

In closing, my colleagues, I ask you to join me in both paying tribute and recognizing the life and service of William C. Coleman, Jr.

HONORING MR. LEON PAGE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Leon Page, who passed away last Monday, December 10, 2012.

Mr. Page was a community leader and philanthropist who helped organize Franklin Bank and Trust and served as chairman of the bank's board of directors for 45 years.

In his 90 years of life, Mr. Page helped open and lead what became the largest bank in Franklin, Kentucky, an area I have the privilege of representing in the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

Mr. Page was active in all facets of the community. He was instrumental in industrial development in Franklin and Simpson County and was active in various community organizations. Having served as President for both the Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin Rotary Club, Mr. Page also helped organize the Caveland Girl Scout Council and was treasurer of the Quarterback Club.

Leon Page served on the Kentucky Bankers Association and various boards and councils at Western Kentucky University. He also established a scholarship fund at Western Kentucky University that awards a four-year scholarship to a Franklin-Simpson High School graduate who majors in business each year.

I join the family, friends, and entire Franklin, Kentucky community in mourning the passing of this great man. He demonstrated the best of the values found throughout the First Congressional District of Kentucky. He is someone who, despite his personal success, will best be remembered as inspiring and helping guide others to achieve success for themselves, and a man who graciously gave back to a community that had given him so much.

TRIBUTE TO ABRAM "CAPTAIN"
COLES, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazing first responder from Columbia, South Carolina. Abram "Captain" Coles, Jr. passed away on December 12, 2012, at the age of 87. He devoted 35 years of service to the Columbia Fire Department that he helped integrate, and this remarkable man will be sorely missed.

Abram Coles, Jr. was born July 7, 1925 in Hopkins, South Carolina to Abram and Patsy Gunter Coles. He was educated in the public schools of Richland County and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia in 1943.

After graduation, Abram was inducted into the U.S. Navy and served from 1943 to 1946.

One of the highlights of his tour of duty was accompanying General Patton on his return from Europe to the United States.

After completing his military service, Abram enrolled at Benedict College in Columbia, and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry. In 1953, he became one of the original eight African Americans to join the Columbia Fire Department. He was assigned to the Harden Street Fire Station. While employed as a fireman, he taught classes and rose through the ranks to become the first African-American Captain in Columbia.

Abram was also very active in many professional organizations including the South Carolina Firefighters Association, and was the 2002 President of the Retired Columbia Firefighter's Association. He was also a member of the Townsmen's Club of Columbia, where he served as president for several years.

Abram was an avid bridge player and enjoyed gardening and fishing. In his spare time, he painted homes and businesses and enjoyed repairing just about anything.

Abram was baptized at an early age at Zion Benevolent Baptist Church in Hopkins. After relocating to Columbia, he joined First Calvary Baptist Church and served there for many years. Later, he became a member of St. Luke Episcopal Church of Columbia where he served with the men's club until his health declined.

He was married to Lillie Mae Weston for 33 years until her death. In 1988, he married Jacqueline Parks. Abram had one daughter, four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of this ordinary man. I, like so many others in Columbia, South Carolina, am proud to call Abram Coles, Jr. a friend. He made a lasting impression on his community and all who knew him, and that is a tremendous legacy.

IN MEMORY OF SENATOR DANIEL
INOUYE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Senator DANIEL INOUYE of Hawaii. Senator INOUYE was an extraordinary leader, family man, and American hero. He leaves behind his wife Irene and son Ken, as well as countless friends and constituents who mourn his passing. He was 88.

Senator INOUYE served nobly in World War II and was awarded a Medal of Honor. He then continued to devote his life to our Nation and the State of Hawaii by becoming the state's first congressman as well as a nine-term senator. He was eventually appointed to the prestigious position of Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and in his work he was always mindful of strengthening our national security and fulfilling our promises to our veterans. Many of my constituents have family and friends in Hawaii, and I know they all directly benefited from his hard work and commitment to the values of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, Senator INOUYE was a model of integrity, courage, and bipartisanship. His

presence will be sorely missed, but I know his memory will inspire our leaders in years to come. I extend my thoughts and prayers to his family and loved ones. I hope they find some comfort in knowing the incredible legacy he leaves behind in hearts across the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 627 & 628, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both rollcall votes.

MOROCCAN AUTONOMY PLAN

HON. DAVID RIVERA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, like so many others, I ran for Congress because I believe in the greatness of the American people, the nobility of our national ideals, and the eminence of our principles and rights that have made America that shining city upon a hill.

But there are still many peoples who yearn for freedom and basic human liberties. The Sahrawi people of Western Sahara have been trapped in dreadful and oppressive conditions for over thirty years with the support and enabling of a compromised and corrupt Algerian government and its puppet regime, the Polisario Front.

The Polisario instituted mass kidnappings of Sahrawis from their homes into the Tindouf region in Western Algeria. The majority of these refugees have remained warehoused and imprisoned in Tindouf's sprawling camps for 35 years.

The Polisario partners and collaborates with the likes of Cuba, whose military distributes food in the camps on a quid pro quo basis and "educates" children who have been reportedly stolen from their parents, and Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb.

The Government of Morocco has advanced an Autonomy Plan that does address these issues and provides a clear, simple, transparent and democratic solution to the long drawn out Sahara crisis. This is where America's support should lie.

Mr. Speaker, the United States can and must continue to advance fundamental human rights, freedom and democracy as we, in this chamber, continue to work together for peace, justice, and human dignity in the Western Sahara.

THE MOROCCAN INITIATIVE IN THE WESTERN
SAHARA

The Moroccan initiative comes in response to repeated requests of the United Nations Security Council and several of its key members, including the United States, that Morocco propose a solution to this longstanding problem that could facilitate the opening of negotiations for a "just, durable and peaceful" political solution.

After nearly a decade of trying to bring the Polisario and Morocco to agreement to conduct a referendum to determine the territories future, Kofi Annan, then Secretary