

I encourage all Americans to take part in activities marking this important occasion.

**HONORING CARLETON ZEISZ UPON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM PUBLIC SERVICE**

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Carleton Zeisz as he is honored by the City of Tonawanda Democratic Committee upon his retirement from public service. Carl's career spans an impressive twenty-four years of service.

Carl began his tenure with the City of Tonawanda as an Alderman in 1992 and 1993. He became the Common Council President in 1994, and held the post for twenty-two years, until 2015. In 2009, Carl earned the Outstanding Public Service Award from the Conservative Party.

Many major projects in the City of Tonawanda have benefited from Carl's efforts as he worked throughout the years together with the Mayor and Common Council. His efforts include the development of Gateway Park, the Niawanda Park Pavilion, the implementation of Central Dispatch, the development of Kibler High, closing the Tonawanda Landfill, the Niagara Street and Young Street development, and a multitude of other infrastructure projects. Carl's greatest asset was his ability to get many to work together for the good of Tonawanda.

In addition to his career in public service, Carl has worked in General Cinema theaters for twenty-four years at eight different locations, with twenty-one years in the position of General Manager. In 1989, he was recognized as General Manager of the Northeast for General Cinema. For the past eleven years, Carl has worked at Maple Ridge 8. In 2015, Carl was recognized as Runner-up General Manager of the year, chosen from managers out of 341 AMC Theatres.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Carl for his years of service to the City of Tonawanda and wishing him the best in his retirement from service.

**RECOGNIZING THE HOLY ROSARY
PARISH OF HAZLETON, PA ON
ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to draw attention to a great, iconic Catholic church located in my district, one that was vital in my upbringing as a young man. My own Holy Rosary Parish in Hazleton, Pennsylvania is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and it remains a historic landmark within my congressional district, providing generations of people with a place to come together and worship.

Like many Catholics in the Hazleton area, I have many fond memories of events centered

in and around Holy Rosary. My grandfather was one of the parish founders, and I, myself, took my First Holy Communion there and was confirmed in the church. I am a third-generation member of Holy Rosary, my children are fourth-generation, and my grandchildren are fifth-generation. My personal experiences mirror those of countless others from our area, as we share the overall culture the church provides for the citizens of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District and beyond.

Founded in April of 1916 as a mission church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the church was originally established to serve the Italian immigrants of Hazleton's south side. Since then, the church has continually engaged with the community at large and is regarded as one of the most welcoming organizations in the region. To celebrate the church's 100th Anniversary, the congregation has embraced a theme of remembering the past, celebrating the present, and preserving the future.

Actively involved in the community, the Holy Rosary Parish of Hazleton hosts an annual Mass in honor of the Hazleton Fire Department, which includes a September 11th memorial service. The church property includes a 9-11 Memorial and actual steel from the World Trade Center in commemoration of the brave men and women who responded to that day's tragic events. The congregation also routinely engages with their homebound parishioners—whether it is a priest providing Holy Communion, or a youth group member bringing a poinsettia at Christmas time. With an eye to the future, the church is also implementing a collaborative outreach effort with the purpose of providing evening meals and nightly shelter to the community's homeless population during the winter months.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the Holy Rosary Parish of Hazleton, Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 100th anniversary, and I commend its congregation, both past and present, for their tireless efforts to preserve its longstanding legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes on Thursday, February 4, 2016 due to an important family matter. Had I been present for roll call vote number 62, the Democrat Motion to Recommit H.R. 766, I would have voted "nay." Had I been present for roll call vote number 63, H.R. 766, the Financial Institution Customer Protection Act of 2015, I would have voted "yea."

PATRICIA SPENCER

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to honor the life of an

extraordinary leader and passionate advocate for freedom and justice, Ms. Patricia Spencer.

