

in the Forest, Hospice Giving, Arthritis Foundation, National WWII Museum, Marine Scholarship Foundation, Meals on Wheels, and Rancho Cielo. Most notably, he is Director Emeritus of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County, a past President of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance instrumental in protections for the California Condor, falcons, and other raptors, trustee emeritus of the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation, and was Vice-Chairman of the Economic Development Committee of the Fort Ord Reuse Committee. He has also served on the Monterey County Sheriffs Advisory Council, the task forces of the City of Seaside, the boards of All Saints and Stevenson Schools, and as foreman pro tempore on the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury.

As he begins his retirement, I have no doubt that Peter will continue to find myriad ways to support his community and cherish his time with his beloved wife, Barbara, and his daughter, son-in-law, and three grandchildren, who are triplets. We, as a community, are grateful for his contributions to the Central Coast and celebrate his successful career.

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND ROBERT S. GRAETZ, JR.

### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2020*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Robert S. Graetz Jr., a Lutheran minister and heroic Civil Rights Activist who passed away at the age of 92. In 1955, as a white minister Rev. Graetz alongside his wife Mrs. Jeannie Graetz came to Montgomery, Alabama to serve the all black congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church. Demonstrating tremendous courage, Rev. Graetz played a critical role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott by personally sacrificing his time and resources in the fight for equal rights.

Born on May 16, 1928 in Clarksburg, West Virginia, Rev. Graetz studied Theology at Capital University in Ohio, where he became interested in civil rights through his studies, founding a campus group to discuss race relations. After graduating in 1950, he attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio where he founded the Columbus N.A.A.C.P. chapter. In 1951, Rev. Graetz and Jeannie Ellis were married in East Springfield, Pennsylvania and together they had seven children.

Shortly after his arrival in Montgomery, Rev. Graetz became acquainted with the local N.A.A.C.P. youth council director Rosa Parks who held weekly meetings in the church pastored by Rev. Graetz. Rev. Graetz became active in the protest upon learning of the arrest of Rosa Parks. At his next Sunday service, he urged his parishioners to participate in the Bus Boycott and offered them a ride to work.

What originally began as a single day on December 5, 1955 turned into over a year of boycotting that ended on December 20, 1956. Rev. Graetz spent three hours every morning driving black members of the community to work. With his increasing involvement, he became an instrumental part of the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Rev. Graetz became the Secretary of the Montgomery Improvement Association, where he worked closely with Rosa Parks and avidly supported Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Graetz was the only white minister to publicly support the efforts of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, making him and his family a target of the Ku Klux Klan. There were several threats and attempts on Rev. Graetz and his family's lives—including two firebombs that damaged their home but thankfully harmed no one. Not to be deterred, Rev. Graetz loudly and proudly continued to fight for what he believed was the work of God in securing and defending the equal rights of his black church members. In support of Rosa Parks, he attended her court hearing and even attempted to sit in the colored section in the courtroom. Later, when the FBI urged Rev. Graetz and his family to leave Montgomery for their safety, they refused and remained unwavering in their public support of the Civil Rights Movement.

After the end of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Rev. Graetz and his wife Jeannie left Montgomery and returned to Columbus, Ohio in 1958 where Rev. Graetz served another predominantly black congregation. In the following years, he and his wife traveled across the nation to advocate for civil rights—eventually spending 13 years in Washington, D.C. as a lobbyist for marginalized individuals.

Throughout his life, Rev. Graetz authored several publications including: *A Congregational Guide to Human Relations*; *An Informed Church Serves a Diverse Society*; *Montgomery—a White Preacher's Memoir*; and *A White Preachers Message on Race and Reconciliation—Based on His Experiences Beginning with the Montgomery Bus Boycott*. Rev. Graetz also received the following honors: Russwurm Award, National Negro Newspaper Publishers Association; Selma Humanitarian Award; Distinguished Alumnus, Trinity Lutheran Seminary; Doctor of Humanities, Capital University; Ohio Humanitarian Award; Ohio Governor's Humanitarian Award. After returning to Montgomery in 2007, Rev. Graetz and his wife dedicated their service to Alabama State University and hosted the annual Graetz Symposium at the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture at Alabama State University.

On a personal note, I have tremendous respect and admiration for the significant contributions that Rev. and Mrs. Graetz made to fight for civil rights and racial equality in the Montgomery community. Grounded by his faith and genuine belief in the value of all God's children, Rev. Graetz led by example in supporting the Montgomery Bus Boycott. It was the boycott of public transit in Montgomery for 381 days that resulted in the end of racial segregation in commerce across this nation. We owe a debt of gratitude to the personal sacrifice and threats to their lives that Rev. and Mrs. Graetz must have endured in the quest for equality and justice for all. To say thank you doesn't seem enough. May we rededicate ourselves to the cause of racial equality and reconciliation that exemplified the life's work of Reverend Graetz. And may the Lord say—well done thy good and faithful servant, Well Done.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and legacy of Reverend Robert S. Graetz, Jr., and his incredible contributions to the Civil Rights Movement.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2020*

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavailable and missed votes 202 through 206.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 202; NAY on Roll Call No. 203; NAY on Roll Call No. 204; YEA on Roll Call No. 205; and NAY on Roll Call No. 206.

### REMEMBERING ERVIN JULIAN

### HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2020*

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Ervin Julian from Surprise, Arizona. Mr. Julian was one of the few World War II veterans still alive in Arizona, a centenarian, a Valley resident for more than 50 years, and a proud husband and father.

Mr. Julian was born in Waltham, Massachusetts and enlisted in the United States Navy for four years during World War II. During his time in service, he was stationed at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, where he worked as the base commander's assistant. Shortly after his service, he moved to Phoenix, Arizona where he worked as a wholesale salesman.

He was married to the love of his life, Louise Julian, for nearly seventy-two years. Together, they raised their son Steven, who often refers to his dad as "a great hero." His only grandson, Joseph Charles Bentley Julian, is proud of his grandfather's service and the contributions he made to our nation.

Mr. Julian was a member of the American Legion and a big supporter of Boy Scouts of America. He fueled his love of antique automobiles by being active in the Horseless Carriage Club of America and Wally Byam Caravan Club International.

His family continues to cherish one of the most memorable final moments they shared together—when he went viral at a rally for President Donald Trump in February 2020. Mr. Julian captured the hearts of many when two men carried him down a flight of stairs at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum as the crowd chanted "U-S-A! U-S-A!" in the background.

On this day, we as a community would like to thank Mr. Julian for his service to our country and ask those who knew him to pray for his family during this time of mourning.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WALKER HARRIS JR., FOUNDER AND OWNER OF HARRIS ICE COMPANY

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2020*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen, Christian, businessman,