

Sixteen-year-olds are legally permitted to work and pay federal income tax on their earnings. They are legally permitted to drive motor vehicles, and if they commit crimes they are tried as adults. If 16-year-olds are impacted by our laws, it is only fair that they be allowed to choose their representatives. Granting 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote ensures that their concerns and voices are heard by policymakers. Lowering the voting age can also strengthen civics education in our schools by making content relevant to students' lives, and incentivizing schools to prioritize civics.

Madam Speaker, research has shown that voting is a habitual behavior, which is why 16 is a better time than 18 to acquire the habit of voting. Numerous cities across our nation have already passed ordinances allowing 16-year-olds to vote in local municipal elections. Data from five cities in Maryland—which were among the first in America to lower the voting age to 16 for local elections—shows 16- and 17-year-olds have turned out to vote at equal or higher rates than voters from older age groups.

When individuals participate in democratic processes from a young age, they form lifelong habits of civic participation and voter engagement. Nineteen states already allow for 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections prior to them turning 18.

Madam Speaker, lowering the voting age to 16 will only strengthen our democratic institutions by exposing youth to our most sacred civic duty of voting. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation as we empower America's youth to help shape and guide our nation by allowing them to vote in all elections.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BARBARA
BEATRICE WALKER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Barbara Beatrice Walker was the true essence of love, hope and charity. She had and constantly demonstrated a warm, caring and giving spirit. Born and raised in Mississippi, Barbara always spoke fondly of her childhood and had a real sense of affection for the Piney Wood Boarding School which she attended and gave a great deal of credit for helping her to become the person that I and countless others came to know and love. She moved to Chicago, had a very successful career working for Cook County Health Services, married her husband Edgar and to their union, Michele was born. Barbara was totally devoted to Michele and to her son Herschel and ultimately Herschel Jr., her grandson and great grandson. Barbara was an active member of the 7th Congressional District Peoples Assembly where she often brought Southern style cooked food to feed the Congressman and I shall never forget it. Condolences to her family and we thank her for her service to humanity.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, if I have not charity then I am nothing."

HONORING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The George Washington University on the occasion of its bicentennial.

For two centuries, generations of students from around the world have come to The George Washington University (GW) to take full advantage of the unparalleled academic opportunities that accompany its unique vantage point in the heart of the nation's capital.

Indeed, the entire GW community is unique in that, regardless of what discipline one may choose to pursue there, all have chosen to attend the university because of their desire to make a difference in the world and their ability to utilize GW's vast network of partnerships, access and policy initiatives to translate that desire into action.

With its decades-long working relationships with nearly every federal agency, as well as numerous international multilateral organizations, the university's faculty have long been an indispensable source of groundbreaking research and ideas that not only create new knowledge but also transform policy that affects millions of people in their daily lives. While GW's traditional areas of strength have long been regarded as law, media and policymaking, the university is also pioneering discoveries in cybersecurity, tissue regeneration, robotics, autism, fighting extremism, HIV/AIDS, combating violence against women and girls worldwide, nanotechnology and building sustainable ecosystems, among many other areas. It should not come as a surprise that GW's doctors, researchers and public health officials have been at the forefront of COVID-19 research since the beginning and are diligently working to help address this urgent problem.

Moreover, the collective force of GW's two centuries is embodied by its distinguished alumni—now numbering more than 290,000 in 130 countries worldwide—whose ranks include some of the most consequential leaders of our time in practically every pursuit.

Furthermore, as a hub of intellect and dynamic human capital, the university continues to infuse the District of Columbia with its exciting mixture of ideas, diversity and youthful energy, which has made it an essential part of the city's civic and cultural life since its very founding.

Yet, none of this great success was either inevitable or preordained. It was only achieved by the commitment of generations of students, alumni, faculty and staff to build GW into a preeminent global research institution.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking and congratulating GW for two centuries of accomplishment and positive impact on the District, the rest of the nation and the world. I wish the university continued success into its third century and beyond.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENE BARBARET

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great regret that I rise today to mourn and observe the passing of an eternal educator, Dr. Gene Barbaret of Mansfield, Connecticut. Having lived a full and active life, Gene passed away on his 101st birthday on January 11, 2021 due to complications related to the coronavirus.

Gene's life was intrinsically American, and he dedicated his lifeforce toward professorial teaching and sharpening the mind. To this end, Gene contributed a palpable value toward the strength and productivity of eastern Connecticut's community, the region I have the honor of representing. Dr. Barbaret, a first-generation scholar born to parents who immigrated from Alsace, France, was always eager to observe and take from his environment as the youngest of eight siblings. His story will be remembered by many as one of vigor, decency, and a passion for cultural enrichment.

As a lifelong learner, Gene was always destined to become the wisest of educators. His potential in the education industry was reflected from the start, such as when he graduated coeditor from Watertown High School in his hometown of Oakville, Connecticut. His deep French roots struck a clear cord with him from early on as well, motivating Mr. Barbaret to achieve a bachelors degree in French studies in 1941. Taking a break from his studies, Gene heeded the call to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Upon his return from the war, however, Gene resumed a determined effort to expand upon his roots—transitioning his education to Princeton University and going on to achieve a masters and subsequent doctoral degree in French literature by 1951.

Not one to let knowledge go to waste, Gene brought his specialization back to our home state of Connecticut before obtaining his doctoral in 1949, marking the genesis of a career in sharing his experience as a faculty of the University of Connecticut (UConn). Dr. Barbaret went on to educate French Literature within UConn's Department of Modern and Classical Languages, building a true and personal connection to the University over the course of 40 years. He achieved this not by simply mastering lectures, but also by broadening his perspective alongside the very students he taught. As a professor, he personally oversaw the University's year long study abroad program to France, journeying with certain students across the Atlantic to better understand the international community and our place in it. Dr. Barbaret's impact cannot be understated—throughout his long tenure he came to be recognized with a variety of honors and accolades, eventually even becoming knighted as a chevalier by the French government for his contributions to the nation's culture. As a fondly remembered mentor and a good scholar, multiple scholarship funds were established under the University in his name to stimulate excellence in French.

Dr. Barbaret retired from UConn in 1990 as a revered professor emeritus. Though UConn