Growing up in Montgomery, Alabama in the 1930s, Patricia Spencer followed in her mother and grandmother's footsteps, becoming a member of the NAACP at the age of seven, a group of which she was still a member 72 years later. At the age of nineteen, while serving as secretary of the local NAACP branch, Ms. Spencer received the news that her mentor on the NAACP Youth Council, Rosa Parks, was arrested while riding the Montgomery bus. Ms. Spencer immediately started churning out fliers urging others to boycott the bus. During this time Ms. Spencer also babysat Yolanda King, the first eldest child of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ms. Spencer attended Alabama State University and then moved to Orlando, FL to take a position as an operator with Southern Bell, the first African American to hold this position. From there she moved to Detroit and served 13 years on the local school board. In recognition of her service to the Detroit area, the Martin Luther King, Jr. High School Auditorium and the swimming facility at Charles Kettering High School bear her name. In the mid 1990s she moved to Tampa, FL. Once settled in she immediately started to volunteer with the Hillsborough NAACP branch, where she used her vast knowledge of the organization's rules to mentor members and secure funding for the branch. She served as Membership Chair and Area Director for the NAACP's state conference as well as Secretary of the Hillsborough County branch. She will forever be remembered for her constant efforts to boost NAACP membership.

As a notable NAACP member, Ms. Spencer also co-chaired the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technologic and Scientific Olympics. This program recruits high school students to compete in science and visual arts competitions. Though she gave countless hours to the organization as a volunteer, she still had time to serve others. She was affiliated with other local organizations as well. At WUSF Radio Reading Service, she was a reader for the visually impaired listeners tuned in to the station. She was a Board Member of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI-USF), a non-degree-seeking program at the University of South Florida and she also served on the Board of the Early Learning Coalition. The American Red Cross was one of her favorite charities and she was the Vice President of Sisters Network, Inc., Tampa Chapter. She also was Chair of the Hillsborough County Public Schools—School Choice Committee.

In 2007, Governor Charlie Crist appointed her as a member of the Hillsborough County Civil Service Board.

Ms. Spencer will be forever remembered as a leader in the Tampa Bay community for her unequivocal support of justice and fairness. On December 14th, 2015, she passed away two days following her 79th birthday. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in honoring Ms. Patricia Spencer for her lifelong commitment to service.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
SEN. HARRIET SPANEL

HON. SUZAN K. DeIBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Harriet Spanel, who recently passed away at the age of 77.

Harriet served in the Washington State Legislature for more than two decades, representing Northwest Washington with immense dedication and conviction.

Harriet had an intense passion for making her community a better place. She served on many local boards and committees, and took a hands on approach to what she saw as her civic responsibility.

So it was no surprise that when Harriet decided to run for office and was elected to the state House, and then the Senate, she jumped in head first without hesitation.

Throughout her political career, Harriet was a strong proponent for her constituents, sticking up for the local fishing economy and for the preservation of some of our state's most beautiful lands

She was a constant advocate for her community, always fighting for what she believed would make a positive difference, however large or small.

My heart goes out to all her family and friends. Harriet will be greatly missed by the countless lives she touched, but her presence through the work she accomplished will continue to resonate in Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit counties as well as throughout our state for years to come.

RECOGNIZING LEHIGH CARBON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Lehigh Carbon Community College. With humble roots in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania, the school was founded in 1966 and has expanded to include three modern satellite campuses serving more than 7,500 students in the Lehigh, Carbon, Schuylkill, and surrounding counties.

As a student-centered learning institution, Lehigh Carbon Community College exemplifies values that permeate all aspects of the higher education experience. Through practical access to real-world skills, classroom diversity that embodies the human experience, and quality teacher-student contact, Lehigh Carbon Community College offers students the tools they will need to meet the world's most daunting challenges.

In January 2005, Lehigh Carbon Community College received a 21st Century Learning Center Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the implementation of the Schools and Homes in Education (SHINE) after school program. This program was designed to address the before and after-school programs available to students in the commu-

nity. The first full year proved to be a success—86 percent of classroom teachers involved noted significant improvement in homework assignments, and kindergarten children improved an average of 32 percent in letter recognition, number recognition, and sound association.

