

## TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Tiffany Graczyk—7th Grade History, Edgar Allan Poe Middle School, Annandale, VA

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Dr. Jeffrey Alton—Franconia Volunteer Fire Department. Nomination

Officer Christopher F. Cosgriff—West Springfield Police District Station

PFC James Lopez—Mount Vernon District Police Station

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2015 Awardees and in thanking the members, Ladies Auxiliary, program sponsors, and supporters of VFV Post 7327 for their continued service to our country and our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF LTC JOEL DAVIS, JR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 1, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a terrific educator, strong civic leader, and outstanding citizen, Lieutenant Colonel Joel Davis, Jr. (U.S. Army). LTC Davis will be retiring from his post as Professor of Military Science and Commander of the Senior ROTC Wildcat Battalion at the Fort Valley State University (FVSU). He will be honored by the administration, faculty, students, and supporters at FVSU's 2015 Spring Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 2, 2015 in Fort Valley, Georgia.

A native of Swainsboro, Georgia, LTC Joel Davis, Jr. graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Savannah State College, now Savannah State University, in 1990. In 2004, he earned a Master's degree in Military Operational Art and Science from Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, and a Master of Science degree in Human Resource Management from Troy University in Troy, Alabama.

LTC Davis' overseas tours of duty include the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Panama, Marshall Islands, Guam, Kuwait, Baghdad, Iraq, and Haiti. His most recent assignments include serving as Chief of Intelligence for the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Mission in Haiti, where he served as the Senior Military Intelligence Advisor to the Force Commander, Contingent Commanders, and staff in support of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In 2007–2009, he served as the Chief of Intelligence/G2 for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, the Brigade S3/Operations Officer, 500th Military Intelligence Brigade and the Battalion Executive Officer, 205th Military Battalion in Fort Shafter, Hawaii. LTC Davis has held several other Command and key billets during his 30 years of military service, including his time as an Infantryman in the U.S. Marine Corps.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a respected and compassionate leader when LTC Davis arrived in Fort Valley, Georgia in June 2011 to serve as Professor of Military Science and Commander of the Senior ROTC Wildcat Battalion at Fort Valley State University, with partnerships at Albany State

University and Darton College in Albany, Georgia. In this capacity, LTC Davis provided command and control over recruiting, developing, training, and retaining more than 155 Cadets, as well as the commissioning of 13 second lieutenants annually. He developed guidance and program objectives for 10 Cadre/Staff members to meet annual training and mission requirements. As the Department Head, LTC Davis managed an effective and efficient military science program that exceeded the high standards set by the U.S. Army and Fort Valley State University.

During his time at FVSU, LTC Davis has fostered valuable relationships with the University administration, faculty, community partners, and external centers of influence, as well as with Army recruiting organizations, the U.S. Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard. He supports numerous JROTC units and high schools throughout the state of Georgia and beyond to help motivate America's youth to become better citizens. An excellent role model and mentor, LTC Davis is a loyal and altruistic leader who is committed to assisting young command members develop life skills and realize their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the Fort Valley State University community in honoring Lieutenant Colonel Joel Davis, Jr. for his contributions to the Fort Valley State University and to our great nation.

HONORING RABBI LEONID FELDMAN OF TEMPLE BETH EL IN WEST PALM BEACH

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 1, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leonid Feldman, who is the rabbi of Temple Beth El in West Palm Beach, Florida. Rabbi Feldman has led a remarkable life. Growing up in the Soviet Republic of Moldavia, where the open practice of Judaism was forbidden, he was unaware that he was Jewish. At age 21, he had learned enough to become a passionate Zionist and applied for a visa to emigrate. For this, he was imprisoned by Soviet authorities as a "refusenik."

Eventually, Rabbi Feldman was allowed to leave the Soviet Union and emigrated to Israel, where he became a citizen and served honorably in the Israeli army. Following his time in Israel, he became Director of Education for Soviet Emigres in Italy. Rabbi Feldman eventually came to the United States, where he decided to attend the Jewish Theological Seminary, becoming the first and still the only Soviet-born Conservative rabbi in America.

Rabbi Feldman has testified in front of the U.S. Congress and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission). A respected and much in demand lecturer, he has spoken to audiences in 37 states and 19 countries and authored featured articles in national newspapers. Rabbi Feldman has been a visiting professor at the Jewish University of Moscow and the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, his alma mater.

Since 2004, he has been the spiritual leader of Temple Beth El in West Palm Beach where,

in 2013, he was bar mitzvahed at age 60. Rabbi Leonid Feldman is widely known and much loved by the members of his congregation, his fellow clerics of all denominations and people throughout Palm Beach County. I am pleased to honor this remarkable man, who is truly deserving of being recognized in the annals of our nation.

