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HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MINNIE MINOSO TO AMERICAN BASEBALL

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great baseball player and human being who passed away on March 1, 2015, Saturnino Orestes Armas Arrieta who was better known as Minnie Minoso, the Cuban Comet and Mr. White Sox.

Minnie Minoso was born November 29, 1925 in Cuba. He played baseball there and had the opportunity to play baseball here in the U.S. in the Negro Leagues, for, being a Black Cuban, he wasn't allowed to play in the Major Leagues. He played three years with the New York Cubans and then because of Bill Veeck, who was one of the leaders in integrating baseball—the American League's Branch Rickey, Minoso had the opportunity to play in the Major Leagues. He was originally signed to the Cleveland Indians but was traded to the Chicago White Sox in 1951, where, because of his unlimited exuberance and effort, he became known as the "Cuban Comet."

Minoso was a great White Sox player, one of the greatest players of the 1950s and a great emissary of Latin American baseball players. He was the first Black Latin American player and superstar, the first black White Sox player and the third American League player of African descent.

Minnie Minoso had a great career. He did everything in baseball. He hit for average, he hit for power, he had speed, he was a great fielder, and a great competitor. In his career, Minoso batted .300 eight times, had a career batting average of .298 with 1023 RBIs and hit 186 home runs. He was a seven-time major league All-Star, a three-time Gold Glove Award winner and was one of only two players to play in the Major Leagues for five decades. In 1990, the White Sox wanted him to play in his sixth decade, which would have placed him in a league of his own. At the time, I placed a call to MLB Commissioner Fay Vincent and argued for Minnie being allowed to play in just one game and accordingly have six decades under his belt. Unfortunately Commissioner Vincent respectfully declined.

In addition to Minnie being one of the greatest baseball players of the 1950s, he was simply a great human being. In 1955, I lived in Memphis, Tennessee and was recovering from childhood polio. I went to an exhibition baseball game at Russwood Park where the White Sox were playing the Cardinals. I had a White Sox cap kind of like this one—this is a Minnie Minoso cap—and I had a White Sox t-shirt. I was on crutches and getting autographs when a player came and gave me a baseball. I went to my dad and told him about it; we went down to thank the player. He was a white pitcher for the Cardinals named Tom Poholsky. He said, "Don't thank me. Thank that player over there." That was number nine

for the White Sox, Minnie Minoso. In the entire baseball field of 50 players or more, one cared about a young boy with polio who was a White Sox fan and wanted to do something for him. But in segregated Memphis, a black player didn't feel comfortable doing that, so he did it through a white player. The experience taught me at a very early age about the horrors of discrimination, prejudice and racism.

After that, Minnie became my friend. I visited him in Chicago and went into the White Sox locker room where he gave me his bat and cap. When he came to Memphis in 1960, I visited him at the Lorraine Motel, which was where the black players stayed while the white players were at the Peabody—another lesson in discrimination that taught me well and has taught me to this day to be vigilant against all forms of racism and discrimination. The Lorraine was where Dr. King was killed and now is a great Civil Rights museum in Memphis.

I followed Minnie my whole life. He was like a part of my family. We moved to Los Angeles and we went and visited him at Chavez Ravine. He came up to my dad, and he said "Doc, how's the kid's leg, how's he doing?" He always was concerned.

Minnie was denied one of his life's goals of being voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. I tried to help him with that. Baseball made a mistake; they should have put Minnie in the Hall of Fame for his Sporting News Rookie of the Year season in 1951 and for all his great years on the diamond where he was unquestionably one of the premiere players of the game through 1961, in addition to being the first Black Latin American Major Leaguer and the first Latin American star. While he was not afforded this honor during his lifetime, Minoso's achievements were recognized through his induction into the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame in 1983, the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Hall of Fame in 2002, the Latino Baseball Hall of Fame in 2010, and having had his number nine retired by the White Sox, his statue placed at U.S. Cellular Field as he was "Mr. White Sox," and over 35 years of being the White Sox ambassador to Chicago. It is my hope that Minnie will soon be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum as it needs Minnie to remember this groundbreaking and popular diamond star.

Minnie Minoso died Sunday, March 1, 2015. Visitation was Friday, March 6th at Holy Family Church in Chicago and the funeral was that Saturday. I'll miss Minnie Minoso. He is a lesson in why sports are bigger than runs, hits and errors. It is about human beings and humanity and young kids. Thank you, Minnie. Yours was a life well-lived.

