

Born on July 2, 1951 in Los Angeles, California, Phil attended Venice High School and the University of California, Los Angeles. After graduating, Phil taught for 14 years in Culver City as an elementary school teacher and served as president of his teachers' union for six years.

Phil then decided on a bold mid-career pivot, attending law school at night and eventually becoming a lawyer. He also served as a Los Angeles County deputy District Attorney, where he had numerous successes in the courtroom. However, Phil told friends that he missed working in public education and returned as an administrator, beginning his tenure as the principal of Webster Elementary School in 1990.

As principal, Phil introduced innovative projects and ideas to the benefit of Webster's students, including Websterville, an annual recreation of a colonial American village. Phil also led annual trips to Yosemite National Park and was key in establishing the school's computer lab. Phil was known among Webster's teaching staff for encouraging individuality and creativity in the classroom and contributing to a warm and friendly environment for the students.

Phil is survived by his wife, Charlee; children Rachel and Daniel; and grandchildren, Heaven and Paris. May his compassion, leadership, and devotion to those around him live on in the students he inspired and educators he helped nurture over his 37-year career.

HONORING TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DAY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Alabama State Legislature's joint resolution which recognizes March 7 as Tuskegee Airmen Day. House Joint Resolution 120 will acknowledge the honor and valor of those Tuskegee Airmen who risked their lives in defense of our country, despite racism, prejudice and segregation.

In 1941, a group of African American men in Tuskegee, Alabama, joined together to form an all-African American squadron of pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen. This squadron fought fiercely overseas on behalf of the United States of America during World War II, proving that patriotism and love of country conquers even the cruelest forms of bigotry. Segregation barred African Americans from enlisting alongside white Americans, and prior to the Tuskegee Airmen, the United States had never had an African American military pilot.

After being rejected from enlisting during World War I, African Americans spent more than two decades advocating for the right to enlist and train as military aviators. With help from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, labor union leader A. Philip Randolph and Judge William H. Hastie, these advocates were successful in passing Appropriations Bill Public Law 18 with an amendment by Senator Harry H. Schwartz of Wyoming, which designated funds for training African American pilots. The money was then invested in civilian flight schools willing to train African American pilots.

In June of 1941, the 99th Pursuit Squadron at Tuskegee University was founded. The unit consisted of 47 officers and 429 enlisted men who began primary training at Moton Field before moving to the Tuskegee Air Field about ten miles to the west for conversion training. Tuskegee Air Field mirrored existing all-white air fields like Maxwell Air Field only forty miles away, providing African American pilots with the same rigorous training as white Americans.

Major Noel F. Parrish advocated for the Tuskegee Airmen to be allowed to enter into combat, petitioning Washington, D.C. on their behalf. Eventually, in 1943, the Tuskegee Airmen were deemed eligible for combat and were sent to North Africa to join the 33rd Fighter Group under the command of Colonel William W. Momyer. Given little guidance from experienced combat pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen flew toward Italy where they attacked the small and strategically located volcanic island of Pantelleria. The island eventually surrendered, and the Airmen flew on to Sicily, receiving a Distinguished Unit Citation. The men went on to fight with heart and valor throughout World War II, proving to America and to the entire world that African Americans were just as capable as white Americans of serving their country. In many ways, these men displayed even more patriotism, as they actively fought to overcome barriers in order to serve and protect.

The Tuskegee Airmen's legacy is one that should make the state of Alabama truly proud. These men are part of Alabama's remarkable legacy of advocating for civil rights, proving that the determination of African American Alabamians can charge the course of history, not only for our country but for the entire world.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the exemplary service of the Tuskegee Airmen, and to the Alabama State Legislature for acknowledging their service through the passage of House Joint Resolution 120. May we celebrate the resilience and sacrifice of the Tuskegee Airmen not only on March 7, but every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for suspension votes on Monday, March 2, 2020 due to the California primary election. Had I been present, I would have assented to H.R. 5931, H.R. 5003, H.R. 5932, and H.R. 4351 passing by voice vote.

IN HONOR OF ANNISTON WINNING THE AHSAA CLASS 4A BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Anniston girls basketball

team for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 4A basketball championship.

The Bulldogs defeated Deschler 61 to 51 in the championship game on February 28th at Legacy Arena.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Anniston High School, the coaches, the players and all the Bulldogs fans on this exciting achievement. Go Bulldogs.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD E. FOX, M.A., RECIPIENT OF AN- CIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Richard E. Fox, M.A. as the recipient of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 4 Paul "Hook" O'Malley Man of the Year award. He will be honored at the organization's annual gathering on Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

Reverend Fox, son of Richard and Ann C. Madden Fox, was born in Pottstown, Pennsylvania and raised in South Wilkes-Barre. In June 1983, Reverend Fox graduated from E.L. Meyers High School and the Wilkes-Barre Area Vo-Tech School with a concentration in warehouse management. He was a member of the 100th graduating class of the University of Scranton, earning a degree in Christian Traditions in 1988. While at the University of Scranton, he also studied at St. Pius X Seminary in Dalton. In 1992, Reverend Fox graduated from Christ the King Seminary in Buffalo, New York with a master's degree in pastoral ministry.

On June 27, 1992, Reverend Fox was ordained as a priest at St. Peter's Cathedral Church in Scranton. Following his ordination, he served as assistant pastor at churches across Northeastern Pennsylvania, including Epiphany Church in Sayre (1992 to 1995), Immaculate Conception Church in Scranton (1995 to 1998), and St. Jude's Church in Mountain Top (1998 to 2000). He then served as pastor of Blossburg Area Catholic Community in Tioga County (2000 to 2003), Holy Trinity/Holy Child Church in Nanticoke (2003 to 2005), Immaculate Conception Church in Scranton (2005 to 2007), Holy Family Church in Luzerne (2007 to 2009), St. Eulalia's Church in Roaring Brook Township (2009 to 2010), as well as other churches in Exeter and Old Forge in 2010 and 2011.

After serving many communities across the region, Reverend Fox called Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Lake Silkworth his home parish from 2011 to 2016. Since 2016, he has been the pastor at St. Patrick's Parish in Scranton.

Reverend Fox has two siblings, Bridget Fox Ford, married to William Ford, and the late Christopher Fox.

He is the proud uncle of his niece and nephew, Mitchell and Cameron Ford.

It is an honor to recognize Reverend Richard E. Fox as the Ancient Order of the Hibernians Division 4 Man of the Year and congratulate him on his distinguished career in