RECOGNIZING DEAN KLEIN FOR RECEIPT OF LEADERSHIP FAIRFAX'S KATHERINE K. HANLEY PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD FOR 2015

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 1, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize this year's recipient of Leadership Fairfax's Katherine K. Hanley Public Service Award. This year's award goes to Dean Klein, a 1997 graduate of Leadership Fairfax.

Leadership Fairfax is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to finding, training, and growing leaders in Northern Virginia. Leadership Fairfax seeks to build leaders who raise the tide not only in their organization or local community but also across the whole Northern Virginia region. Graduates from its programs become part of and stay connected to a fast growing number of civic leaders. I've always said, "When you walk into a room, it's easy to spot the Leadership Fairfax graduates—they just stand out!"

Northern Virginia is blessed with many leaders who have given their time and service to make a difference in our community. To recognize these outstanding leaders among us, Leadership Fairfax instituted the Katherine K. Hanley Public Service Award. This annual award, now in its 12th year, honors an individual for his or her outstanding accomplishments in the areas of public service employment or service on a public board, authority, or commission and for lasting contributions to the quality of life in the community.

Dean Klein has stood out in our community for many years. He currently serves as Director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness in Fairfax County since being appointed by the Board of Supervisors in March 2009. I was pleased to help establish that office under the 10-year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, an initiative the County launched when I served as Chairman of the Board. Under Mr. Klein's leadership, Fairfax has partnered with the neighboring City of Falls Church so that these jurisdictions can take a regional approach to the problem of homelessness. One of his many successes has been to increase the number of individuals moving out of emergency shelters to permanent housing. He grew this number from 243 in 2010 to 926 individuals in 2014. As a result of that and other efforts, Fairfax has actually reduced the number of people experiencing homelessness by more than one-third, becoming a standout model for success for those communities still struggling to break the cycle of homelessness. For his accomplishments Mr. Klein was recognized in 2014 with Fairfax County's highest employee honor, the A. Heath Onthank Award.

Prior to working in his current position he served as the Senior Community Relations

Manager at the Freddie Mac Foundation, the metropolitan area's largest corporate philanthropic funder. He oversaw the Foundation's support for housing programs throughout the United States and oversaw the Foundation's investments in the Gulf Coast area after Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Klein came to the Foundation from Doorways for Women and Families in Arlington, where he was executive director and oversaw all operations for the organization including a Safehouse for Domestic Violence, Emergency Shelter for homeless families, a Thrift Store, and transitional housing for families. Mr. Klein also served for six years as executive director of Shelter House, overseeing this organization and serving homeless families in our community. He earned a Master of Social Work degree from Howard University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Advertising from Ohio State University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dean Klein for receiving the Katherine K. Hanley Public Service Award and in thanking Leadership Fairfax for continuing to develop such talented and passionate leaders for Northern Virginia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THETA BOULÉ  
OF SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 1, 2015*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize a significant milestone in one of the pre-eminent organizations, not only in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, which I proudly represent, but throughout the region—Theta Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. I am especially proud to be a member of Theta Boulé. The milestone I mentioned is the celebration of its Centennial observance that will be held June 4–6, 2015 in Kansas City.

Theta Boulé was chartered on May 22, 1915 with fourteen founding Archons who laid a strong foundation of fraternal fellowship in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Dr. William J. Tompkins met Grand Sire Archon William C McCard while traveling in the eastern part of the country and was authorized by the Grand Sire Archon to plan the organization of a member Boulé in Kansas City. With the cooperation of Archons from Beta Boulé in Chicago and Eta Boulé in St. Louis, Dr. Tompkins and his colleague, Dr. Lloyd E. Bailer organized Theta Boulé. The charter Archons of Theta Boulé were all outstanding members of the Kansas City community and of their respective professions. Faced with cultural realities of the early Twentieth Century, these Archons found in each other a source of mutual support, enlightenment and a retreat of friendship and fraternity. Each sensed a significant void created by the pervasive permanence of American institutional racism and exclusionary practices predominant during that era. Throughout its history, the Archons of Theta Boulé have upheld the high standards of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, also known as "The Boulé", was founded in 1904 in Philadelphia. Theta Boulé was the 8th Member Boulé founded on May 22, 1915 with 14 outstanding Archons. Our founding members included

Lloyd E. Bailer, Gideon W. Brown, Charles H. Calloway, T.C. Chapman, John A. Hodge, W.C. Hueston, Woody Jacobs, J.P. King, J.E. Perry, J.D. Shannon, M.H. Thompkins, W.J. Thompkins, S.H. Thompson, and Homer Wilburn.