In the spring of 2006, Lehigh Carbon Community College received notice that the program would receive additional funding for expansion into Mahanoy Area and Shenandoah Valley School Districts. This new program was to focus on kindergarten through 5th grade, and has continued to show the value that after-school programs provide when coupled with exceptional leadership and resources.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Lehigh Carbon Community College as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish to thank the college and its members for their tireless service to the community and unwavering commitment to accessible education.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MRS. JULIA AARON HUMBLER

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Julia Aaron Humbler, a New Orleans native and a lifelong civil rights activist. Mrs. Humbler passed away on January 26, 2016, at the age of 72.

In the 1960's, Mrs. Humbler was among a group of young activists from New Orleans that organized sit-ins, and challenged unjust laws on buses traveling across the Deep South. Mrs. Humbler and her companions were arrested more than 30 times for their civil rights work.

In 1961, Mrs. Humbler received national attention because of a photo of her and fellow activist David Dennis sitting on the front seat of a bus next to a soldier armed with a rifle and bayonet. Soldiers had been ordered to protect the Freedom Riders as they rode across the Deep South, determined to desegregate bus stations.

By the age of 18, Mrs. Humbler was already very active in the New Orleans chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and was selected to be on the first Freedom Ride bus.

Two New Orleanians, Mrs. Humbler and Jerome Smith, were selected for the first Freedom Ride bus, which ultimately was firebombed outside Anniston, Alabama. Fortunately, the two were not on that bus; they were in Orleans Parish Prison for picketing outside the segregated Woolworth stores on Canal Street.

Mrs. Humbler graduated from the Charity Hospital School of Surgical Technology in New Orleans and worked as a surgical technician for 30 years. In 1988, after the death of her husband, Joseph Lee Humbler Sr., she moved to Atlanta for a job at Northside Hospital.

Mrs. Humbler's legacy will forever be a part of the city and her dedication to justice embodies the spirit of New Orleans. Stories like hers will inspire generations of Americans to fight for their dreams. She will be sorely

missed by her family, her friends, and all those who are able to pursue their dreams because of her courage.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of Mrs. Humbler's courage, commitment and sacrifice, I celebrate her life and legacy, because she has made America a more perfect union. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yea" on roll call number 46, regarding H.R. 2187—"Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts."

"Yea" on roll call number 47 regarding H.R. 4168—"Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act."

"Yea" on roll call number 48, the previous question for H. Res. 594.

"Yea" on roll call number 49 regarding H. Res. 594—"Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3700) to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes."

TRIBUTE TO RUTH BERMAN AND
CONSTANCE KURTZ

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representatives TED DEUTCH and LOIS FRANKEL rise to recognize Ruth Berman and Constance Kurtz on the occasion of receiving the SAGE Pioneer award this Saturday, February 6, 2016.

Ruth Berman and Constance Kurtz, affectionately known to all as Ruthie and Connie, are fierce, unyielding advocates and activists who have changed hearts and minds on LGBT rights, marriage equality, and women's rights. Since falling in love and coming out in the 1970s, Ruthie and Connie have risen to national prominence, successfully winning domestic partner benefits for City of New York employees in 1988. Additionally, through television appearances on The Phil Donohue Show, interviews with Geraldo Rivera and Bill Boggs, and their 2002 documentary "Connie and Ruthie: Every Room in the House," they have connected with individuals worldwide and shown the personal impact of changing social climates.

That commitment to the personal impact of love and acceptance continues through their work as certified counselors. In that capacity, they founded The Answer is Loving Counseling Center, where they have served for over twenty years. Additionally, they founded branches of Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) in Florida and New York. In 2000, they began serving as co-chairs of the New York State National Organization for Women (NOW) Lesbian Rights Task Force.