

1970's encounter with Andy Warhol left her with these defining words: "If you are in an artist in your heart, so be it."

Dowless currently serves on the Executive Board of the Downtown Orlando Arts District and CityArts Factory, the Executive Board of See Art Orlando, the Orange County Public Art Review Board, the Executive Board of After School All Stars, and Full Sail University's Entertainment Advisory Board. She has been an arts advocate and supporter, community leader, executive volunteer, mentor, and philanthropist for over 25 years. Because of her inspirational efforts to spread the meaningful message of love through arts and culture, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer appointed Donna as Orlando's official "Ambassador of Love" in October, 2007. Dowless' impact is sure to be seen and cherished for decades to come.

I am happy to honor Donna Dowless, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

SELECTION OF SENATOR ROBERT DOLE FOR THE 2014 NATIONAL VETERANS AWARD

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of National Veterans Day in Birmingham, it is my privilege to inform this House that a distinguished American statesman and patriot, Senator Robert Dole, has been selected as the recipient of the 2014 National Veterans Award.

The National Veterans Award was created in Birmingham for America's first official National Veterans Day observance November 11, 1954 as authorized by Congress and tirelessly advocated by Raymond Weeks. Each year, the award recognizes an outstanding veteran who has made the greatest contribution to veterans and veterans organizations in America.

As one of the greatest of our "Greatest Generation," Bob Dole embodies the values celebrated by this award and essential to the preservation of our freedom: duty, honor, and service to country.

Senator Dole's life story should inspire every American. As a young man, he left his home state of Kansas to answer the call of duty during World War II. He received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his valor in combat. As so many know, he was gravely wounded on the battlefield while leading a platoon of the 10th Mountain Division in Italy in April 1945.

Returning home, Bob Dole surmounted the challenge of physical injury and entered into a new form of service to his country: public service. He was elected to this House in 1960 and elected in 1968 to the U.S. Senate, where during his 28 years of service he earned recognition as one of the true legislative giants in the history of the chamber. He was the Republican vice-presidential candidate in 1976 and the Republican presidential candidate in 1996.

Throughout his service in elected office, Senator Dole stood as a principled voice for fiscal responsibility, free enterprise, a strong national defense and American values. He was skilled in working in a bipartisan manner on issues including hunger and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The National Veterans

Award specifically recognizes his unwavering support of our troops in the field and his commitment to ensuring quality medical care for veterans.

After leaving government service, Senator Dole accepted a new mission that will stand as an enduring and indeed monumental legacy: the construction of the National World War II Memorial on our National Mall. His leadership of the national campaign for the memorial was instrumental in bringing this long-held dream to honor those who fought on overseas battlefronts and those who contributed here at home into magnificent reality.

At the dedication ceremony on May 29, 2004, Senator Dole said, "What we dedicate today is not a memorial to war, rather it's a tribute to the physical and moral courage that makes heroes out of farm and city boys and that inspires Americans in every generation to lay down their lives for people they will never meet, for ideals that make life itself worth living."

As a congressman, I have cherished the opportunity to welcome and express gratitude to veterans brought to the World War II Memorial by Honor Flight. Senator Dole is known for coming to the memorial to meet with Honor Flight groups, and I have personally witnessed how proud and privileged veterans from Alabama have felt to be in the presence of this American hero. It is altogether appropriate that Senator Dole has been recognized with his own bronze plaque at the memorial.

Senator Dole has always been modest about the immense contributions that he has made to the good of our nation, often minimizing them with his quick wit and willingness to share credit. But his steadfast devotion to the cause of freedom towers as sure and lasting as any of the glorious monuments in our nation's capital. With the support of his lovely and accomplished wife Elizabeth, he continues to provide wise guidance and inspiration to our country.

National Veterans Day in Birmingham takes pride in being the home to the largest and longest-running commemoration of Veterans Day in the U.S. The recipient of the National Veterans Award holds a special and esteemed place in this tradition. For lifelong defense of liberty and dedication to America, Senator Robert Dole honors us by accepting the 2014 National Veterans Award in the name of the veterans across many generations who have sacrificed to keep us all free.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STEPHANIE PORTA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Stephanie Porta. Born and raised in Orlando, Florida, Stephanie has been a leader from an early age. While in middle school, she received the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadet can earn for her demonstration of successful leadership skills.

After graduating with honors from American University in Washington, DC, she worked on several campaigns until becoming Director of Central Florida ACORN and then Florida ACORN.

Stephanie left Florida ACORN in 2009 when she co-founded Organize Now! and the Florida Institute for Reform and Empowerment (FIRE). Both organizations work to address the needs of Florida's low and moderate income communities. Stephanie serves as the Executive Director for both organizations.

Throughout her career, Stephanie has worked on a variety of successful campaigns for candidates and issues, including affordable utilities, police accountability, foreclosures, environmental justice, community safety, community development, health care, and public education.