HONORING FRANK DEAN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Frank Dean who will be retiring from the National Park Service after nearly forty years of dedicated service. Since 1976 when he first joined the National Park Service as a Ranger at Alcatraz Island, Frank Dean has remained committed to preserving the natural beauty and strong cultural heritage of America's National Parks for this and future generations.

Over the past four decades, Mr. Dean has served the American public at parks across the United States, and he will retire in March 2015 as the General Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Since 2009, Frank Dean has taken on the monumental task of managing the GGNRA, which is the nation's largest urban park and is currently visited by an estimated twenty million people each year. As General Superintendent, Mr. Dean has been responsible for overseeing a staff of nearly three hundred federal employees and tens of thousands of volunteers, in partnership with over twenty-five affiliated nonprofit and commercial organizations. Frank Dean's ability to balance the diverse and competing interests of those who enjoy the park has allowed the GGNRA to continue to flourish and expand its appeal while keeping pace with America's changing demographics.

Under Mr. Dean's visionary leadership, world-class art has been incorporated to enhance the park through unique installations, such as Mark di Suvero at Crissy Field and @Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz Island. Frank Dean has pursued the park service's proud tradition of providing youth engagement and educational opportunities through the Park Youth Collaborative. He has overseen critical improvements of park land, notably the restoration of natural ecosystems at Muir Beach to benefit endangered Coho salmon populations. Frank Dean also played a leading role in forging the Tamalpais Lands Collaborative, a groundbreaking five-way partnership to secure a better future for Mt. Tamalpais.

Frank Dean's effective leadership has benefited all who enjoy the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. While he may be retiring from the National Park Service, his outstanding commitment to our parks will continue as Mr. Dean works to preserve and protect Yosemite National Park as the new President and CEO at Yosemite Conservancy. Please join me in recognizing Frank Dean and expressing deep appreciation to him for his long and impressive career, and exceptional record of service to our great nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SUPER STATE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOLASTIC STATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Southwest High School Chess Club for their outstanding achievement in winning First Place at the 2015 Super States Southern California Scholastic State Chess Championship for the K-12 Under 1200 rating section. This championship offers students across the state an opportunity to showcase their chess skills through friendly competition.

I would like to recognize the Southwest High School Chess Club for providing instructors, equipment and curricula to after-school programs. These programs are designed to promote problem-solving, higher-level thinking

skills, and improved self-esteem, which are crucial to developing the young minds of our children.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Southwest High School Chess team for a job well done!

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DAWN
HOBBY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to a great friend and Emmy award-winning journalist, Ms. Dawn Hobby. Dawn has worked at WALB-TV in Albany, Georgia for more than 20 years and currently serves as the News Director. She will be retiring on March 20, 2015.

For many years, Dawn was a familiar face on the evening news in Albany, Georgia. Indeed, she has built quite an impressive career which began when she worked as a producer at WALB. She later became a reporter and then an anchor. She launched the news operation for Albany station WFXL, before returning to WALB five years later.

A prominent investigative reporter, Dawn has received numerous honors and awards for her work. In 2011, she won an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Southeast for her work on the "Gulf Oil Crisis" special report. In 2007 and 2009, Dawn was awarded the Gabby Award for "Best TV On-Air Personality" by the Georgia Association of Broadcasters. She also holds three prestigious Golden Viddy Awards from the National Academy of Television Journalists for "Best Female Anchor" and "Best Investigative Reporting." She has been honored by the Associated Press Broadcasters Association, the Green Eyeshade Awards for Excellence in Journalism from the Society of Professional Journalists, Georgia Trend magazine, and numerous other organizations and publications.

Dawn is a 2011 graduate of the Raycom Media Leadership program and a 2012 graduate of the Poynter Leadership Academy at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Florida. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Associated Press and was appointed to the Raycom Media News Directors Advisory Board in April 2014.

Dawn's work at WALB, the NBC- and ABC-affiliated television station for Southwest Georgia, has made her a household name in Albany and the surrounding areas. She anchored WALB News 10 alongside Ben Roberts for more than 20 years, covering many of Southwest Georgia's most memorable events. I have had the pleasure of working with her throughout the years and I know she will truly be missed on the air and at WALB.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." We are so grateful that Dawn has given her time and talents to keeping the residents of Southwest Georgia informed about current events taking place throughout the state of Georgia, our great nation, and the world. A woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her exper-

tise are unparalleled. Albany, Georgia shined a little brighter because of Dawn Hobby.

