

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'er, 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.