

as he watched African-Americans achieve the highest awards in their professions and continued to break down barriers.

In November 2008, Julian Bond witnessed the election of the first African American President of the United States, a feat thought impossible just a decade earlier.

Mr. Speaker, because of trailblazers like Julian Bond millions of Americans gained access to opportunities previously denied to members of their communities.

Julian Bond spent 5 years with SNCC, 8 years as president of the Southern Poverty Law Center, 12 years as the president of NAACP, 20 years as a state representative, and 75 years an unwavering champion of civil rights for all people, including the LGBT community.

My thoughts and prayers are with Julian's beloved wife Pamela, his children and grandchildren; and the untold millions of persons whose lives were touched by one of America's greatest sons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Julian Bond, a tireless and eloquent voice for justice, equality, and human dignity who did so much to close the gap between the promise of America's founding ideals and the reality of people's lives.

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A TRIBUTE TO ELAINE FENNER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Elaine Fenner of the Bluffs Arts Council for being a recipient of the Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award.

Each year Iowa Governor Terry Branstad honors individuals who have exemplified exceptional commitment to their communities through various service related activities. Elaine was granted this prestigious award as she has demonstrated her dedication to serving the Bluffs Arts Council as both a board member and volunteer. Elaine's hard work and dedication to serving others truly embodies our Iowa values.

I applaud Elaine for her commitment to service and giving back to the community. It is an honor to serve civic minded Iowans like her in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating her for receiving this award and wish her nothing but continued success.

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HONORING JUAN BAUTISTA MORA

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Juan Bautista Mora who turned 98 years old on May 3, 2015.

Mr. Mora was born in Chilili, New Mexico in 1917 as the youngest member of the family that included nine children. His father was a logger assistant who traveled to the southern

part of the territory and his mother was a homemaker who also took care of many chores on the family farm.

Juan was placed on a horse at age 6 and taught how to do some of the farming and ranching. In 1922, he became very ill and was cared for by one of his sisters until he recovered. Juan received most of his education from a home school teacher, since he had many responsibilities on the farm.

At age 17, he became a U.S. Census Taker in the Sandia Mountains and would travel from farm to farm, gathering the necessary information.

At age 18, he decided to take the test to enter the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). At the time, he weighed less than 105 pounds and there was a weight requirement. Juan and his friends went to town and ate as many bananas as they could before being weighed for a second time. He made it into the Corps.

He was assigned to Camp #8 in LaVentana, New Mexico where he was assigned the work of building cabins and roads. He earned \$1.00 per day and would keep \$5.00 each month and send \$25.00 home to his family. The Corps was part of the New Deal by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and provided unskilled labor jobs related to the conservation and development of natural resources in rural lands owned by federal, local and state governments. Juan spent 18 months in the Corps.

In 1945, he married Petra Aragon, a teacher with a degree from Highland University. Juan worked for the Charles Ilfield Grocery store as a driver and he and his wife had five daughters before 1957. Petra went back to teaching at the San Ignacio Parochial School but became very ill and passed away in 1960.

From that point forward, Juan raised their five daughters on his own. He was employed by the City of Albuquerque from 1959 to 1978, first as a laborer, then a welder and eventually a supervisor, responsible for training new employees.

In 2007, Juan attended a reunion of the CCC boys and was able to reconnect with many of his friends and share memories from that time in his life.

He is still very involved with his daughters, M. Virginia Mora de Lazo, Margie Mora Brown, Deanna B. Mora, Lillian D. Stephens and Ruby Mora and their families. He has two grandchildren, Linda Lzao Sheroma and Andres F. Lazo. I would like to extend my thanks to Mr. Mora for his service as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression and for his service to the community as a City of Albuquerque employee.

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RECOGNIZING REVEREND  
BERNIECE R. HICKS

**HON. TODD C. YOUNG**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize Reverend Berniece R. Hicks on the occasion of her 97th birthday. Reverend Hicks founded Christ Gospel Churches International Inc. (CGCI) in 1957 which today has congregations across the United States, throughout South and Central America, and around the globe. The international headquarters in Jeffersonville, Indiana

hosts Christ Gospel Bible Institute—founded by Reverend Hicks in the early 1970s—which provides an education curriculum to those with an interest in studying and learning from the Bible. Moreover, the headquarters in Jeffersonville is home to the church's publishing house and weekly radio broadcast, which reaches thousands of readers and listeners across the world.

The Reverend Hicks' spiritual journey began at a young age. As a young woman, she felt the desire to study and teach the Bible, from which she dedicated her life to Jesus Christ. Reverend Hicks has written and published extensively, having authored more than 110 books over the course of her tenure. The church holds a copyright license on these materials, and Reverend Hicks receives no royalties from them.

Reverend Berniece R. Hicks touches the lives of those in her ministry in Southern Indiana and through the network of churches in the United States and around the world. Although 97 years old, she still preaches two sermons most weeks at the Jeffersonville church. Today I honor the life and legacy of Reverend Berniece R. Hicks and wish her a very happy 97th birthday.

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IN RECOGNITION OF MR. STEVE  
ALLEN

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steve Allen on his retirement after 28 years of dedicated service to the Selma Fire Department.

Mr. Allen was born on April 18, 1961. He grew up in Fresno, California and attended local schools before going on to start his fire career as a volunteer firefighter for North Central Fire Department in May 1979. He completed his Emergency Medical Technician training and was hired by Jones Ambulance in 1981.

On November 6, 1986, after completing paramedic school, Mr. Allen joined Selma Fire Department as one of Selma's first Firefighter/Paramedics. He was promoted first to Fire Engineer in November 1993 and then to Captain in January 1996.

Throughout his career, Mr. Allen worked tirelessly to protect people's lives from devastating fires, such as those in Los Angeles and the Oakland Hills Fire. Additionally, he took a special interest in investigating the causes of fires and was a member of the City of Selma's Arson Team for many years.

After 28 years with the Selma Fire Department, Mr. Allen retired on May 27, 2015.

The Selma community has been extremely fortunate to have a dedicated firefighter such as Mr. Allen to ensure the wellbeing of their community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Steve Allen for his 28 years of dedicated public service in Selma and congratulating him on his recent retirement.