANS BROUGHT  
TO AMERICA

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2019*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following article from "The 1619 Project" published in The New York Times Magazine.

[From The New York Times Magazine, Aug. 14, 2019]

THE 1619 PROJECT

(By Nikole Hanna-Jones)

My dad always flew an American flag in our front yard. The blue paint on our two-story house was perennially chipping; the fence, or the rail by the stairs, or the front door, existed in a perpetual state of disrepair, but that flag always flew pristine. Our corner lot, which had been redlined by the federal government, was along the river that divided the black side from the white side of our Iowa town. At the edge of our lawn, high on an aluminum pole, soared the flag, which my dad would replace as soon as it showed the slightest tatter.

My dad was born into a family of sharecroppers on a white plantation in Greenwood, Miss., where black people bent over cotton from can't-see-in-the-morning to can't-see-at-night, just as their enslaved ancestors had done not long before. The Mississippi of my dad's youth was an apartheid state that subjugated its near-majority black population through breathtaking acts of violence. White residents in Mississippi lynched more black people than those in any other state in the country, and the white people in my dad's home county lynched more black residents than those in any other county in Mississippi, often for such "crimes" as entering a room occupied by white women, bumping into a white girl or trying to start a sharecroppers union. My dad's mother, like all the black people in Greenwood, could not vote, use the public library or find work other than toiling in the cotton fields or toiling in white people's

houses. So in the 1940s, she packed up her few belongings and her three small children and joined the flood of black Southerners fleeing North. She got off the Illinois Central Railroad in Waterloo, Iowa, only to have her hopes of the mythical Promised Land shattered when she learned that Jim Crow did not end at the Mason-Dixon line.

Grandmama, as we called her, found a house in a segregated black neighborhood on the city's east side and then found the work that was considered black women's work no matter where black women lived—cleaning white people's houses. Dad, too, struggled to find promise in this land. In 1962, at age 17, he signed up for the Army. Like many young men, he joined in hopes of escaping poverty. But he went into the military for another reason as well, a reason common to black men: Dad hoped that if he served his country, his country might finally treat him as an American.

The 1619 Project is a major initiative from The New York Times observing the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It aims to reframe the country's history, understanding 1619 as our true founding, and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are. Read all the stories.

The Army did not end up being his way out. He was passed over for opportunities, his ambition stunted. He would be discharged under murky circumstances and then labor in a series of service jobs for the rest of his life. Like all the black men and women in my family, he believed in hard work, but like all the black men and women in my family, no matter how hard he worked, he never got ahead.

So when I was young, that flag outside our home never made sense to me. How could this black man, having seen firsthand the way his country abused black Americans, how it refused to treat us as full citizens, proudly fly its banner? I didn't understand his patriotism. It deeply embarrassed me.

I had been taught, in school, through cultural osmosis, that the flag wasn't really ours, that our history as a people began with enslavement and that we had contributed little to this great nation. It seemed that the closest thing black Americans could have to cultural pride was to be found in our vague connection to Africa, a place we had never been. That my dad felt so much honor in being an American felt like a marker of his degradation, his acceptance of our subordination.

Like most young people, I thought I understood so much, when in fact I understood so little. My father knew exactly what he was doing when he raised that flag. He knew that our people's contributions to building the richest and most powerful nation in the world were indelible, that the United States simply would not exist without us.

In August 1619, just 12 years after the English settled Jamestown, Va., one year before the Puritans landed at Plymouth Rock and some 157 years before the English colonists even decided they wanted to form their own country, the Jamestown colonists bought 20 to 30 enslaved Africans from English pirates. The pirates had stolen them from a Portuguese slave ship that had forcibly taken them from what is now the country of Angola. Those men and women who came ashore on that August day were the beginning of American slavery. They were among the 12.5 million Africans who would be kidnapped from their homes and brought in chains across the Atlantic Ocean in the largest forced migration in human history until the Second World War. Almost two million did not survive the grueling journey, known as the Middle Passage.