

## CONSTITUTION DAY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today is the 233rd anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution by our Founding Fathers in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The seven articles of the Constitution give clarity to our three branches of government: the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, and explains the separating of duties for each.

As an attorney, a retired member of the United States Armed Forces, a Member of Congress, and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I appreciate the Constitution each day and hold fast to how the Founding Fathers envisioned limited government to provide for expanded freedom. I encourage all Americans to read and discuss the U.S. Constitution today with family, friends, coworkers, and others in honor and celebration of Constitution Day.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

## RECOGNIZING DALE BRIGHT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO LABORERS 242

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise to recognize Dale Bright on his many years of service as a laborer and then as the Political Director of Laborers Local Union 242 and congratulate him on his retirement.

My staff and I were lucky to have the privilege of working with Dale on labor rights for several years. Dale has always been a champion of workers' rights and through his advocacy he has been able to improve the lives of countless workers in Washington. Dale has fought relentlessly to ensure everyone has access to a fair and equal workplace including living wages, good benefits, and more. He was instrumental in implementing Community Workforce Agreements and apprenticeship utilization throughout the region. This work has had a profound impact on historically marginalized communities. These programs have proved to be incredibly successful and helped many people start union careers.

Dale continually demonstrated time and again that he is a community builder and passionate leader. Dale encouraged and helped facilitate civic engagement and voter registration among members of the Laborers Local Union 242. His leadership, knowledge, and personal efforts greatly contributed to one of the strongest labor unions in the country. The thoughtfulness, work ethic, and enthusiasm Dale brought to the Laborers as Political Director will be deeply missed by all.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dale Bright for his dedicated service to the Laborers 242 where he never stopped working to advance the rights of workers, and I wish him a happy retirement.

## HONORING DR. HELEN LEVINE

**HON. CHARLIE CRIST**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Helen Levine, the Regional Vice Chancellor for External Affairs at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP), for her 14 years of service to the USF system and for being a remarkable and powerful force for good in the Pinellas community.

During a tenure that spanned multiple campus administrations, Dr. Levine used her position to fight for the advancement of higher education. From her work championing the construction of the historic Kate Tiedemann College of Business to her advocacy on behalf of the internationally recognized La Florida Project, which tells the story of Spanish Florida, Dr. Levine has changed many lives for the better. She is someone who has long lived up to the ideals of bipartisanship and civility, working across the aisle with city councils, the state legislature, and Congress to secure funds for research, scholarship, and a more equitable University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Madam Speaker, to speak for just one minute on the full legacy of Dr. Levine is impossible. She is a groundbreaking leader, a champion for education, and a role model for all who seek to improve the lives of others in their community. As she retires from her senior position at USFSP, it is my privilege to wish her the best in all her future endeavors both personally and as a valued member of our community.

## HONORING JUDGE LISA BLOCH RODWIN FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Erie County Family Court Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin as she retires from the bench after over thirty years of public service. Throughout her career as a judge, and previously as a prosecutor, Judge Bloch Rodwin's dedication and ingenuity helped secure the promise of equal justice before the law more fully for victims of domestic violence and others to whom it had previously too often been denied.

As an assistant district attorney, Judge Bloch Rodwin was the founder of one of the first domestic violence bureaus in a prosecutor's office nationally. Her work helped change the culture of the criminal justice system in Western New York; in important ways Judge Bloch Rodwin's efforts led the re-shaping of that system to more comprehensively address the scourge of domestic violence and related crimes with the vigor and the tenacity that justice requires.

After her appointment to the bench in 2007, and subsequent re-elections, Judge Bloch Rodwin continued this important work, developing and expanding programs to aid victims of domestic abuse and other crimes in under-

served communities. She was the founding board chair of the Erie County Family Justice Center, as well as a founder of the Alexa Foundation, which serves child abuse and sexual assault survivors. We in Western New York have not been the only beneficiaries of Judge Bloch Rodwin's good work; she has been generous in providing the benefit of her widely sought-after expertise nation-wide to professionals in the criminal justice system, to national media outlets and to academics. It is appropriate that as a result of her work, Judge Bloch Rodwin has been the recipient of numerous national, regional and local awards and honors.

I ask my honorable colleagues to join me in thanking Judge Bloch Rodwin for her exemplary and courageous efforts, and in recognizing her extraordinary career and accomplishments. In specific, tangible ways, Western New York and the United States have become more just because of the Judge's good work, and we are all in her debt.

## HONORING REVEREND LONNIE AND ELISHA MITCHELL

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifelong service of Reverend Lonnie and Elisha Mitchell. As the Pastor and First Lady of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Reverend Mitchell and his wife Elisha have faithfully and selflessly guided the Spokane community for nearly thirty years.

Reverend Mitchell is retiring to empower a new generation of leaders to continue his work and take the church to its next level. He leaves a remarkable legacy, and I'm grateful for the time we have spent together building unity in Spokane. His wisdom and perspective were always valued and trusted in many courageous conversations we had with diverse voices in our community. I'm glad that even in retirement, Reverend Mitchell will continue to serve in new ways and be a force for unity, security, and grace.

Madam Speaker, Lonnie became a pastor in 1989 following his military service in the United States Army. In 1991, he was assigned to Bethel A.M.E. by Bishop Vinton R Anderson. Under Reverend Mitchell's leadership, Bethel A.M.E. grew from 13 members to more than 200. While Lonnie served from the pulpit, Elisha served from the choir as a gospel singer. She ministered to many through her music and talent. During their time at Bethel A.M.E., Lonnie and Elisha have focused on a mission to love people—a mission as relevant today as it was in 1991.

Reverend Mitchell and his wife Elisha have been long-term leaders in our community, helping found multiple nonprofits. In 1994, Lonnie and Elisha created Unity in the Community, an event to showcase Spokane's diversity and unite our community around respect, trust, and collaboration. In 1995, they founded the AHANA Business and Professional Organization, a nonprofit that supported minority and women-owned businesses in Spokane. Additionally, in the early 2000s, Reverend Mitchell and Elisha were key fundraisers for the Emmanuel Family Life Center, a community center in the Perry District.