

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CALVIN GEORGE MORET

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Calvin George Moret, the last surviving Louisiana member of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African-American pilots who fought in World War II and were the first African-American pilots in the United States military. Mr. Moret passed away on September 12, 2015, at the age of 90.

Mr. Moret entered the military in 1943 and trained as a military pilot at Tuskegee, Alabama, receiving his wings and commission as a Flight Officer on November 20, 1944. His preparation for overseas combat duty continued through the end of the war in Europe and then through the end of the war in the Pacific. He was discharged from military service on January 31, 1946.

Following his discharge from military duty he returned to the family printing business, Moret Press. To help the family business Moret needed to look outside of New Orleans for school, because segregation laws prohibited him from studying at Delgado Trade School. He was able to gain admission to the printing department at Southern University in Baton Rouge and completed the course.

Mr. Moret's flying experience did not stop upon discharge from the military. In the spring of 1949, he and his brother Adolph, who had learned to fly before the war, formed a flying club. Along with twenty other men, they purchased a 3-place Piper Super Cruiser airplane and hangered it at Lakefront Airport in New Orleans until the summer of 1953, where they introduced members to the miracle of human flight.

On June 17, 2008, as a result of Hurricane Katrina and the flooding aftermath that decimated the city, Moret Press was destroyed and the family was separated for months. The business has not operated since the Friday before the hurricane struck.

Following the release of "The Tuskegee Airmen" movie in 1995, Mr. Moret frequently lectured about his experiences and promoting the proud history of African-American accomplishments in American life.

In 2007, Mr. Moret was present when he Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal in the rotunda of the Capitol.

Mr. Moret was a trailblazer, clearing the path for countless men and women of color to enter the military and fight to defend their country. He will be sorely missed by his family, his friends, and all of those who are able to pursue their dreams because of his courage. His memory will serve an inspiration for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of Mr. Moret's courage, commitment and sacrifice, I celebrate his life and legacy, because he has made America a more perfect union.

HONORING WILLIS "WALLY"
WALLING

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Willis R. Walling, who died on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, at the age of ninety-four. Affectionately known as "Wally" to me and many others, he will be missed.

Born in Newark, NJ, he was the son of the late Willis H. and Gladys R. Walling.

Those who knew Wally would say some of his fondest memories were of the time he spent serving as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. You might even call his adventures "legendary," with sixty-six missions in Europe and becoming the tenth Allied plane to land in France after D-Day. He was one of the greatest supporters of the Allied Forces through France and beyond.

After leaving the service, he and his wife, Peg, moved to New Jersey where he served as President of Swan Manufacturing in Rockaway, NJ. It was during his time in Rockaway that he and Peg became active in the New Jersey Republican Party where he served as chairman for a period of time.

As many Northerners do, he and Peg moved south after retirement. Lucky for us South Carolinians, they chose Pawleys Island as their new home. They both quickly became active in local politics. I had the pleasure of meeting Wally during my first run for Congress in 1994 and have since appreciated his kindness and hospitality. Of course, you appreciate everyone who joins you in the heat of battle on the campaign trail, but it is the ones who are with you from the beginning who you hold closest to your heart. Wally was one of the loyal ones who would stick with you.

Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage are the seven values of the Army, and Wally was a man who exemplified every one of them. His surviving daughters, Susan Houser, Jeanne Auermuller (Bob), and Diane Dunham (Phil), eight grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren can be proud of the man they called "Dad" or "Grandpa," and I have no doubt that they would be. They will miss him dearly . . . and I will too.

IN RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER
18, 2015 AS THE UZEYIR
HAJIBEYLI MEMORIAL DAY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Uzeyir Hajibeyli Memorial Day, celebrated on September 18, 2015.

Uzeyir Hajibeyli was born in the City of Agjabadi in Azerbaijan on September 18, 1885. He is recognized as the father of Azerbaijani classical music, as well as the founder of the first opera, Leyli and Majnun (1908), and first operetta The Cloth Peddler (1913) in the Muslim world. Arshin Mal Alan (The Cloth

Peddler), is a romantic and musical comedy that delves into a young couple's struggle to live a modern lifestyle in the presence of restricting customs through pure love and women's rights.

In 1945, a cinematic version of the operetta was filmed in Azerbaijan and became an instant box office sensation. It remains today an important cultural touchstone across Eurasia, having been widely distributed in 86 languages and shown in 136 countries.

Uzeyir Hajibeyli was influential in both cultural and historical contexts. Hajibeyli was responsible for a new genre of music which evolved from the culmination of traditional Azerbaijani music and European classical opera. He is recognized as a leader in fighting illiteracy throughout the nation. As not only a musician but as a teacher and journalist, he inspired a new cultural movement throughout the nation that transcended the country's borders. Further, Hajibeyli is responsible for composing the first national anthem of Azerbaijan. Uzeyir Hajibeyli played an active role in the creation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic founded in 1918.

As today marks the 130th anniversary of Uzeyir Hajibeyli's birth, I am honored to recognize him today for his valuable contributions towards the world of music and to Azerbaijan.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF REVEREND JOSEPH C. PROFIT,
JR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Joseph C. Profit, Jr., a pastor of Stronger Hope Baptist Church, who passed away on September 4, 2015, at the age of 80.

Reverend Profit dedicated fifty years to the Stronger Hope Baptist Church and was a leading civil rights activist in New Orleans. He served as the fifth president of the Ideal Missionary Baptist and Educational Association, Inc. and Regional Vice President of the Louisiana Baptist State Convention. Rev. Profit also participated in the Baptist World Alliance in Stockholm, Sweden, as a delegate.

After Hurricane Katrina, Rev. Profit was a leader in rebuilding New Orleans—physically and spiritually. Although he evacuated to San Antonio, Texas, Reverend Profit drove to New Orleans every other weekend to hold service, and finally in 2008, he completely rebuilt The Stronger Hope Baptist Church with the help of his loyal congregation. The Church sits on the corner of South Galvez and First Street, where it has rested since 1937.

To honor Reverend Profit, who was a vital asset to the New Orleans community of faith, we acknowledge the importance of faith and culture in resilience. To commemorate Rev. Profit and his irreplaceable legacy, we remember his life-long contribution to the city of New Orleans and we strive to continue his messages of faith, hope, and unity.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of Reverend Profit's courage, dedication and undying faith, I celebrate his life and legacy, because he has made America a more perfect union.