

They proved that “the antidote to racism is excellence in performance,” as retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter once remarked.

Madam Speaker, Black History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; mathematicians like Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural or intellectual contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

It is also fitting, Madam Speaker, that in addition to those national leaders whose contributions have made our nation better, we honor also those who have and are making a difference in their local communities.

In my home city of Houston, there are numerous men and women who are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said:

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

By that measure, I wish to pay tribute to some of the great men and women who help to make Houston the wonderful, dynamic, vibrant, inclusive, and progressive city that it is.

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all.

Our immediate focus must be to work ‘For The People’ for job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today’s and tomorrow’s generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America.

We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation.

It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

HONORING LAUREN ACKERMAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lauren Ackerman for her dedicated service to our community as the Proprietor of Ackerman Heritage House.

Ms. Ackerman was born in Los Angeles, California where she attended the University of Southern California and attained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations and Business. She then attended Pepperdine University, completing a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Strategic Mar-

keting and Entrepreneurship. Currently serving on the City of Napa General Plan Advisory Council (GPAC) 2040; her most notable contribution to the Napa community came when Ms. Ackerman bought and restored an historic property in downtown Napa, a Queen Anne Victorian home originally designed by acclaimed architect Luther Turton. The property is now celebrating its 130th anniversary, and the restoration done by Ms. Ackerman won a 2019 Preservation Design Award for Restoration.

This achievement alone warrants recognition, but Ms. Ackerman’s contribution to our community is not limited to the Heritage House. She plays a very active role in our community in many other ways. Ms. Ackerman serves as chair of the board for both the American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts, and the Napa Valley Community Foundation. She is also on the board for the Napa Valley Film Festival, The Society of Fellows and the Board Advancement Committee for the Culinary Institute of America, among others. Lauren Ackerman is an advocate for Women in Business and determined to maintain the history of Napa through the contribution of the Ackerman Heritage House.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Ackerman is the kind of citizen we should all strive to be. Her astounding level of community involvement and commitment to preserving the history and culture of our community is noteworthy. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Lauren Ackerman here today.

HONORING FRANKLIN DOWNTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Franklin Downton. Franklin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Franklin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Franklin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Franklin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Franklin Downton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Red Rocks Community College on being awarded the West Metro Chamber of Commerce Large Business of the Year Award.

With campuses in Lakewood and Arvada, Colo., Red Rocks Community College is a tremendous asset in our community assisting students in meeting their career and educational goals through multiple pathways to success and in a collaborative environment.

Red Rocks Community College serves thousands of students each semester, the vast majority of whom are considered non-traditional students. A typical student at Red Rocks is 28 years old on average and most work part or full-time, in addition to pursuing their degree. Many students also have a family to support as well. Red Rocks offers 150 degree and certificate programs, 40 department of Student Success Services programs, and recently became the first community college in the nation to offer a master’s degree and two bachelor’s degrees.

Red Rocks has been ranked first among Colorado Community colleges for first-year graduate earnings and ranked third among Colorado public and private 2-year and 4-year institutions.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Red Rocks Community College for this well-deserved recognition and thank them for their continued service to the community.

HONORING REVEREND DR.
MARCUS DEMOND DAVIDSON
SENIOR PASTOR OF NEW MOUNT
OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH ON HIS
10TH ANNUAL PASTORAL ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Dr. Marcus Demond Davidson, Senior Pastor of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church, on his 10th Annual Pastoral Anniversary, which will take place during the month of March 2020.

This achievement truly is remarkable and a testament to Rev. Davidson’s commitment to faith, leadership, and our community. Throughout his career, he has tirelessly served faith-based and secular groups by helping to transform and empower others to achieve their greatest potential.

Rev. Davidson is a graduate of Deshler High School in Tusculumbia, Alabama. In further studies, he received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in Normal, Alabama; Master of Biblical Studies from Heritage Bible College in Huntsville, Alabama; Master of Divinity from Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama; and a Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in Black Church Leadership from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He has studied at the Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas; abroad at the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology, Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies.

At the age of six, Rev. Davidson accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior and united with the St. James Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of his father, Rev. Dr. Green Davidson, III. When he was sixteen years of age, Rev. Davidson acknowledged