

REMEMBERING MARTHA HAYS
COOPER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 15, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember Martha Hays Cooper, known as "Ookie," a remarkable woman and friend and the wife of our colleague JIM COOPER, who passed away last Thursday in Nashville. I include in the RECORD for history her husband's words in tribute:

Martha Hays Cooper died peacefully at home in Nashville on Thursday, February 4, after years of struggling with Alzheimer's. "Ookie" was married to Representative Jim Cooper for almost 36 years, mother of their three amazing children, Mary (Scott Gallisdorfer), Jamie, and Hayes, and grandmother of the incomparable Jay.

Martha was born on September 13, 1954, the second child of the late Dr. A.V. Hays and Dr. Martha Hays Taylor of Gulfport, Mississippi. Her siblings, Art Hays (Debbie) of Gaithersburg, MD, and Mary Hays Peller (Steve) of New Orleans, survive her. Martha graduated from Sweet Briar College in 1976 and from Mississippi State in 1980 with an M.S. in ornithology. Her first job was in a cubbyhole in the attic of the Natural History Museum, the Bird Division of the Smithsonian, staffing the first two editions of the million-selling National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America. An adventuresome soul, Martha smoked cigars in swamps to repel mosquitoes, made lifelong friends in Buenos Aires, taught children and studied Puffins for the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, protected Least Terns on Gulf of Mexico beaches, camped in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and worked the Galápagos Islands for World Wildlife Fund, all while keeping an African-Grey parrot named Baroot in her kitchen.

Martha lived in Georgetown and drove a 1971 Robin's-egg-blue Volvo P1800E when she met Jim, the youngest congressman in the U.S., who proposed at a White House Christmas party. Part Audrey Hepburn, Ali MacGraw, and Penelope Cruz, Martha was wary of politics until she lived in Shelbyville with Jim's mother for a few months in 1984 to manage Jim's first re-election campaign. The experiment worked. They married on April 6, 1985, followed by the birth of Mary Argentine in 1990, John James Audubon in 1991, and Hayes Hightower in 1995. Martha loved Mardi Gras, Galatoires ("the big G"), hurricanes and snow, peonies, Little Cayman Island, Ernie Banks, homemade popovers, Radnor Lake, friends in the Query and Centennial Clubs, Aretha Franklin and Paul McCartney, Standard Poodles (Ruby, Sirius Black, and Romeo), Cicadas, golf, City House's belly-ham pizza, families of Crows, Prince Charles, her Cardinal-red 2003 Mini-Cooper, and the Hermitage, serving as Regent of the Ladies' Hermitage Association. Her favorite president was Barack Obama; favorite bird: *Upupa Epops*.

Martha's charm and optimism were heroic, eclipsing her illness. She ALWAYS smiled and said thank you. She loved car travel; on bumpy roads she'd say "this makes me wiggle." In recent years, she drew wobbly hearts on everything . . . with a Sharpie when she could find one.

The family is grateful to Martha's main caregiver, Sandy Mathers, her friend of 25 years, as well as newer friends, Heather Tavasti and Alyssa Action. The team at Alive Hospice was godsent."

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL COM-
MEMORATIVE COIN ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 15, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the dedication of the World War II Memorial on our National Mall culminated a 17-year effort in Congress to construct the first national memorial dedicated to the 16 million Americans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II and the more than 400,000 who died.

As the Representative who introduced the legislation to construct the WWII Memorial, I rise today in support of the National World War II Commemorative Coin Act. This bipartisan piece of legislation, which I am honored to introduce alongside my friend and colleague Representative ADAM KINZINGER of Illinois, authorizes the U.S. Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.

The coin will serve as an important token to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the brave Americans who fought to defend our great Nation and advance peace and freedom throughout the world.

Most importantly, this legislation will help ensure the Memorial will be properly maintained for years to come, and that the commemorative and educational programming remains robust and substantial.

I would like to thank our partners at the Friends of the World War II Memorial for their service and help in getting this bill to where it is today.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL KRASNY,
PH.D.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 15, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a giant among journalists, Dr. Michael Krasny. For nearly three decades he has hosted the highly acclaimed Forum (KQED) and is retiring on February 12, 2021, to pursue other interests, including writing and grandparenting.

