

resources. World War II may have been 181's finest hour. With the founding generation being too old for direct military service, men like Eugene Streed—a proud Marine who had fought Bolshevism in Vladivostok in 1918–1919—led war drives, supervised civil defense activities and put on remembrances and memorials. In Streed's case, this included handcrafting more than 1000 white crosses to identify veterans' graves. He was also the co-founder of Brea's Memory Garden, where American flags with the names of Brea's lost soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are displayed on Memorial Day.

Brea is not such a small town as it was in Eugene Streed's day. One hundred years later, its population, at well over forty thousand, is 40 times the size of a rural village that gave birth to Brea Post 181. Yet, for all the city's growth and for all that the Post has done to underwrite that growth, our local Brea Legion has not always prospered in the same way. Indeed, I would be remiss if I failed to point out the struggles. The demographic shift from the mid-twentieth century, when service was almost universal for physically qualified men, to today's all-volunteer force has dramatically changed the recruiting and financing picture of the Legion. Local membership had declined so precipitously that by 2014, the Post had to sell a property it owned to avoid insolvency. It might have collapsed, and the story might have ended before this centennial celebration. But the warrior spirit has always been fierce among the veterans of Brea, and Post 181 has evolved to thrive in its new demographic environment. The membership has made smart business decisions and even smarter partnership arrangements with other veterans and civic groups like Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5384 and St. Angela Merici Church. The Post has come through its crisis. It is more intergenerational than ever before with former Brea Mayor Carrey Nelson—a retired Navy Master Chief who served in both the Second World and Korean Wars—still an active contributing member alongside current Brea Mayor Pro Tem and Brea Post 181 Commander Steven Vargas, who is also a Chief Petty Officer in the Naval Reserves. I hope that other Legion Posts are beginning to thrive and reinvent themselves to meet a rapidly changing country that, however different, still needs a strong American Legion. As a member of the neighboring Legion Post 277 in Placentia, as the son of a Vietnam combat veteran and grandson of two World War II combat veterans, but most of all, as a member of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committees, I congratulate and commend the Legionaries of Brea Post 181 and wish them another century of excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENVER RIGGLEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on March 2, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 79, and YEA on Roll Call No. 80.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANAN AMERI
AS SHE IS NAMED THE 2020
ARAB AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Anan Ameri as she is named the 2020 Arab American of the Year by ACCESS. Dr. Ameri's lifetime of community service and activism is worthy of commendation, and we are proud to recognize her achievements today.

Anan Ameri is a pillar of Washtenaw County. For over forty years, she has dedicated her career to advocating for social justice and equity, upholding immigrant rights, and preserving Arab American stories. Dr. Ameri, an author, educator, and activist, is especially known in our community as the founding director for the Arab American National Museum. Thanks to her steadfast leadership and revolutionary vision, she secured the museum's Smithsonian affiliation, making it the only Arab American organization in the prestigious network. In addition, Dr. Ameri is the national president of the Palestine Aid Society of America and was inducted to Michigan's Hall of Fame for her extraordinary efforts in 2016.

Today, we celebrate Anan Ameri for her lifetime of service to her community. Born in Damascus, Syria and raised in Amman, Jordan, Dr. Ameri understands the daily trials and tribulations immigrants experience. As such, she has advocated for their voices and continues to fight to ensure their rights are upheld. Beyond her career in activism, she also has served as a mentor to young women. She has nurtured women to pursue their dreams, strive for excellence, and embrace their heritage. Dr. Ameri truly embodies the hopes and dreams of immigrants coming to America and has made a difference in our Michigan community. Her years of service have impacted the lives of many, and her continued dedication provides a lasting example for what we should all endeavor to accomplish—to effect change, be compassionate community members, and do all we can to make a difference in the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Anan Ameri. Her decades of selfless service make her a deserving recipient of the Arab American of the Year Award. I am grateful for her lasting impact and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

JUDGE MARVA CRENSHAW—BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of Florida's most distinguished jurists—and one of the highest integrity. Judge Marva L. Crenshaw was born in 1951 in DeFuniak Springs, Florida, one of seven children. A child of faith, naturally reflective in her calm demeanor, she would epitomize a commitment to justice and the judicial

temperament that would distinguish her service on the bench. She is married to Norman Campbell and together they raised their two daughters, Kalinda and Kamaria.

Growing up in the segregated south, Judge Crenshaw attended segregated schools during her formative years. She excelled in language arts and became inspired by the impact of the rule of law, an appreciation she acquired spending time with her grandfather as he attended his affairs in her small town's courthouse. She earned her bachelor's degree with honors in 1973 from Tuskegee Institute, where she pledged as a Delta Sigma Theta and also became active in voter rights. She then achieved her childhood dream by earning her law degree from the University of Florida in 1975.

Judge Crenshaw began her dedication to public service as a prosecutor with the State Attorney's Office under Richard Gerstein in Miami-Dade County, Florida. She was hired by Janet Reno, who would later become the U.S. Attorney General. She served in that capacity until arriving to the Tampa Bay community in 1978 to join Bay Area Legal Services. She put her skills and legal acumen to work for families who often faced financial barriers to the courthouse and the legal system. She provided important legal services to disadvantaged neighbors across Tampa Bay and was named the organization's Deputy Director a decade later.

In 1989, Governor Bob Martinez appointed her to the Hillsborough County Court. In 2000, Governor Jeb Bush appointed her as the first African American woman to serve on the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court. There she was assigned to civil, family, criminal and juvenile divisions—furthering her lifelong dream to serve the public and her community. In 2009, Governor Charlie Crist appointed her to the Second District Court of Appeal, where she presided until retirement in 2018.

Judge Crenshaw broke barriers and charted a course for others who are committed to equal justice to follow. She set the highest of standards in her courtroom and in service to our community to ensure fairness. While retirement marks the end of one chapter in her life, she continues to explore other opportunities to impact people's lives through service.

Judge Crenshaw has been extensively involved in bar activities and was recognized as recently as 2019 with both the Hillsborough County Bar Association's Robert W. Patton Outstanding Jurist Award and the Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers' Trailblazer Award.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I am humbled to honor Judge Marva L. Crenshaw during this Black History Month for her many years of selfless service and leadership, and for being a trailblazer and a shining light for justice for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. COLIN Z. ALLRED

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. ALLRED. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 81, and YEA on Roll Call No. 82.