Theta has been privileged to host the Seventh Grand Boulé in 1921 and the Forty-First Grand Boulé in 1992. Many outstanding Archons have been privileged to sit within the august council of Theta Boulé. One of Theta's charter members, Charles H. Calloway served as Grand Sire Archon, from 1921 to 1923. Archon Calloway was also a founding member of the National Bar Association in 1925 and served as its second President. Another founding member mentioned previously was Dr. William J. Thompkins, an outstanding physician and civic leader, who later became a resident of the District of Columbia after he accepted the appointment of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934 to serve as Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia. Dr. Thompkins was also instrumental in the establishment of General Hospital No. 2 in 1908.

Theta Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity is led today by Randall C. Ferguson, Jr., who serves as Sire Archon; Ralph D. Reid is Sire Archon-elect; and Dr. Roger C. Williams, Jr. who serves as Grammateus. The remaining officers are: Thesauristes, Nikki Newton; Agogos, Stewart S. Myers; Rhetoricos, Kelvin Simmons; and Grapter, Lonnie Powell. The Membership Council is Chaired by Judge Jon R. Gray, (Ret.) and includes Herbert Hardwick and Robert Hughes, Jr. as Members.

One Hundred years in the life of any person, organization or institution is a significant milestone and serves as a testament of fidelity to principles, seriousness of purpose and devotion to goals and objectives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in expressing our collective congratulations to Theta Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and extending our heartfelt wishes for even greater success as it begins its second century.

TRIBUTE TO A. ALFRED TAUBMAN

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 1, 2015*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to A. Alfred Taubman, who made immeasurable contributions to my home state of Michigan and to our nation. Mr. Taubman passed away on April 17, 2015.

Mr. Taubman, known to many of us as Al, loomed large in the business, cultural and religious life of Southeast Michigan and far beyond, but his beginnings were far more modest. The son of Jewish German immigrants, Mr. Taubman began working at the age of 9 after his father's business went bankrupt during the Great Depression. After serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, Mr. Taubman attended the University of Michigan, where he studied architecture.

The seeds of Al Taubman's success were watered by these experiences—his father's construction company, his studies in architecture, and the drive to work hard from a very young age. He also had a keen understanding of the needs and wants of people in America's

postwar economy, a period in which people migrated from cities to what would become thriving suburbs. Rather than building homes as his father did, Mr. Taubman focused on the shopping needs of suburban families, and helped to pioneer the growth of shopping malls.

Over the years, Mr. Taubman's company designed, built, and operated shopping malls throughout the country. These malls, and other investments, brought him significant wealth—wealth he decided to put to use not just in his business endeavors, but in a vast array of worthy causes. Dr. Mark Schlissel, President of the University of Michigan, quoted Mr. Taubman as having said that his father taught him that "If I make a donation, I have given once. If I then solicit monies, I gave twice. And if my contribution has inspired others to support a good cause, I will have given three times." The University of Michigan and its missions were especially close to Al Taubman's heart, as Dr. Schlissel and the entire U of M community would attest. While it is not possible to list each and every institution which benefited so greatly from Mr. Taubman's philanthropy, some of those which did in addition to the University of Michigan are Lawrence Technological University (where he also studied), Wayne State University, the College for Creative Studies, Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School, Brown University, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Jewish Federation, United Jewish Foundation of Metro Detroit and the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights.

Simply listing the institutions to which Al Taubman contributed so much does not provide the full measure of the person he was. On his death I communicated these thoughts: "Al Taubman impacted the well-being of millions who never met him because of his unwavering support for the health and education needs of all Americans. He earned great wealth but never forgot his roots. He reached the top but maintained compassion for the underdog. He could be very blunt but even more sensitive about the feelings of the others. He was much beloved by all of us privileged to know him over many years."

His commitment and active participation in the issues he cared about was on full display in the successful effort in 2008 to amend Michigan's Constitution to legalize expanded embryonic stem cell research in my state. Mr. Taubman was not only a vital financial contributor to the campaign, but as the Detroit Free Press noted, ". . . he crusaded in ways that couldn't be measured by dollar signs, arguably providing stem cell advocates with their loudest voice during the 2008 campaign." He organized a fundraiser with former President Bill Clinton, hosted meetings where people could learn more about the science involved, and weighed in with the press and with elected officials on the merits of embryonic stem cell research and the need for the constitutional amendment. The measure passed. There is no doubt that had Al Taubman not so fully invested his time, talents, and resources into the effort the present pioneering efforts now being undertaken at the University of Michigan would not be happening.

Mr. Speaker, the research at the A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute on stem cells and beyond is a legacy of Al Taubman's and is likely to benefit untold numbers of people in our lives facing chronic disease who will