Michael Krasny earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Ohio University, and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. Since 1983 he has worked in broadcast journalism, first with ABC, and in 1993 began his career in public broadcasting.

Michael Krasny has shared his vast knowledge as a teacher at San Francisco State, Stanford University, the University of California and the Fulbright International Institutes. He conducts interviews for City Arts and Lectures, and has written many books, including *Off Mike: A Memoir of Talk Radio and Literary Life*; *Spiritual Envy*; *Sound Ideas*, and *Let There Be Laughter*.

Dr. Krasny has been honored for his outstanding work and is the recipient of the Y.Y. Agnon Medal for Intellectual Achievement; the Eugene Block Award for Human Rights Jour-

nalism; the James Madison Freedom of Information Award; the Excellence in Journalism Award from the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Society; the Career Achievement Award from the Society of Professional Journalists and an award from the Radio and Television News Directors Association.

Michael Krasny is described by Holly Kernan, KQED's Chief Content Officer, as a Bay Area jewel. She said: "His is a model public service career and he has brought depth, compassion and the expertise of a literature professor to the airwaves on a daily basis."

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring this stellar broadcaster, author and academic, Michael Krasny, Ph.D. who has enhanced the lives of countless people by informing, examining and educating us. We are a stronger community and a better country because of his extraordinary work.

RECOGNIZING THE 41ST ANNUAL
SALUTE OF THE BLACK NURSES
ASSOCIATION OF GREATER
WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA, INC.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 15, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 41st Annual Salute of the Black Nurses Association of Greater Washington, D.C. Area, Inc. The Black Nurses Association (BNA) of Greater Washington, D.C. Area, Inc. (GWDCA), chartered in 1975, endeavors to support the mission of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) and to provide services to residents in the D.C. area.

BNA of GWDCA acts as a vehicle for cohesion and solidarity among Black nurses to ensure the continuity of common heritage. The BNA of GWDCA hosted its first Annual Salute to a Black Nurse on February 14, 1981, at St. Elizabeths Hospital to recognize the contributions of nurses in the community and to celebrate Black History Month. "The Salute" has become a signature community program, where one practicing nurse is awarded "Nurse of the Year" and several nursing students are awarded scholarships. Meedie Bardonnille RN has been selected as the 2021 "Nurse of the Year."

BNA of GWDCA has a distinguished legacy of community service with a focus on addressing specific health problems of the Black consumer and health care disparities. Past programs have included participation in the National Black Nurses National Hypertension Project and the National Depression Project and partnerships with the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. BNA of GWDCA's signature community service project provides community-based health assessments and teaching through church-based and collaborative health fairs and partnerships with the D.C. Department of Health, Office of Immunizations, and the Washington Hospital Center.

Importantly, we are grateful that in response to the critical shortage of nurses in all areas of practice, BNA of GWDCA's "Choose Nursing Project" provides career information and

mentoring in the field for students in D.C. area middle and high schools. As a chapter, BNA of GWDC continues to carry the mission of "Empowering the Community through Education, Service and Caring" and support the NBNA's theme, "The Art and Science of Nursing."

Particularly during the COVID-19 crisis, the nation understands that nurses are indispensable. It is more important than ever to recognize Black nurses, whose service has been overlooked for far too long.

I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Black Nurses Association of Greater Washington, D.C. Area, Inc. for 46 years devoted to improving the lives of D.C. area residents and the profession of nursing.

HONORING THE LIFE OF 1SG
STALEY JOHNSON SR.

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 15, 2021

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of 1SG Staley Johnson Sr. of Kannapolis, North Carolina.

Staley Johnson was born on December 4th, 1920 in Alexander County, North Carolina to Jonas and Nancy Johnson. After the 5th grade, Johnson left school to help provide for and support his family.

A native North Carolinian, Staley Johnson enlisted with the U.S. Army on December 6th, 1941, the day before the attacks at Pearl Harbor. Staley Johnson was just 23 years old at the time.

