

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.