

HONORING THE LIFE OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN WILLIE J. ADAMS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of World War II veteran Willie J. Adams and his tireless dedication to community and country.

Willie served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. An original Montford Point Marine, Willie was one of 20,000 African American men who helped defeat Hitler and desegregate the Marines. He was honorably discharged in 1946 but he lived by the motto, "Once a Marine, always a Marine," and was a committed lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8852.

Willie was a model of honor and duty to his community when he returned home. As a Rapides Parish school bus driver, he mentored countless students and was a father figure to many. Willie was a dedicated Christian who served both in Church and at large in the community. He often participated in senior citizen events throughout the area, and in his free time, could be found outdoors fishing or hunting. The anchor of his family, he was married for over 60 years to his wife Josephine Adams, with whom he raised two daughters.

While spending his last days at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Willie made sure that every member of the VFW was able to visit and play games. In recognition of his accomplishments and character, Willie was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on November 9, 2019.

For his exemplary life of service, Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Willie J. Adams. His decades of commitment and contributions to his community and country are worthy of admiration, and his memory will live on through the countless lives he impacted. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF RICHMOND FOR REDUCING BARRIERS TO VOTING IN VIRGINIA'S 2019 ELECTIONS

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the City of Richmond for its efforts to remove barriers to voter participation in Virginia's 2019 elections. Mayor Levar Stoney and his administration are partnering with the Greater Richmond Transit Corporation (GRTC) for the second year in a row to provide free rides to the polls for Richmond residents on Election Day. Additionally, the City of Richmond is giving its employees the day off on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. Both measures will address potential impediments to voting and will help encourage participation in both state and local elections.

Access to transportation has historically been an obstacle for underserved and

marginalized communities to exercise their rights on Election Day. To address these concerns, GRTC will provide free transportation to nearly every polling location in the City of Richmond. In doing so, more individuals will be able to access polling stations, enabling many more Richmonders to vote.

The ability to take time off from work has also been a barrier to the ballot box. To help tackle this issue, the City of Richmond will close its offices on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 to make it easier for city employees to vote.

Since my time in the Virginia General Assembly, I have fought for voters' rights; the right to vote is sacred and should be protected. That is why I introduced the Election Day Holiday Act, which would make Election Day a federal holiday. At a time when our elections are under attack from outside and within our country, it is more important than ever that we remove barriers to the ballot box.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Stoney, the Stoney administration, and GRTC for improving access and removing barriers to voting for Richmond residents.

IN RECOGNITION OF RIPPLE GLASS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the tenth anniversary of Ripple Glass. For a decade, Ripple Glass has led the way in efficient glass recycling and served as champions in the implementation of their streamlined framework in cities throughout the Midwest. I am proud to have such an innovative and environmentally conscious company in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

Upon discovering that Kansas Citizens threw away nearly 150 million pounds of perfectly good glass, including 10 million empty bottles from Kansas City's very own Boulevard Brewing Company, the individuals at Boulevard Brewing realized that something must be done to prevent glass from making its way to the landfill. Area businesses use nearly 200 million pounds of recycled glass every year, but local recycling was not occurring due to a lack of nearby facilities to process intake. Tired of contributing to a mounting problem, the individuals at Boulevard Brewing Company, with the support of local companies and community organizations, sought a solution and founded Ripple Glass in 2009.

Ripple established a collection system and state-of-the-art processing plant that operated efficiently. The company began by placing its trademark purple collection bins in sixty locations across the Kansas City metropolitan area, where glass would be collected before being transported to the processing plant to be cleaned, dried, sized, sorted, and screened. This processing plant provides furnace-ready cullet-crushed, recycled glass to local companies in the region that utilize the converted, recycled glass for fiberglass insulation. This process saves enormous amounts of energy and dramatically lowers emissions. Ripple Glass also exports recycled amber glass to be

turned back into glass bottles, including those used by Boulevard Brewing.

The prominent purple Ripple Glass bins can be found across Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota. The glass collected from these bins all comes back to the Kansas City facility for processing, helping over eighty other communities keep glass out of landfills—truly exemplifying the 'ripple effect'.

Moreover, Ripple Glass has recently launched a collection service for bars, restaurants, and other commercial institutions, allowing them to further pursue their mission to provide a comprehensive glass recycling system in Kansas City and beyond. By tapping into the local marketplace, Ripple Glass has found a way to close the loop, protect the environment, support area businesses, and even make homes more energy efficient. Prior to Ripple Glass operations in Kansas City, approximately 80,000 tons of container glass were consumed each year with only five percent being recycled. Now, through Ripple Glass' initiatives, nearly twenty percent of the community's glass is recycled and almost 200,000 tons of glass is diverted out of landfills across the region.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ripple Glass for a decade of service to the greater Kansas City area and beyond. Let us join in recognizing the company's unremitting commitment towards sustainability and ensuring glass recycling is available to communities across the Midwest.

IN HONOR OF JOE PIERUCCI UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE CITY OF FOSTER CITY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Joe Pierucci upon his retirement as Chief of Police for Foster City. Chief Pierucci will be leaving after 33 years in law enforcement, including the last 11 years in Foster City.

Chief Pierucci grew up in Foster City and began his career in nearby San Mateo in 1986. In San Mateo, he worked as a detective, field training officer, and school resource officer before moving up to Patrol Sergeant. He then assumed responsibility for several of San Mateo's important community policing activities including the highly successful San Mateo Police Athletics League, neighborhood watch and crime prevention programs.

In 2009, Joe Pierucci returned to his hometown of Foster City when he became a lieutenant and began supervising patrol teams. He's a warm, amiable person and his personality fit well with a community in which residents embrace their law enforcement officers and enjoy an outdoor quality of life that is organized around community events, community sports leagues, the water and parks. Into this mix came Joe Pierucci with gusto and a smile as wide as a city lagoon.

He quickly rose to the rank of Captain and eventually managed field operations and administrative functions. He served as President of the San Mateo County Law Enforcement Commanders Association and continued his