

persevered. Determined to become a citizen of the United States, on July 1, 1998 she fulfilled the requirements for naturalization and received her Certification of Naturalization.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer tribute to Mrs. Percival Williams because she represents a group of citizens that are more deserving of recognition than any other. Men and women like Mrs. Percival Williams are what silently hold this nation together. Those who struggle and persevere and those who give back are exactly what this country needs. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Percival Williams acts as a representative for all of these groups. Simply put, Mrs. Williams is a model citizen.

In 1999, Maureen once again displayed her caring nature when she rushed to the aid of her son in Orlando, Florida who had recently experienced an aneurism. These extenuating circumstances are what brought Mrs. Maureen Percival Williams to my district. Her love and care brought her to our country and the values of perseverance and determination instilled to her on her father's farm in the West Indies have aided her in face of recent struggles. Mrs. Percival Williams has endured the loss of family members, and overcome her own near death medical challenges and yet, she perseveres.

Though Maureen is celebrated for her persistence and determination, the title that suits her best is that of which she is most proud; caregiver. Mrs. Percival Williams holds her relationship with her children with the utmost regard, and prides herself on being a mother not only to her own but for the children of others. The lives of those directly and indirectly affected by the actions and care of Maureen Viola Percival Williams are undoubtedly better. Today we pay tribute to a woman of God. Today we recognize Mrs. Maureen Viola Percival Williams, a humanitarian, a woman, a wife, a mother, and a citizen of the United States of America. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, we are here to pay tribute to a hero.

SUPPORT OF THE "PRIVILEGED" RESOLUTION CALLED BY REP. BENNIE THOMPSON (MS) TO REMOVE ALL SYMBOLS BEARING THE CONFEDERATE FLAG FROM THE HALLS OF THE HOUSE WING OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my brothers and sisters of the Congressional Black Caucus, to stand in support of the "privileged" resolution called by Rep. BENNIE THOMPSON to remove the Confederate Flag where ever it may be represented within the House wing of the U.S. Capitol.

It is with great remorse that what took place on June 17, 2015 at the Emanuel AME bible study in Charleston, S.C. that claimed the lives of Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Cynthia Hurd, Tywanza Sanders, Myra Thompson, Ethel Lance, Daniel Simmons, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Susie Jackson, and South

Carolina State Senator Rev. Clementa Pinckney had to be the catalyst to drive this motion after 150 years when this symbol was first surrendered.

For many Americans, this symbol has stood as a symbol of heritage under which their family has dug deep roots into our country.

But, this symbol was created in a time where our nation struggled to understand the very words written in our own Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Furthermore, troubled individuals and groups have taken to the symbol of the Confederate flag as an icon to portray their racist expression and actions against all groups whether in regards to their gender, sexuality, or race.

Much like the creation and defamation of the swastika in Europe, this symbol of hatred must not be a symbol in our present, but a symbol in our past.

I urge my colleagues in the House Administration to act in due diligence to bring this issue back to the House Floor for consideration so that we may do our duty as elected Representatives and respond to the voices of this great nation.

HONORING ALLISON HINSON OF THE ST. CLAIR BULLDOGS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Allison Hinson of the St. Clair Bulldogs for her first place win in Shot Put at the 2015 Class 4 Track and Field State Championship.

Allison and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Allison Hinson of the St. Clair Bulldogs for a job well done.

THE TIME TO REAUTHORIZE THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND IS NOW

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last year, I spoke in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). There are now less than 100 days until the expiration of the program, and I rise today to urge timely reauthorization of this critical conservation program.

LWCF, which is paid for entirely by royalties collected from oil and gas companies, has fi-

nanced generations of projects, bringing parks and open spaces to the hearts of our urban areas and protecting our natural lands, outdoor recreation opportunities, and working forests at the local, state and federal levels. Since its creation, the LWCF program has conserved more than 5 million acres of parks, recreation, forests, and other lands through the federal program and more than 2.6 million acres in communities throughout every state in the nation.

My home state of North Carolina has received more than \$200 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, which has helped protect some of our state's most treasured places, such as the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. LWCF funds have also helped conserve land to preserve viewsheds along the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail. I was particularly pleased that one such project included the Rocky Fork tract in the Cherokee National Forest in my native state of Tennessee.

But LWCF does more than simply add to our public lands. Investing in LWCF is also an important way to grow our economy. In North Carolina alone, active outdoor recreation contributes more than \$7.5 billion annually to the state's economy, supports 95,000 jobs, generates \$430 million in annual state tax revenue and produces \$6.1 billion annually in retail sales and services. Overall, outdoor recreation contributes more than \$1.06 trillion annually to the U.S. economy. Every \$1 invested in LWCF has been found to yield \$4 in economic value. Without LWCF funding to stimulate matching investments from state, local and private entities, this crucial economic engine will be lost.

These numbers prove the program's success, but I would note that the program is also extremely popular. In recent polls, more than 80% of voters expressed support for continuing to deposit fees from offshore oil and gas drilling into LWCF—this broad support extends from every geographic region of the country and every political persuasion. Supporters include governors, mayors, sportsmen, industry leaders, conservationists, Civil War enthusiasts, historians, recreationists, small businesses, forest owners, and the many Americans who see firsthand the tangible benefits this program has had on their communities and families. I know many of my colleagues represent states and communities that have benefitted greatly from LWCF funds.

Although LWCF has a dedicated revenue stream from offshore drilling royalties and takes no taxpayer money from the general fund, large portions of this funding have been diverted over the years to non-conservation purposes. Even at last year's appropriated level of \$306 million, we were a far cry from the \$900 million that is annually authorized for conservation work.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the bipartisan legislation, H.R. 1814, that would permanently reauthorize LWCF. I strongly believe Congress should uphold its decades long commitment to land and water conservation and reinvigorate LWCF, thereby expanding opportunities for all Americans to have access to parks and natural areas for outdoor recreation. With the expiration coming in September 2015, the time to reauthorize Land and Water Conservation Fund is now.