

I was privileged to introduce a bill this session with my colleagues SUZANNE BONAMICI and TED DEUTCH to expand the Older Americans Act (OAA) to improve services available for older LGBT adults. This legislation recognizes LGBT seniors as a vulnerable population, which will open the door for improved health and long-term care services for elders in the LGBT community.

I, along with Representatives DEUTCH and FRANKEL, have known Ruthie and Connie for many years. They are my constituents and my inspiration for the bill. For decades, their advocacy and leadership in the LGBT community has not wavered as they have aged, but the services available to them and other aging LGBT adults are profoundly unequal to those of other American populations. Their living message inspired the Ruthie and Connie LGBT Elder Americans Act of 2015 (H.R. 3793).

For these reasons and more, it is with great pleasure that we join SAGE (Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Elders) to recognize Ruthie and Connie for their lifetime of love and service.

LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL  
ASSOCIATION

**HON. GARRET GRAVES**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Louisiana Municipal Association.

Since January 28, 1926, the LMA has represented over 305 villages, towns, cities, and parishes across the state of Louisiana.

The three-fold mission of the LMA has been one of education, advocacy and service and includes advocacy at the national level.

At the state level, they work to fight blight, promote the work of law enforcement and public safety efforts, and encourage economic growth.

The LMA exemplifies the cooperation necessary to move our state forward. I'd like to recognize the accomplishments of the LMA over the last 90 years and thank them for their ongoing efforts.

HONORING NEW ORLEANS' FIRST  
AFRICAN AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th year since the City of New Orleans hired its first African American Firefighter.

George Mondy was the first African American to join the paid department as a professional firefighter with the New Orleans Fire Department. Firefighter Mondy opened the doors to professional firefighting in February 1965. As he worked diligently to overcome racial barriers of the times, his persistence and perseverance paid off. Firefighter Mondy was promoted to Fire Apparatus Operator to drive

and operate the fire trucks. He retired in 1991, after 26 years with the department. Shortly after his retirement, Operator Mondy applied and was rehired as a fire supply technician. Firefighter Mondy was a trailblazer on whose shoulders many firefighters stand today. I believe it was his can do attitude and manifestation of competence that let the department know it was depriving itself and the City of New Orleans by not hiring African Americans. The late George Mondy's name has been written in the history of the New Orleans Fire Department. Today, I submit Firefighter Mondy's name to be written in the U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of the courage, commitment and sacrifice of Firefighter Mondy, I celebrate his life and legacy, because he helped make America a more perfect union. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

REMEMBERING PHIL NEIGHBORS,  
COMMUNITY SERVANT

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday February 8, 2016*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Phil Neighbors. Phil was a pillar in the San Angelo community, and I had the pleasure of working with him frequently over the last decade. Phil dedicated his life to three things: to God, his family, and his community.

He and his wife, Susan, had two children together, and four grandchildren. It wasn't uncommon for Phil to run straight to a city event from his grandsons' ball games—he seemed to make time for everyone while placing the truly important things in life first.

Phil was deeply ingrained in Angelo. A graduate of Angelo State University, he led the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce for the last 10 years. In this role, he strengthened the community and helped Angelo become a better place to live and raise a family. He dedicated his life to this calling, taking on many duties, none of which were too small or large, for the betterment of the community.

One example was the bridge he helped build between the Goodfellow Air Force Base and the Angelo community. He established a strong and lasting bond for the betterment of both. He embraced our service-members, and was always willing to support them and our military in any way that he could.

As a deacon in the Baptist church, Phil led the church's college program and many mission trips to Mexico. He was a selfless servant, a trait that extended beyond the city, state, and country's borders. Everyone felt and knew Phil's warmth and thoughtfulness of others. His guidance and quiet diligence was reassuring to those around him and helped shape a community that is exemplary in Texas and the nation. Phil had no small part in creating such a community.

We lost Phil far too soon, just days after his 64th birthday. His loss will be felt across the community and state, and his service will not be forgotten. Please join me in remembering and celebrating the extraordinary life of our friend Phil Neighbors.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OF  
TACOMA OF DR. DUNG XUAN  
NGUYEN

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dung Xuan Nguyen of Tacoma, WA. Dr. Nguyen has served his community with dedication and compassion through his medical practice and his outreach and support to local immigrant families.

Dr. Nguyen has practiced in the Lincoln District of Tacoma for forty years, offering medical service and strong advocacy for the uninsured and homeless in Tacoma's Vietnamese-American community.

Mr. Speaker, for the past seven years, Dr. Nguyen has served as the President of the Vietnamese-American Community of Tacoma-Pierce County, which provides information and advocacy to the Vietnamese-American community in the Tacoma region.

Dr. Nguyen's office is often a clearinghouse for ride-share services, community outreach and gatherings, and other essential services for new residents of the neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Nguyen has even dedicated his time to help create public art to memorialize the fallen soldiers of the Vietnam War—both U.S. and South Vietnamese servicemen. He designed and donated a black monolith memorial to the Vietnamese Cultural Center in Seattle in 2012 with the inscription "The Nation Will Always Remember Those Who Sacrificed."

Dr. Nguyen has shown dedication to community and advocacy for those who need it. He has lived up to the values of our nation, welcoming immigrants to his community and honoring his adopted home through his work in the Tacoma community.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to express my gratitude for Dr. Dung Xuan Nguyen's inspirational medical care and volunteerism to the lives of Tacoma's citizens and their families today in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR.  
NOAH SPENCER SMITH

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Reverend Dr. Noah Spencer Smith and to recognize his decades of service to the citizens of Minneapolis.

Born in Marion, Indiana in 1908, Reverend Dr. Smith's parents enriched his childhood through music, art, and a lasting devotion to the African Methodist Episcopal church. After graduating high school in 1927, Reverend Dr. Smith's love of music led him to drum in a jazz band, touring and composing songs for many years. He later took a job as a railroad dining car waiter to support his family.

Eventually settling in Minneapolis and joining St. Peter's AME Church, Reverend Dr. Smith was active in choir, Sunday school, and the Order of Service before answering his