

A TRIBUTE: NATIONAL FREEDOM  
DAY ASSOCIATION

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate National Freedom Day 2016, a holiday established to recognize the day President Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment freeing enslaved Blacks. On February 1, 1941, Major Richard Robert Wright, Sr. invited national and local leaders to meet in Philadelphia to formulate plans to set aside February 1st each year to memorialize the signing of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution by President Lincoln on February 1, 1865. One year after Major Wright's death in 1947, a bill passed both U.S. Houses of Congress making February 1st National Freedom Day.

Major Wright is recognized as a post reconstruction pioneer and trailblazer who dedicated his life to establishing this national day of commemoration of freedom. Each year on the first day of Black History Month, National Freedom Day Associations in cities and states across the nation come together for this annual observance to promote goodwill, harmony and equal opportunity and to rededicate the nation to these ideals.

And, as we look back at the life of Major Wright, we discover a true American story of resilience, foresight and faith. He was born into slavery in 1855. And, as a child he encountered retired Union Civil War General Oliver Otis Howard, in an Atlanta classroom. Summoning up unbelievable courage he said, "Sir, tell them we are rising," as a way to help northerners understand the hope of newly freed Blacks. These words came to be Major Wright's lifelong mantra.

His personal "rising" included: serving as a major in the Spanish-American War, founding and leading Savannah State College; attending the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania at the age of 67; and, founding the Citizens and Southern Bank and Trust Company, in Philadelphia, the only northern Black-owned bank at the time.

Therefore, I am proud to honor the life and contributions of Major Wright, a great American visionary and trailblazer and the National Freedom Day Association as it stands as an historic reminder of our nation's promise of freedom and justice.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOANN  
GONYEA'S SERVICE TO THE CITY  
OF TRENTON

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joann Gonyea for her 31 years of service in the Parks and Recreation Department of Trenton, Michigan.

Joann began her career with the City of Trenton Parks and Recreation Department as a Program Coordinator in 1985. She became the Assistant Director in 1990 and served in that role for 20 years before being appointed Director in 2011.

Many of the events and activities for which Trenton has become known started with Joann. During an internship with Wayne County Parks 31 years ago, she designed the "Somewhere in Time" event which captures the spirit of the iconic Elizabeth Park in the early 1900's and engages residents with the history of their city. Joann has also been the driving force behind the "Community Builds" program and the "Healthy Trenton Initiative" which both promote healthy and active lifestyles by emphasizing teamwork.

Joann is instrumental in the success of community events in Trenton and is well known for her ability to organize and inspire volunteers. Many projects, including the recent addition of a playground to Affholter Park, are finished in record time due to the groundswell of community support Joann encourages. It's because she practices what she preaches, and generously dedicates her time to organizations throughout the Downriver community, such as the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance where she serves as a board member.

Joann is part of the heart and soul of Trenton, Michigan and the Downrivers. Tonight, we recognize Joann with the Duane Brannick award for outstanding service to the city, an award which is annually given to leaders in the city that go above and beyond. I know that Joann is the perfect recipient of this prestigious award and I am proud to call her a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Joann Gonyea for her 31 years of service to the city of Trenton. I thank her for her leadership, and wish her many years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENNIS  
HOLLOWAY'S SELECTION AS THE  
RICHMOND COUNTY CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE 2015 CITIZEN OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dennis Holloway for his selection as the Richmond County Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Citizen of the Year. Mr. Holloway represents the best our area has to offer, and this selection illustrates the profound impact he has had on our community.

Mr. Holloway decided early in life to dedicate himself to helping others in need, and he has not stopped that mission since. Mr. Holloway served in the United States Army as a member of the 82nd Airborne until he was honorably discharged in 1967 after serious injuries he sustained during a training exercise hindered his deployment. After surviving this harrowing ordeal, Mr. Holloway worked in the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for 30 years.

The list of charitable acts Mr. Holloway has carried out and the number of leadership positions within several community service organizations he holds demonstrates the commitment he has made to serving those in his community, and beyond. As a recovery team leader for the North Carolina Baptist Men, a nondenominational organization dedicated to providing relief to those in need, Mr. Holloway

and his team have done everything from traveling down to South Carolina to assist families recovering from the historic flooding that took place last year to building wheelchair ramps at the homes of disabled community residents. Mr. Holloway is an inspiration to all the Richmond County community and this award is truly a testament to the appreciation he has so rightfully earned.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Dennis Holloway for receiving this prestigious distinction, and wishing him well as he continues to serve the people of Richmond County, North Carolina.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote number 47 on February 1, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DIANE BLACK**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 46 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote number 45 on January 13, 2016. I would like to reflect that on roll call vote number 45 I would have voted No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed recorded votes Number 46 through 47. Had I been present, on Roll Call Number 46, H.R. 2187—Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act, I would have voted YEA, and on Roll Call Number 47, H.R. 4168—Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act, I would have voted YEA.