

cause of civil rights and advancing racial equality in all of our communities and throughout the nation, is to be admired and emulated. He will be profoundly missed by his family, friends, co-workers, and the many grateful constituents whose lives he touched.

Richard Hatcher was born on July 10, 1933, in Michigan City, Indiana. He graduated from Indiana University and went on to earn his Juris Doctor degree from Valparaiso University in 1959. Following law school, Mayor Hatcher settled in Gary, Indiana. He practiced at a private firm and went on to serve as a deputy county prosecutor. In 1963, Mayor Hatcher was elected to the Gary City Council. In this position, he helped to pass an open housing law, which ended the practice that forced African Americans to live primarily in the city's midtown section due to restrictive property contracts. In 1967, Richard Gordon Hatcher was elected Mayor of Gary, Indiana, and in doing so became one of the first two African Americans in our nation's history to become mayor of a large city.

Throughout his twenty-year tenure, Mayor Hatcher was unwavering and passionate in his efforts to advocate for civil rights, economic justice, and equality for all Gary residents and citizens of the United States. In particular, Mayor Hatcher devoted substantial efforts to supporting those most in need in his city. For example, he was successful in securing funding for low-cost and public housing in Gary, and he worked to enhance the availability of job training so that every citizen could have the opportunity to meet their own potential and provide for their family. In addition, Mayor Hatcher repaved Gary roads, brought garbage collection services to inner-city neighborhoods for the first time, and oversaw the construction and completion of major projects such as the Genesis Convention Center and the Adam J. Benjamin Transportation Center. On the national front, Mayor Hatcher rose to serve as a political trailblazer for the African American community. He was instrumental in organizing the 1972 National Black Political Convention in Gary, and he also served as chairman of Rev. Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign in 1984, as well as his vice chairman four years later. Mayor Hatcher's contributions to the City of Gary, throughout Northwest Indiana, and beyond are remarkable and immeasurable, and he is to be honored and commended for his tireless action.

Mayor Hatcher is survived by his amazing wife, Ruthellyn, three beloved daughters, Ragen, Rachelle, and Renee, and six beautiful grandchildren. He also leaves to cherish his memory many dear friends and family members and a saddened but grateful community.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to a true public servant, Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher. For his tremendous contributions to the cause of civil rights, and for his dedication to the City of Gary and the community of Northwest Indiana, Mayor Hatcher is worthy of the highest praise. I thank him for his perseverance, sacrifice, and struggle. His legacy will serve as a timeless inspiration for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE IRWIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Irwin County High School football team from Ocilla, Georgia on their win against Marion County in the Class A Georgia State Championship on Saturday, December 14, 2019.

With an impressive 56–14 win over the Marion County Eagles, the Indians football team finished their season undefeated (13–0) for the first time since 1975 and brought home the state title. This is the fifth time in six seasons that Head Coach Buddy Nobles has led the Indians to the state finals, all while battling Stage 4 stomach cancer. He called this team a “team of destiny” and there is no doubt his leadership and fighting spirit inspired Irwin County to bring home another state football title to Georgia's Eighth Congressional District.

I want to congratulate the Indians, Coach Nobles, and the entire football and athletics staff at Irwin County High School for this accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN POLICING

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate four law enforcement officers of the Prince William County Police Department who have been awarded the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing by the United States Department of Justice. These officers have been selected by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for their bravery and commitment to service. Only 19 law enforcement professionals from across the country have been selected to receive this award this year, and to be recognized by the Department of Justice is a distinct honor that brings pride to the Prince William County Police Department and the communities that these officers protect.

Throughout their careers, these officers have bravely placed themselves in the line of danger. It takes a tremendous amount of courage and character to step into high-risk situations, qualities that these honorees exhibit in abundance. In November of 2018, the Prince William County Police Department received an emergency call reporting an active shooter. Upon arriving to the scene, these officers took immediate action to warn incoming units while taking cover from gunfire. The shooter, who was on the roof, ignored commands to surrender and was eventually struck and fell to the ground. Overcoming their fear of a possible second gunman, the officers exposed themselves to extract the shooter for medical treatment and also pulled a civilian from a residence to safety. The bravery and heroism displayed that day represents true courage and went far above and beyond the line of duty.

It is my honor to recognize the following recipients of the Third Annual Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing:

Officer Evan Jurgenson
Officer Nicholas Kelly
Officer Rachel Mynier
Officer John Yenchak

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me once again in honoring these individuals for their bravery and dedication and in thanking them for their selfless service. The importance of their vital roles in protecting the safety of our neighborhoods cannot be overstated and is truly worthy of our highest praise.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. WILLIAM H. LEE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of beloved Sacramento Observer founder and publisher, Dr. William Hanford Lee, who passed away on September 22, 2019 at the age of 83. His legacy will live on through the love of his family and friends, as well as the Sacramento Observer, a lighthouse for Sacramento's African-American community. Dr. Lee was blessed with the support of his family, his wife Kathryn (deceased) and sons, Larry, Billy and Roderick (deceased).

Dr. William Lee was born on May 29, 1936 in Austin, Texas. In the early 1940's, Dr. Lee moved to the Sacramento neighborhood of Del Paso Heights. As a young adult, he attended California State University, Sacramento and later transferred to University of California, Berkeley, where he received his B.A. in Accounting. His brief employment with real-estate companies Aerojet and IBM Corporations inspired Dr. Lee to establish his own real-estate and land development company in 1960. His success in real estate allowed for the establishment of The Sacramento Observer on November 22, 1962, marking the beginning of a revolution in journalism.

Several momentous achievements outline Dr. Lee's career: he was awarded an Honorary Ph.D. from Southeastern University in 1970, he was named “Publisher of the Year” by the West Coast Black Publisher's Association in 1985, his newspaper has been named No.1 Black Newspaper six times, and he was awarded the John B. Russwurm trophy, the United States' top newspaper publishing honor. Additionally, he was co-founder and former President of the Men's Civic League, co-founder of The Greater Sacramento Urban League, and co-founder of the Sacramento Area Black Caucus. Nationally, Dr. Lee served on the Board of Directors and as an officer for the National Newspapers Publisher's Association, the Black Press of America, and co-founded the West Coast Black Publisher's Association. These incredible achievements and roles certainly signify just how powerful William Lee's presence was in the Sacramento region, in California, and in our nation.

Madam Speaker, today we honor Dr. William Hanford Lee's generous contributions to journalism and education; he has been a mentor, an advocate, and a leader—both locally and nationally. His efforts in providing representation for the African-American community will be remembered for a life-time.