

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CLAY HIGGINS**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on October 16 due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 556, and "yea" on Roll Call No. 557.

HONORING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLARKSVILLE NAACP

**HON. MARK E. GREEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 64th Anniversary of the Clarksville, Tennessee chapter of the NAACP.

This local chapter was chartered 64 years ago in 1955, just as the Civil Rights Movement was starting to gain momentum throughout the nation, culminating in 1963 with the March on Washington and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech. The leadership of Dr. King and the NAACP challenged the nation to live up to its own founding ideals of liberty and justice for all.

The Clarksville NAACP has continued to serve the community since its founding, particularly in its engagement with the young people of Clarksville and its support for education.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Clarksville branch of the NAACP for its service to the community over the past 64 years.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY, RIDGEWOOD BRANCH

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of Queens Public Library, Ridgewood Branch. I also rise to thank Friends of the Ridgewood Library and Principal Librarian Thomas Maxheimer for their contributions to this celebrated anniversary.

Queens Public Library, Ridgewood Branch opened on October 15, 1929. Not only was Queens Public Library, Ridgewood Branch the first library to open in Queens, but also the first library to be publicly-funded by the City of New York.

Over the last 90 years, Queens Public Library, Ridgewood Branch has served as a cornerstone of the Queens community. In one of the most diverse counties in New York State, the Library continues to invite individuals of all ages and ethnicities to learn, research and discover. In addition, Queens Public Library, Ridgewood Branch serves the community through unparalleled accessibility, providing

resources for individuals with physical and/or visual impairments. From children's story time to genealogical research tools, the library offers a wide range of programming and learning opportunities.

I ask my colleagues of the 116th Congress to join me in celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Queens Public Library, Ridgewood Branch by recognizing its crucial contributions to the Queens community.

CALLING ATTENTION TO AN IMPRESSIVE PROGRAM THAT ORIGINATED IN POCATELLO, IDAHO

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2019 Idaho Career & Technical Education (ICTE) Special Program Award recipient, the Construction Combine.

At the Construction Combine, program participants learn to demonstrate their construction skills to builders who are potential employers. The program recruits local contractors to teach construction skills to interested high school students and others, and construction materials suppliers such as Home Depot generously provide the necessary supplies and tools to facilitate building sheds for this two-day event. The completed sheds are donated to deserving veterans at no cost.

The Construction Combine is the brain-child of Mr. Scott Stevens. As a staff member in Idaho State University's (ISU) Continuing Education and Workforce Training Program (CEWT), Mr. Stevens recognized the need to attract more skilled workers to the construction industry and to increase the housing stock in order to promote economic growth. He teamed up with Brad Landon, the Pocatello/Chubbuck Home Depot Store manager, to execute his vision—one that helps home builders, veterans and students. There was extensive additional support from the surrounding high schools; local contractors; Gary Salazar, the Director of ISU's CEWT; and others in ISU's CEWT Program.

The first Construction Combine event took place at the Pocatello/Chubbuck Home Depot in the Spring of 2018 with 54 participants, producing eight sheds. The following year, in 2019, the Construction Combine hosted six events in Idaho and Oregon with 228 participants, producing 41 sheds. I am eager to see the continued growth of this program in years to come.

Madam Speaker, I would like to join the ICTE Awards Selection Committee in recognizing the Construction Combine as an innovative solution to the construction and low housing stock issues associated with Idaho's very low unemployment rate and our booming economy. I would like to recognize ISU's CEWT, the Home Depot, and the local contractors for their efforts to make the Construction Combine a success and to give back to their communities. Congratulations.

RECOGNITION OF WOOD COUNTY, OHIO'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bicentennial of Wood County, Ohio. This Crossroad of America was established by the Ohio State Legislature on February 12, 1820. Wood County has historical ties to the earliest days of Ohio history, gaining its name from Colonel Eleazer D. Wood, the planning engineer of Fort Meigs in 1813.

Wood County was once home to the Great Black Swamp. This made settlement of the area extremely difficult, but the pioneering spirit of early residents produced an extensive system of ditches which drained the swamp and revealed the rich farmland beneath. There are still more than 3,000 miles of drainage ditches keeping the county dry to this day.

The oil and natural gas industries were the first to enter Wood County in the late 1800s. This caused a large spike in population as people migrated to the county in hopes of obtaining riches. Wood County currently covers nearly 620 square miles of land and water which provides evidence of the rural traditions and history of the area, while fostering agricultural ingenuity, manufacturing developments, and educational success.

The celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Wood County is a meaningful reminder of the hard work, grit, and pioneering attitude upon which Wood County, Ohio and the United States of America were founded. Congratulations to Wood County in celebration of its Bicentennial Year.

300TH ANNIVERSARY OF GARRETSON FORGE AND FARM

**HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Garretson Forge and Farm, a national historical landmark in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. This year marks the 300th anniversary of the settlement of Garretson in 1719. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the volunteers of Garretson Forge and Farm Restoration, Inc., this special property has been preserved and kept open to the community. In recognition of Garretson's anniversary, I would like to include in the RECORD the poem 'A Heritage to Keep,' by William F. Haywood which captures the long history of Garretson Forge and Farm, a Bergen County treasure:

The traffic moves in swifter pace  
Around the bend that holds this place  
In gentle curves where time has flown  
And countless passers it has known.

The silent step of moccasin,  
The echoing of forge's din;  
A gangling pine saw all of these,  
New homes replacing other trees.

The continental soldier came,  
Lone hunter seeking wary game,  
A farmer tilling fertile soil  
Where the river turns its coil.

So generations came and went  
Through seasons ill and fairly spent.