Christ. He has spread his message from the jungles of the Philippines to the distant villages of Antarctica.

Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of appreciation for Pastor Modlish and his dedication to his church and community, and it is my honor to acknowledge his faithful service.

IN HONOR OF THE OLD HICKORY DIVISION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Old Hickory Division for their service during World War II.

This October 2nd will mark the 72nd Anniversary of the 30th Infantry Division's crossing into Germany during World War II and smashing through Adolph Hitler's vaunted Westwall. The Westwall was designed to keep American forces from driving into the heart of the Ruhr Industrial area, but American forces broke through, destroying Germany's ability to supply its armies.

The 30th Infantry Division, a National Guard Division made up of young men from the Carolinas, Tennessee and Georgia was part of that force that broke through the German lines. The 30th Infantry Division was proudly called ''Old Hickory'' after Andrew Jackson, the 7th President of the United States.

In less than 100 days after landing on the beaches of Normandy, these men first kept the routes between Omaha and Utah Beach—the two principal American landing sites—open. They then led the charge through the Normandy hedgerows down to Saint-Lô, France. Next, they were the division that spearheaded the Normandy breakout in late July.

Less than two weeks later—in what was agreed to by both American and German commanders as the turning point of World War II in Europe—Old Hickory managed to hold off the onslaught of four German panzer divisions during a fight at Mortain, France that numbered nearly 80,000 Germans against 13,000 brave soldiers from Old Hickory.

By the 2nd of October, 1944, 72 years ago next week, the 30th infiltrated into France and became the first infantry division into Belgium and the Netherlands. This was the longest and fastest military incursion in history.

Two weeks later the men of Old Hickory broke up a massive counterattack put on by the 1st SS Panzer Corps and closed the Aachen Gap, which cut off all supply and reinforcement lines into the ancient imperial city of Aachen and forced its surrender on the 21st of October, 1944. This was the first large German city to be captured by the Allies in WWII.

The 30th followed this success with a rapid advance around the north side of the Ruhr Industrial Pocket, capturing Brunswick and finally capturing Magdeburg on the Elbe River on the 17th of April 1945.

The 30th met the Russian army at Magdeburg and remained in occupation there throughout the month of May when it was turned over to the Russians, as part of their designated occupation territory. This brought the end of the war for the 30th Infantry Division.

After war's end in 1946, General Dwight Eisenhower directed his historian of the European Theater to draw up a rating sheet and rank all of the divisions that fought there.

There were 42 infantry divisions in all.

His staff of 35 officers came to a quick and near unanimous consensus. Old Hickory was merited with the distinction of being the top-rated infantry division in all three major operations performed in Europe during World War II.

A Presidential Unit Citation honoring these men for this achievement was recommended that very same year. But it was never awarded.

Following the end of conflict in Europe, the 30th returned to Ft. Jackson, SC and was deactivated on the 25th of November 1945.

On this anniversary of the crucial breaching of Hitler's vaunted Westwall and subsequent capture of Aachen, I ask this body to pause and remember. Remember the achievements and sacrifice of those members of the greatest generation who belonged to the ''most outstanding infantry division'' in the European Theater in World War II, the 30th Infantry Division, the Workhorse of the Western Front.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the 30th Infantry Division for their outstanding service and sacrifice during World War II.

TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA URBY URRABAZO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of one of Laredo's finest teachers, Yolanda Urby Urrabazo.

Mrs. Urrabazo was born on February 12, 1947 to Juan and Carolina Urby in Del Rio, Texas. She was considered a miracle baby due to being born ten years after her nine siblings. Although her first language was Spanish, she quickly learned English and excelled in her studies. She had straight A's throughout her grade school education and graduated in the top five percent of her class from Del Rio High School in 1965. She was one of the few Hispanics in the National Honor Society all four years and participated in many extracurricular activities. She received her bachelor's degree in Spanish Literature and a minor in English from Texas Woman's University and then a Master's degree in Spanish Literature from The University of Texas-El Paso in 1977. Many of her loved ones knew that her favorite novel was Don Quixote de la Mancha by Cervantes and she could quote Shakespeare eloquently and effortlessly.

Her enthusiasm for literature and poetry was most evident to everyone she met. This eventually led her to a passionate and fulfilling teaching career of 32 years, recently retiring from United High School in June 2016. Yolanda's devotion to her students is shown by her long and passionate career in teaching where she prided herself in teaching in every decade since the 1960s. For decades, she dedicated her life to educating generations of students, including her own seven children. She also inspired two of her daughters, Elizabeth U. Velasquez and Veronica Urrabazo, to follow in her footsteps and become educators themselves. This commitment to education is an inspiration, and serves as reminder for how important educators are to our community. Her dedication to serving others will not be forgotten and will serve as a testament to what we should all strive for.

Mrs. Urrabazo is survived by her beloved husband Ignacio Urrabazo and their seven children (Tom, Elizabeth, Jaime, Yolanda, Veronica, Alejandra, and Claudia) and six grandchildren, as well as her five siblings. Her legacy will live on in the countless people she helped shape—she was intelligent, humble, strong, and compassionate to all. The mentoring and guidance that she provided will be shown throughout the community she touched. I have personally seen her impact through the great work her daughters, Yolanda Urrabazo and Claudia Urrabazo, provided when they worked in my Congressional office. It was clear through their hard work and ability that their mother had taught them very well.

She serves as reminder for how much one person can do to affect so many lives. Not only her family, but students, teachers, community members, and both the young and old, mourn her passing. Her legacy will live on through her good deeds and through our cherished memories. The city of Laredo will miss her and cherish the kindness and inspiration that she brought to our community and our education system.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to remember the legacy of Yolanda Urby Urrabazo.

IN HONOR OF MRS. ANNA M. DEBRO

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Anna M. Debro of Columbus, Georgia on her 100th birthday. Mrs. Debro is a phenomenal woman who has lived a life of compassion dedicated to serving her community as a triumphant and caring teacher, Christian, and mother.

Anna M. Debro was born in Mississippi on October 3, 1916 to Reverend Louis W. Hooper, an honored educator, and Minnie Hooper. She married the late Presiding Elder James Debro, Sr., and together over their 30 years of marriage, had five children—James Jr., Willie, Lisa, Harriette, and Dwight.

Mrs. Debro graduated from Delta Industrial High School, a historical boarding school for gifted Black children in the Mississippi Delta. In 1941, she earned her undergraduate degree at Alcorn & Campbell College and continued her education at Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), where she received her Master's in Math Education in 1960. As a lifelong learner with a passion for education, she sought further studies at the University of Georgia, Florida A&M University, and Tuskegee University.

Over the next 40 years, Mrs. Debro was committed to educating young minds in several capacities. She held the position of Math Department Chair, the Tri Hi Y Chair and Student Advisor, as well as the PTA Chairwoman at Carver High in Columbus, GA from 1954 to