Johnson served heroically and courageously as a heavy machine gunner in the 330th Infantry. During his service in Europe, Johnson was wounded from gunfire in the back near La Barre, France on July 27, 1944 after arriving on the beaches of France just after D-Day. Johnson was involved in further action in Europe as the Allies closed in on Germany before Allied victory in Europe. Johnson received a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and several other awards for his valor and courage. After his discharge, he went to work for Cannon Mills, but remained active in the National Guard.

In April 1945, Johnson married Nellie Victoria Foster. They had four children; Staley Jr., Pamela, Jerry, and Kathy. The couple were married for over 64 years before Nellie passed away in 2010. Staley is the grandfather to six, great-grandfather to 12, and great-great-grandfather to two. His family and his church mean the world to him.

Often, Staley Johnson can be found singing "Sweet Hour of Prayer," a song he learned

while resting in a town the allies had just recaptured from Hitler's Army. He is known to be full of stories from World War II.

Madam Speaker, 1SG Staley Johnson Sr. is an American hero. His service to our country will never be forgotten. It is an honor and a privilege to represent Staley Johnson in the U.S. House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER
VICTIMS' FAMILY ASSISTANCE
ACT OF 2021

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 15, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2021. American teachers are overburdened. In too many schools across our nation, infrastructure needs repair, teachers are underpaid, and classrooms are overcrowded. In addition to all these problems, teachers are also forced to contend with a gun violence epidemic, which has led to more and more deaths on schoolgrounds each year. In the face of this horrific reality, numerous teachers have died, often in an effort to heroically defend the lives of their students.

Surviving family members of these slain teachers are unquestionably burdened with immeasurable grief, but they are also left without the financial support their deceased spouse or parent provided them. While we must continue to tirelessly advocate for common sense gun laws, we must also ensure that those who lose family members in such senseless acts of violence are cared for through financial assistance that will help cover final expenses and support the care of surviving family members—just like we have in the past for public safety officers and for 9/11 first responders.

The Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2021 creates a compensation fund under the U.S. Department of Education that provides assistance to the immediate families of teachers and other school staff who are killed in a violent act over the course of performing their duties. The compensation fund provides funeral assistance, a death benefit to the next of kin, a monthly living allowance for the surviving spouse and children, and five years of undergraduate education assistance for each child.

It is my sincere hope that over time fewer and fewer families will be in need of assistance from this compensation fund after they experience the tragic loss of their spouse or parent. Until that time comes, we must do everything in our power to honor those dedi-

cated, hardworking teachers who died in an act of violence by caring for their surviving loved ones.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House to expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's gratitude for our nation's devoted educators, who work tirelessly to enrich the lives of our children.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF
KATHERINE STREHL

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 15, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend and colleague in public service, Katherine Strehl.

Katherine was born in Oakland, California on October 4, 1944, to Elizabeth Williams Strehl Kerley while her father was serving overseas during World War II. Her stepfather, Bob Kerley, UC Berkeley Vice Chancellor for Administration and Student Affairs, was an important part of her life and a mentor to her. Katherine died at her home in Menlo Park, California on January 24, 2021. She was 76 years old.

Katherine was a graduate of Skyline High School and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of UC Berkeley. She earned a master's degree from Stanford University and completed the coursework for a Ph.D. in communications research. She was a 1979 graduate of the Coro Women's Program in leadership development.

Katherine had a successful 40-year career in public affairs, and received Santa Clara County's 1994 Women of Achievement Award. She was known for her commitment to collaboration between business, government and community. She served as the Manager of Community Affairs and Public Policy at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space, and was Executive Manager of External Affairs at BART, then managed public outreach for the California Transportation Commission. She served on the Commonwealth Club's Silicon Valley Advisory Board, and on many Menlo Park commissions, most recently the Planning Commission.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in expressing our deepest condolences to Katherine's beloved husband of 22 years, Bill Dempsey, and to her family and wide circle of friends. She was a warm, loving, smart and accomplished woman, and we will miss her dearly.