

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I missed this vote because I had to take a personal family call.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 201.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY,
INCORPORATED-ETA LAMBDA
CHAPTER

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated-Eta Lambda Chapter, on their 100th Anniversary.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the first inter-collegiate Greek letter fraternity established for Black college students, was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, in 1906. In a period of one hundred fourteen years, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. grew from one undergraduate group of seven members to an international organization with an active membership of more than one hundred fifty thousand. The national organization is now the central organization to many subordinate chapters.

The Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was founded in Atlanta, chartering on May 19, 1920. As the First Alumni Chapter, and one of the most accomplished in the Southern Region (Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi) I am honored to highlight the rich history and significance of my beloved fraternity in Atlanta.

For one hundred years, the Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has been intertwined in the fabric of the City of Atlanta; from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport to Andrew Young International Boulevard and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, just to name a few. Notable Alpha Brothers have served as leaders in all levels of government, business, education, and civic affairs.

I am a proud member of this prestigious organization, which was founded on the precepts of many deeds, scholarship, and love for all mankind.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the historic significance of the centennial anniversary of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated-Eta Lambda Chapter.

THE EASTSIDE GIRLS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to 15 remarkable women who through their 65 year relation-

ships with each other is a story itself; but, I believe, might also offer a way to carry many of us through this tumultuous time of economic upheaval, tragic illness and death, and riots in our streets where we have lived peacefully all these years.

Their belief in each other has allowed them to love and share tragedies and disappointments. Their lifetime of friendships and memories help them to remember to laugh and make time together.

Melany Burton Davis remembers what she recalls as one of the scariest days of her life at age 10, when she had to go to a new elementary school. "Little did I know that the precious girls I met that day were going to be lifelong friends. Each of them made me feel not just accepted but valued and loved."

She goes on to say, "Even when we all went our separate ways for decades, whenever we got together I had the same feelings of being valued and loved. These beautiful girls always bring joy to my heart, and I am blessed to have them in my life."

They are often asked, "How do they do that?"

Jackie Nantz Kelly, one of the women, answered, "Where to start? How do you describe a 70-year friendship?"

We started in two different elementary schools that merged into the same junior high school where it all began. We grew closer in high school, but went our separate ways in college. We married, had children, some divorced and had struggles of single parent hood, but we survived and all of us raised beautiful children. We are all not the same religion, but believe in God and we love our country."

In 1987, 26 years after we graduated high school, we decided it was time for a reunion. We remembered our best times were slumber parties so that's what we did, Dana Gant Tate sent the invitation and commanded for all of us, "Sleeping bags, pillows and baby doll pajamas or you don't come!"

We had a great time and decided we had to do a better job of keeping in touch, and we did.

We began to travel.

Tricia Walker Christensen was our historian forth is outing and in her words, "In 2010 we had a great opportunity to celebrate and travel when we joined 60 passengers to birth the USS *Fort Worth* at Mariette Marine Corporation. One of our Eastside Girls was KAY MULLENDORE GRANGER and she was the sponsor of the ship. We watched as she stood with her grandsons and smashed a bottle of champagne against the bow of the ship. We were proud and excited. We were also holding our breath hoping that the hit would be successful. KAY was never athletic, so it wasn't a sure thing she could do this."

We gathered together for parties and get togethers that others hosted and at some point someone suggested we needed a name. Many of us still lived in the part of Fort Worth where we had all that fun, so we named ourselves "The Eastside Girls" for the area we grew up in and that is the name we have used for 23 years.

The slumber parties were a thing of the past until 2001 when Key Stevens Richardson invited us to her house in Austin. As Key puts it, "After years apart and attempts to get together, we began the tradition of reuniting for an annual memorable weekend a tour house.

Hank, my husband and an Eastside guy, leaves town and our raucous group takes over the house. We all talk at once. There is laughter (someone suggested we should be called the 'The Eastside Cacklers') and there are tears."

Key's little sister Nancy Stevens Klein is the only one allowed outside our class and she adds. "I'm honored to be included in this wonderful group of women who support and inspire each other and in doing so make each one of us stronger. I wouldn't miss seeing them every year for anything."

Laughter is the most important part of this long friendship. Talana Hadsell Wier says, "My very best memories are of the laughter we always shared with whatever we did. Sliding down the stairs at Melany's house, pep rallies at Eastern Hills High School, talking about our boyfriends. And now making it through the good and tough times of marriages and raising families. And then being able to once again come back to our fun times of memories together."

Jaynie Lewis Shaffer says, "We are each unique and different yet the same because of our shared heritage. It is wonderful to be with people who knew me then. I don't have to explain anything to them. Like a beautiful grand piano with individuals key that emit a beautiful tone and perhaps at times may need fine tuning, we make lovely music and come together." Jaynie spent 30 years at IBM to prepare herself for the most important job—technical support for the Eastside Girls.

Priscilla Willis Coleman was the cutest, most popular and funniest of the "Girls." She never misses the August Austin slumber party and is the most talkative and gets funnier every year. She added that it is important where we have that Austin soiree. "It is in the hills of Austin so we don't disturb anyone, and believe me, a group of women who haven't been together all year, all talking at the same time, accompanied by a few margaritas and glasses of wine—this can become quite loud."

During the year we keep in touch by phone. And we text. And Priscilla says she imagines we will continue until we can't drive anymore and we will take an Uber or a van. But she continues, "I really love these women. We would do anything in our power to help each other. We are happy together, sad together, and we pray for each other. We share a common bond that knits out lives together."

We are all in our 70's now, but we will always be the Eastside Girls."

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF VIRGIL SIMON LOONSFOT
"RED CLOUD"

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, It is my honor to recognize the life of Virgil Simon Loonsfoot "Red Cloud", who passed away at the age of 80 after a lifetime of service to his fellow Americans. Through his extreme courage and selflessness, Virgil became an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

Virgil was born on August 17, 1940 in L'Anse, Michigan. Following his education, Virgil served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam