

man, Edwin rose through the ranks and became a Lieutenant by 1986, then a Captain the following year. His service did not disappoint because by the mid-1990s, he oversaw critical operations for the Department. Soon enough, Edwin found himself leading the Fire Department as their new Chief by 2004.

As Fire Chief, he exceptionally performed his duties and gained a reputation for his effective management capacity. He secured millions in grant funding and amazingly acquired more responsibilities for the Department. The increased responsibilities expanded the force and augmented operational capacity. The responsibilities included expansion in emergency medical services and even water rescue services. With Edwin at the helm for 16 years, he understood the value of camaraderie and his distinguished service is worthy of veneration. His love for firefighting and passion for serving his community should be admired by all of us.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, join me to recognize Chief Allen's service to the First District and to the Commonwealth. His dedication to the Fire Department exemplifies the type of leadership that our great Nation demands. Let us wish Edwin the best during his retirement, as his rest is well deserved. On behalf of the First District, we say thank you.

IN HONOR OF DR. WALTER
"WALLY" WILKERSON

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Walter "Wally" Wilkerson's service to the community as a physician, community leader, and as Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Party for fifty-six years.

Born and raised in Bryan, Texas, Dr. Wilkerson stayed close to home and earned a Bachelor's Degree in biology from Texas A&M University in 1951. After graduation, Dr. Wilkerson pursued a Medical Degree from the prestigious University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1955. Just one year after finishing medical school, Dr. Wilkerson joined the United States Navy and spent two years as a General Medical Officer. While stationed at Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego, California, Dr. Wilkerson served aboard the USS *Hooper Island*. In the summer of 1958, Dr. Wilkerson participated in the historic atomic weapon test operation known as Operation Hardtack at Eniwetok Atoll in the southwest Pacific Ocean.

When it was time to return to civilian life, he found his way back to home to Texas and joined his family in Conroe. After encouragement from his father, he introduced himself to a local family medical practitioner, Dr. Deane Sadler. After shadowing Dr. Sadler for a day, a simple handshake sealed the deal and Dr. Wilkerson joined his clinic. Over the years, Dr. Sadler, became not only a business partner, but a mentor and a friend.

Eager to get involved in the community, Dr. Wilkerson entered the Conroe political scene while working at Sadler Clinic. In 1964, he ran successfully for Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Party. The following years of leadership and devoted service to the com-

munity earned him the nickname "King Wally." Dr. Wilkerson has received several accolades for his effective leadership, vision, and hard work, has been selected as a delegate for multiple Republican National Conventions, and continues to be active in the Associated Republicans of Texas. In 1989, Governor William P. Clements appointed Dr. Wilkerson as a member of the San Jacinto River Authority Board. In 1995, Governor George W. Bush selected Dr. Wilkerson to Chair the Texas Board of Health.

In 1996, Dr. Wilkerson retired from family medicine after thirty-eight years of service and dedication to his community. Today, he relinquishes the helm as Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Party. Dr. Wilkerson is respected by many and has been a faithful friend and source of professional guidance to many. We are thankful he chose to make a lasting difference right here in our community. Our entire community has been inspired by your character, integrity, patience, fairness and optimism. Your principles of freedom and limited government enhance the lives and opportunity for the people we seek to serve.

I join the communities of Conroe and Montgomery County in thanking Dr. Wilkerson, and I am proud to join him and his wife Neddie Jane in celebrating this amazing milestone of service and leadership for fifty-six successful years.

IN HONOR OF ARTHUR GREEN

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation's history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Arthur Green.

Arthur Green, who proudly served our nation's Navy before taking over the helm of Ward 14, oversees a smooth electoral operation, but also is a dedicated advocate on behalf of his constituents. Instrumental in the formulation of the 14th Ward Registered Community Organization, Arthur has made it a priority to ensure that as the East Poplar area continues its developmental boom, residents will reap the benefits while avoiding gentrification-induced displacement. His efforts will bolster

quality of life for those who live in Ward 14 and serve as a model for our entire city as it struggles with gentrification. I am grateful to have Arthur on the frontlines of this fight, and I thank him for his work on behalf of Ward 14. I thank Arthur for his service.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Arthur Green has left his own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
EDWARD WILLIAM LEAL

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward (Ed) William Leal as he celebrates his 100th birthday. Ed is a longtime resident of Concord and a former public servant for Contra Costa County.

Ed was born in Oakland, California in February 1920. His family lived in Oakley where his father was a butcher and ran a local grocery store. Ed attended Antioch High School where he played varsity football, basketball, tennis, and track and field. He set numerous records, including one for pole-vaulting that stood for 27 years. While at Antioch High School, Ed also met his future wife, Wilma.

Ed went on to study at the University of California, Berkeley where he was a member of the track and field team. However, Ed's collegiate career was interrupted when he decided to enlist in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. He was stationed in North Africa as a member of the 49th Fighter Squadron. Before being deployed, Ed and Wilma wed in 1942.

After Ed returned home from the war, he and Wilma moved to Concord where they raised their family. Ed worked for Contra Costa County, serving as the Assistant County Treasurer—Tax Collector. In 1970, Ed was elected as the County Treasurer—Tax Collector and served two terms before retiring.

Ed's military service, commitment to his community, and his 9 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren are a legacy to be proud of. Please join me in congratulating Ed on his 100th birthday and his life of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 71, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, YEA on Roll Call No. 72, H.R. 4852, and YEA on Roll Call No. 73, H.R. 2490.