Dawn has accomplished much in her life but none of it would be possible without the love and support of husband, Russell, and her son.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Ms. Dawn Hobby upon the occasion of her retirement from an outstanding career in journalism.

HONORING STEVE BROWN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Steve Brown, an extraordinary community leader, an accomplished businessman, and a friend, whose life was tragically taken when he was killed riding his bicycle last April.

Steve was a man who lived his life the right way every day. He grew up in Illinois and moved to Florida in 1978 to start his career. Steve was a master salesman, who built Brown's Furniture in Boca Raton and Jupiter, Florida into landmark furniture and design stores. Steve believed his business should be built on the hallmarks of honesty, integrity, hard work and devoted service. He would do anything for his customers, even loaning them furniture until they had chosen what they wanted, so that their homes wouldn't be empty in the interim. Steve was extraordinarily loyal to those who worked with him; the average employee of Brown's has been with the company for more than twenty years.

Steve was a dedicated member of his community. He was very active on the board of the Florence Fuller Child Development Center and helped to manage their thrift shop. He served on the board of Temple Beth El of Boca Raton for many years and chaired the membership committee. Steve was active in helping resettle Jewish refugees from the former Soviet Union when they came to South Florida, and he would regularly loan his company's trucks to needy or vulnerable families if they needed help with a move. He was active with the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and an ardent supporter of America's bond with the State of Israel through Israel Bonds.

Most important to Steve was the love he shared for his family. He was a loyal son to his father and mother Carol and Murray Brown, a dedicated brother to David and Pam, and a loving and devoted husband to his wife Dana, the love of his life. Most important to Steve were his children: his daughter Susie and her husband Micha, his son Andrew, his wife Jennifer, and his youngest son Jordan. If only he could have lived to see the birth of his granddaughter Sara, born last August.

I am glad to take this opportunity to celebrate Steve's life and legacy, and I join with my friends at Spanish River Community High School in my district who will be honoring Steve's memory on March 28, 2015. For all of us who were privileged to know Steve or were touched by his vibrant life that was all too short, Steve's memory truly is a blessing.

HONORING JOHN THOMAS DODSON

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Thomas Dodson, Music Director of the Adrian Symphony Orchestra, and to thank him for his impact on the musical life of the Adrian community over the past 14 years.

Many years ago, I served on the Board of Directors which brought John Dodson to the symphony, which he has energetically overseen since 2001. During that time, he elevated the artistic level of the orchestra while collaborating with artists of the highest quality. His authority at the podium and willingness to engage new formats and audiences will certainly be missed when he steps down from his position next month.

His talents have been recognized beyond the walls of the Dawson Auditorium, as Mr. Dodson was awarded the 2008 Lenawee Arts Award from the Crowell Opera House. He also earned the Ross Newsom Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2009 by Adrian College where he taught from 2001–2013.

On April 19, 2015, he will direct Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, the final complete symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven, and fittingly, Mr. Dodson's final classical concert performance with the Adrian Symphony Orchestra. I know the Adrian community looks forward to one last inspiring performance and wishes Mr. Dodson the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING MS. CYNTHIA ORTIZ
GUZMAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Cynthia Ortiz Guzman as one of the Fifth District of California's Women of the Year as we celebrate Women's History Month. I regularly have the privilege to work with extraordinary women across our district, and I am proud to recognize Cynthia as one of them.

When meeting Ms. Guzman for the first time, you are immediately taken in by her personal warmth, keen sense of humor, friendly smile and her enthusiasm for life. In 2011, Ms. Guzman was diagnosed on her 63rd birthday with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease. Not one to accept her challenges without a fight, Ms. Guzman moved to Napa to be closer to her family, and began raising awareness and advocating for increased research funding for this terrible disease. She has been an active member of the Alzheimer's Association and has been spreading her personal story throughout the region.

Ms. Guzman's story has been published in multiple books, magazine, and newspapers. She has come to my office in Washington, D.C. as a part of the Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Forum and I'm proud to have participated multiple times in her Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Ms. Guzman not only