

patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More than 840 drugs and biologics have been approached by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of rare diseases. However, Congress must do more to combat rare diseases. In addition, more work needs to be done to bring attention to the needs of those who struggle with rare diseases, and to celebrate their courage. That's why Rep. HUDSON and I are reintroducing this important resolution. Each year, many individuals with rare diseases and their loved ones celebrate Rare Disease Day to share their stories and educate communities of researchers, health professionals, governments, and community organizations about how rare diseases affect them.

In 2019, more than 100 countries observed Rare Disease Day. Our resolution expresses support for the designation of the last day of this month as Rare Disease Day. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting Rare Disease Day's designation on the last day of February to better champion people with rare diseases. I urge the House to support this resolution.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT EASTERN CARL, JR.

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a community leader and friend, Robert Eastern Carl, Jr., who passed away on Saturday, February 20, 2021, at the age of 90. Robert was a longtime resident of Tyler County and had the respect of all who knew him.

Robert was born on July 17, 1930, in Camden, Texas, to Estelle Miller Carl and Robert Eastern, Sr. As a young adult, he was called to aid his country in the United States Army and fought in the Korean War. Following his time in the military, he returned to Tyler County and went to work as a rigger for Texaco. While employed by Texaco, he dutifully served as Board President of the Texaco Credit Union for 15 years. After his years of service, he began his well-deserved retirement. Robert was the man to call whenever you needed anything fixed. No matter who called, he never hesitated to come to the aid of his fellow man. Robert was devoted to his family and loved the Lord with all his heart, soul, and mind. He was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Woodville and a dedicated deacon for many years. In his spare time, he also enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends and loved ones.

Robert is survived by the love of his life and wife of 66 years, Gay Carl of Woodville; daughter, Debbie Darville and husband, Roy, of Marshall; sons, Keith Carl and his wife, Lori, of Port Neches and Kevin Carl and his wife, Peggy, of Buna; brother, James Carl of Nederland; sisters, Eunice Vinson of Chester and Ann Adkinson and her husband, Ira, of Porter; grandchildren, Brian Darville, Andrew Darville and his wife, Heather, Mattie Riu and

her husband, Tim, Michael Carl and his wife, Laura, Alison Carl, Emily Carl, Amy Tallerita and her husband, Beau, Zachary Carl and his wife, Channing, Seth Carl, Chloe Carl, Sophie Carl, Jonathan Carl and his wife, Jessica, and Matthew Carl and his wife, Melissa; great grandchildren, Kyson Darville, Blake Darville, Emerald Riu, Felix Riu, Annette Carl, and Charlotte Carl; and special friend, Jimmy Telford. He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Estelle Carl; brother, Earnest Lee Carl; and sisters, Joyce Best and Rita Chandler.

Madam Speaker, I honor my friend Robert Eastern Carl, Jr., for his faithful service to his community. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ELRETA MELTON ALEX- ANDER-RALSTON

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Elreta Melton Alexander—an educator, barrier breaker, civil rights advocate, and renowned officer of the court. She was the first Black woman in North Carolina to be licensed and practice as a lawyer, to argue before its Supreme Court, and to be elected a judge.

Elreta Narcissus Melton was born on March 21, 1919, in the small eastern North Carolina town of Smithfield. Her father, Joseph C. Melton, a Baptist minister and teacher, and her mother, Alian A. Reynolds Melton, a schoolteacher, had strong beliefs about the importance of education and refused to perpetuate the narratives of racial injustice. The family later moved to Greensboro, North Carolina, where in 1937, at the age of eighteen, Alexander graduated from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical College, now North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in music. Upon graduation, she became a high-school teacher in South Carolina where she taught music, math, and history.

Encouraged by a Greensboro minister, Alexander decided to attend law school and pursue a legal career. Because of the limitations for Black student admittance into law schools in North Carolina, Alexander applied and was the first Black woman admitted to Columbia Law School in 1943 at the age of twenty-four, and became the first Black woman to graduate from Columbia Law School in 1945. In 1947, after passing the North Carolina bar exam, Alexander became the first Black woman to practice law in North Carolina. After establishing a large solo criminal practice in Greensboro, Alexander formed one of the first integrated law firms in the South, Alston, Alexander, Pell & Pell. During her career as a trial attorney, she added to her list of "firsts" when she became the first Black woman to argue before the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

On December 2, 1968, Alexander became the first Black judge elected in North Carolina and the first Black woman in the United States to be elected district court judge. Alexander

was re-elected in 1972, 1976 and 1980. One of her most notable accomplishments as a District Court Judge was her innovative juvenile sentencing approach called "Judgment Day", which focused on rehabilitating young offenders and misdemeanants as an alternative to sentencing. Judge Alexander ran for the Republican nomination for the Chief Justice position on the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1974. Battling persistent racism in the state, she lost the election to a White man named James Newcomb, a fire extinguisher salesman with no college degree or legal background. However, her loss prompted a later-adopted constitutional amendment requiring judges to first be attorneys licensed in North Carolina before they can rightfully hold the position as judge. Her presence in the courtroom brought about great change and needed perspective; however, she did not win every battle and every election. Despite the perception of defeat, the barriers that Alexander faced laid the groundwork and opened doors for a better tomorrow.

While Alexander faced many challenges throughout her educational pursuit and legal career, she refused to let her circumstances define her destiny as she forged her own path led by her passion and conviction for justice and equality.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First District of North Carolina, I am proud to recognize and celebrate the life and legacy of a true pioneer and Black History icon, Elreta Melton Alexander-Ralston.

HONORING THE CAREERS OF BILL AND JANE FOX

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill and Jane Fox of Fox Dealerships in Central New York as they settle into well-deserved retirements. For nearly fifty years, Bill and Jane, siblings and co-owners of Fox Dealerships, have operated a thriving local business and demonstrated great generosity and care for the community they serve.

Growing up in Manheim, Pennsylvania, Bill and Jane gained an early appreciation for the automotive industry by spending their summers working with their father, a used car wholesaler. In 1976, Jane purchased her first auto dealership in Weedsport, New York, while her brother practiced law in Syracuse. Jane became one of the first female dealers in the Northeast and established herself as a leader in the industry. In 1979, Bill left his law firm to grow the family brand with the purchase of a second dealership in Auburn, New York. Over 40 years, Bill and Jane expanded their business, owning as many as 14 dealerships, and becoming a household name in Central New York.

Across Central New York, the Fox family has also become well-known for philanthropy and investment in the community. Local schools, hospitals, and charities have all benefited from both Bill and Jane's time and resources. The siblings have also always shared a strong commitment to hiring local workers and promoting them to senior positions.