In 2012, Stephanie led the effort to pass an ordinance to allow employees in Orange County to earn sick time. When the effort was thwarted by the Orange County Commission breaking the law, the campaign called out the injustice and continued to fight for more transparency and accountability in Orange County while leading the investigation around the scandal called "Textgate" in which the Mayor and Commissioners were secretly communicating with special interest lobbyists via text messages to thwart the will of 50,000 voters.

In 2013, Stephanie was recognized by the Orlando Sentinel as an "up and comer" for its "25 Most Powerful People in Central Florida" list and was recognized as one of "12 to Watch" in Orlando Magazine's "50 Most Powerful People in Orlando" list.

Stephanie was raised by Katie Porta, a single mother who spent her lifetime advocating for the disabled and taught Stephanie from an early age to treat people with dignity. Katie raised Stephanie with the belief that "people don't want to be treated down; they want to be treated up," a mantra that has influenced Stephanie's work. Stephanie's relentless quest to achieve justice for those who have no voice in our community has been a beacon of hope and inspiration.

I am happy to honor Stephanie Porta, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF LINDA W. CHAPIN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize former Orange County Mayor Linda Chapin. A Florida native, Ms. Chapin holds a Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University. Ms. Chapin served as the first elected mayor of Orange County, Florida, from 1990-1998.

After leaving office, she joined the University of Central Florida where she founded the Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies, which focuses on issues facing the region such as growth, the environment, and transportation. Today she serves on a number of civic and community boards, and is Chairman of the Orlando Health Board of Directors.

As Orange County Mayor, Ms. Chapin took a strong role in promoting business and industry in Central Florida by developing an economic action agenda that included annual regional economic summits; incentives for high-technology companies; and trade missions to Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Under her

leadership, Orange County was the first county in Florida to mandate that attention to economic development be included in its local comprehensive plan. In 2004, she became the first woman to receive the James B. Greene Economic Development Award from the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission.

Ms. Chapin's tenure in public office also included the construction of the nation's second-largest convention center, a new courthouse, the Regional History Center, fifteen new parks and recreational trails, and the purchase of over twelve thousand acres of environmentally sensitive lands. In an effort to work with citizens to redevelop historically neglected neighborhoods, Ms. Chapin began the Targeted Community Initiative. President Clinton awarded the Initiative the 1997 Public Service Excellence Award for the best local government program in the country. At the conclusion of her final term in elected office, the Orlando Sentinel described Ms. Chapin as "a model of integrity and character."

In 1999, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University named Ms. Chapin Distinguished Alumni of the Year, and the University of Central Florida awarded her an honorary doctoral degree. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, the Trust for Public Lands, and myregion.org. A committed proponent of citizen involvement and the need to build social capital and confidence in public decision-making, Ms. Chapin has published articles in the National Civic Review and other social policy journals.

I am happy to honor Linda Chapin, during Women's History Month, for her leadership and contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LANDRA ROBESON

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Landra Robeson. Raised by "super voters," Landra understood the strength of the vote at a very young age. She gravitated towards C-SPAN and National Public Radio when most people her age found it boring and insignificant.

After graduating from college, Landra spent many years in the workforce serving in managerial roles for staffing, telecommunications and banking companies. Even though she had succeeded financially in these positions and had the opportunity to mentor both men and women, she felt something was lacking.

Her fate changed when she was afforded the opportunity to serve as a Legislative Aide for then State Representative, and now State Senator, Geraldine Thompson. She came to discover that no role was more significant than that of a public servant. The gratification that came from assisting constituents with unemployment claims, child support and a myriad of other issues was incomparable to any bonus she had ever received from her previous professional positions.

Landra's position as a Legislative Aide also provided the opportunity for her to work with

students from the University of Central Florida (UCF) through their Legislative Scholars Program. Her former students recognized Landra's dedication to mentorship by honoring her as UCF's first "Legislative Scholars Mentor."

During Women's History Month, Landra is grateful for her grandmother Roxy, who she never had the pleasure of meeting, because she lost her battle with cancer at a young age. Roxy raised Landra's mother Doris Wormack, who helped Landra understand that she could make a difference by participating in the political process through the simple act of voting. Like her parents, Landra is a super voter.

I am happy to honor Landra Robeson, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 26

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Agriculture.

SD-192

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Navy.

SD-106

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine if alternative financial products are serving consumers.

SD-538

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine strengthening public-private partnerships to reduce cyber risks to our nation's critical infrastructure.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of, "The Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act".

SD-226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine unwinding quantitative easing, focusing on how the Fed should promote stable prices, economic growth, and job creation.

SH-216

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine preventing Medicare fraud, focusing on the best way to protect seniors and taxpayers.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine the current readiness of United States forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine protecting personal consumer information from cyber attacks and data breaches.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Syria after Geneva, focusing on the next steps for United States policy.

SD-419

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for Tribal Programs.

SD-628