

relatives and children live healthy and full lives.

There is a pressing need to raise awareness and engage in education within the African American community where HIV infections have been and continue to rise.

The incidents of HIV have decreased for the majority population, while it has grown nearly unchecked among African Americans.

This must change—decisions regarding funding for agencies charged with infectious disease education and minority health must be supported.

TRIBUTE TO MADELINE ROANHORSE

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Madeline Roanhorse, former director of the Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Lands Program.

Sadly, Madeline passed away earlier this fall.

Madeline worked diligently for over thirty years on uranium mine reclamation projects all across the Navajo Nation.

She played an invaluable role in many critical uranium mine clean up efforts.

This fall, the House voted to pass the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act, legislation to permanently ban uranium mining in and near the Grand Canyon.

This vote was a direct result of the culmination of years of work by Madeline and other tribal leaders who refused to give up.

I wish Madeline had been here with us to witness this historic vote and see her hard work come to fruition.

I am honored to have worked with Madeline on these efforts, but I am more honored to have known her as a friend.

Pat and I are keeping Madeline's loved ones and the entire Navajo Nation community in our prayers as they mourn her passing.

RECOGNIZING COMMAND MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ALVIN J. VEENSTRA FOR HIS RETIRE- MENT FROM THE NAVY RE- SERVES SEABEES

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Command Master Chief Petty Officer Alvin J. Veenstra for his retirement from the Navy Reserves Seabees. Through his more than thirty years of excellence and commitment to service, CMDCM Veenstra has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

The United States Naval Construction Battalions, more commonly known as the Navy Seabees, have a storied history in the United States Armed Forces—stretching from Normandy and Okinawa to Iraq and Afghanistan. Alvin decided to follow in this tradition of service early in his life, enlisting in the United

States Navy, Sea, and Air Mariner program during his sophomore year of college. He carried out a variety of roles throughout his 32 years with the Seabees—including deployment with the 7th Naval Construction Regiment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he served as the Senior Watch Chief for the II Marine Expeditionary Force. On September 6, 2019, Veenstra turned over his final command position as the Reserve Affairs Command Master Chief at Navy Facilities Engineering Command in Washington, D.C. Outside of his service in the military, Alvin is a graduate of Ferris State University and serves as Project Manager/Executive Assistant for W.B. Builders in East Jordan. Alvin's more than three decades of decorated service is commendable, and the impact of his work on his fellow servicemembers and the people of the United States cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Command Master Chief Petty Officer Alvin Veenstra for his decades of service to the people of the United States. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Alvin all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Michael Tilson Thomas, the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy in Miami Beach.

Michael Tilson Thomas is also Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony and Conductor Laureate of the London Symphony Orchestra. In addition to these posts, he maintains an active presence guest-conducting with the major orchestras of Europe and the United States. The New World Symphony has helped launch the careers of more than 1,000 alumni worldwide.

Born in Los Angeles, Mr. Tilson Thomas is the third generation of his family to follow an artistic career. His grandparents, Boris and Bessie Thomashefsky, were founding members of the Yiddish Theater in America. His father, Ted Thomas, was a producer in the Mercury Theater Company in New York before moving to Los Angeles where he worked in films and television. His mother, Roberta Thomas, was the head of research for Columbia Pictures.

Mr. Tilson Thomas is a Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France, was Musical America's Musician of the Year and Conductor of the Year, Gramophone Magazine's Artist of the Year, and has been profiled on CBS's 60 Minutes and ABC's Nightline. He has won 11 Grammy Awards for his recordings. In 2008 he received the Peabody Award for his radio series for SFS Media, The MTT Files. In 2010, President Obama awarded him the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists in the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE THIR- TIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VELVET REVOLUTION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, a significant anniversary for two of America's closest allies—the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Only eight days after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the same spirit of freedom that overcame Berlin made its way to Prague. On November 17, 1989, the country formerly known as Czechoslovakia freed itself from four decades of a communist totalitarian regime, transforming authoritarian rule of the nation into democracy. Initiated by student protesters in the streets, the protest of the regime and the demand for democracy quickly gained momentum with over a half-million Czechs and Slovaks filling Prague's streets and taking over Wenceslas Square.

Soldiers beat protesters, used water cannons on the crowd, and made numerous arrests during this time. However, the demonstrators remained peaceful. By the end of 1989, Czechoslovakia was on its way to holding its first presidential election since 1948. The successful movement is now referred to as the "Velvet Revolution" or the "Gentle Revolution," which signifies the idea that the revolution was brought about without violence.

The years following the Velvet Revolution brought the "Velvet Divorce," the unofficial name given to the separation of the Czechoslovakia into two nations: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Through peaceful mutual consent, Czechoslovakia separated on January 1, 1993. To solidify their places on the world stage and showcase their commitment to democracy, the Czech and Slovak Republics formally became members of the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the United Nations.

It is also worth mentioning that the Czech Republic has a local tie to Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. When applying for admission into NATO, the Czech Republic had the official documents signed at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri in 1999. The induction ceremony that took place included Poland and Hungary, and marked the first eastward expansion by NATO since the end of the Cold War.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in congratulating the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic for their achievements in independence and their efforts in promoting democracy.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FLORENCE WEISS

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florence Weiss for her honorable service to the City of Concord, California as she begins retirement.