

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

deeper calling to enter the ministry. In 1960, Reverend Dr. Smith was ordained as an itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, receiving a pastorate at St. Mark's Church in Duluth, MN. He returned to Minneapolis in 1988 to serve the congregation of St. James' Church, the oldest black congregation in Minnesota, until reaching the mandatory retirement age of 90.

Reverend Dr. Smith was among the oldest graduates from three separate Minnesota colleges. He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Minneapolis Community College at age 74, a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Macalester College at age 78, and a Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary at the age of 81. An exceptional student, Reverend Dr. Smith received the Sidney Barrow Award in Religion during his time at Macalester, and in 2013 was bestowed an honorary Doctorate of Ministry from United Theological Seminary at 105 years old.

Reverend Dr. Smith was widely admired and respected both in the Minneapolis community and in the African Methodist Episcopal Church worldwide. After his retirement from St. James' at 90, he tirelessly worked for 16 more years as a member of the Wayman Church ministerial staff where he continued to preach, helped found the Wayman Church Bible Institute, taught Bible studies, and mentored many members of the clergy. Reverend Dr. Smith's final ministerial act was September 6, 2015, giving a scripture lesson during service at Lily of The Valley Church in Apple Valley, Minnesota. Lily of the Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church is a church that he not only helped found, but was also the first AME church to open in Minnesota in nearly 80 years.

Reverend Dr. Noah Spencer Smith passed away on September 24, 2015 at the age of 107. At the time of his death, Reverend Dr. Smith was the oldest active minister in the United States. His memory stands as an example for all in Minneapolis never to cease your calling. Through a deep dedication to his faith, he fostered a community that will blossom for years to come.

2015 PERSON OF THE YEAR: LISA KRUSE

### HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lisa Kruse of McGregor, Minnesota for being named 2015 Person of the Year by the Aitkin Age for her outstanding service to her community.

As Director of Community Education Lisa works tirelessly to promote wellness to all people in her community. She has brought activities to McGregor for all ages, from indoor recess equipment, to an ice rink at the High School, and to fitness classes for seniors.

The programs Lisa helps bring to her community go beyond physical health. Recently she attended training to educate others in her community on the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences. She obtained grants to make McGregor schools a Reading Corps site where additional reading help is available for struggling students to promote literacy to early

readers in kindergarten through third grade. Her assistance to McGregor's Early Childhood program helped it earn Parent Aware's highest rating of four stars.

In addition to all she does to promote education and wellness Lisa was instrumental in bringing the Governor's fishing opener to Aitkin County for the first time ever. After four years of hard work by Lisa the 2016 Governor's Fishing Opener will be held at Big Sandy Lake nearby her hometown. She is a great example of what it means to be an active citizen.

Once again I would like to thank Lisa Kruse for all she does for her hometown of McGregor, Minnesota.

DELANO STEWART

### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary leader and pillar of the Tampa Bay legal community, Mr. Delano Stewart.

Delano Stewart retired in July 2015 after an illustrious 50-year legal career in the state of Florida. A graduate of Hillsborough County public schools, Mr. Stewart went on to matriculate from Morehouse College and Howard University Law School. His memorable career began as the first African-American Assistant Public Defender in Hillsborough County's history. In 1970, he went on to open the first integrated law firm in the state of Florida. In addition to his legal work, Mr. Stewart was the first African-American elected to the Board of Directors of the Hillsborough County Bar Association, and the first African-American member of the Rough Riders civic club.

Mr. Stewart's memorable career was shaped by many stalwart figures in the civil rights movement. At the age of 12, inspired by a visit from Thurgood Marshall, who was in Tampa as an NAACP attorney assisting in the African-American teachers' campaign for equal pay, Mr. Stewart desired to become a lawyer. His passion for the civil rights movement was further stoked upon traveling to Washington, DC for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Additionally, Mr. Stewart is proud to champion Garland Stewart, the first African-American administrator in Hillsborough County school district history who played a key role in integrating the district, as the greatest influence on his life.

Beyond his legal career, he founded The Delano S. Stewart Diversity Award which is given each year to an individual for lifetime achievements in improving the lives of African-Americans and promoting diversity in the legal profession.

During this new chapter of his life, Mr. Stewart plans on spending more time with his wife and their six children and eight grandchildren as well as working on his novel. In Delano Stewart's own words he is not retiring, rather he is finding new ways to help people with his specialized legal training. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in honoring Mr. Delano Stewart for his lifelong commitment to fairness and justice for all.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I introduced a resolution recognizing February 1–5th as National School Counseling Week. This resolution is an important one; school counselors are critical to the success of our students, particularly the ones who are at a high risk of dropping out.

We ask much of our counselors. The recommended counselor to student ratio is one to 250, while the national average is almost double that; one to 482. Each year, only 80% of students are graduating from high school. Schools desperately need more counselors who can put students on the path to success by ensuring they have the tools they need to graduate.

In the spirit of properly recognizing hard-working school counselors across the country, today I wish to honor the work of an incredible school counselor and administrator from Montebello Unified School District, Andy Costello. Recently retired, he spent much of his career working for Montebello Unified, and has become a pillar of our community.

Mr. Costello has a passion for supporting and uplifting students and their families. Always going above and beyond to make sure families received the best guidance and support possible. Now retired, Andy continues to be engaged with the community. Mr. Costello is involved in counseling associations, and the college access program, College Bound Today, at Montebello Unified.

It is important to recognize leaders like Mr. Costello. The true heroes of our community. The ones that help make our future brighter, by uplifting the next generation. He has had an immense impact on our community.

IN HONOR OF PAT HOSFORD'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, born into an American energy family, Patrick Eugene Hosford arrived on February 6, 1936 in Seminole, Oklahoma where his father was working for what was then known as Gulf Oil. Eugene and June Hosford's oldest son, like his father, would go on to graduate from the University of Oklahoma and immediately put his engineering degree to work in the energy industry.

For many years, Pat worked for Pan American, which became Amoco. Then Pat ventured out on his own forming his own energy companies and making his mark as an independent oilman. Pat even formed a manufacturing company to make pup joints for the energy industry.

A quarter century ago Pat, and his lovely wife of 59 years, Colleen, whom he met on the campus at the University of Oklahoma, made The Woodlands their home. Their three sons all earned engineering degrees from the