

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF DR. JANETTE HOSTON HARRIS

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Janette Hoston Harris, an educator, historian, public servant, and activist, who died on November 2, 2018 at the age of 79.

In 1960, during her senior year, Dr. Harris was one of six Southern University students arrested for trying to desegregate an all-white lunch counter in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The students were also expelled from the university by order of the governor and prohibited from attending any college in the state. While attending Central State University in Ohio, Dr. Harris' case challenging segregation, *Hoston v. State of Louisiana*, went before the Louisiana Supreme Court and in time became part of the larger *Garner v. State of Louisiana* case, which was won by future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall in 1962.

In 2004, Dr. Harris, along with her fellow sit-in comrades was awarded an honorary degree from Southern University, 44 years after the state officials forced her from campus and from attending any Louisiana institution of higher education.

Dr. Janette Hoston Harris was born on September 7, 1939, in Monroe, Louisiana; her mother, Maud Marrie Hoston, was a homemaker and her father, Eluin Homer Hoston, was a printer and businessman who opened the first shoe store in Louisiana for African Americans, "Hoston's Shoes and Bootery."

In 1956, Dr. Harris earned her high school diploma from Carroll High School in Monroe, Louisiana, where she was a member of the English and spelling bee clubs and the basketball team. From 1956 until 1960, Dr. Harris attended Southern University, where she was active in the Methodist club, a co-founder of Gamma Sigma Sigma sorority, and captain of the drill team. Dr. Harris completed her education at Central State University in Ohio, where she earned her B.A. degree in psychology in 1962.

After her graduation, Dr. Harris worked in the selection division of the Peace Corps. From 1964 until 1970, Dr. Harris had a career in education, teaching second, fourth, fifth and sixth grades in Washington, D.C. public schools. From 1970 until 1972, Dr. Harris worked as a research associate for the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. Dr. Harris earned her master's degree in history in 1972 and her Ph.D. degree in 1975 from Howard University.

Dr. Harris took on numerous roles in Washington, D.C. throughout her professional life. In 1975, Dr. Harris began teaching history at Federal City College, now known as the University of the District of Columbia. That same year she established a consulting firm, JOR Associates. From 1979 until 1980, Dr. Harris served as campaign manager for the Carter Mondale Re-election Campaign. In 1991, Dr. Harris was appointed director of educational affairs for Washington, D.C., where she remained for a year. For the next three years, Dr. Harris served as director of the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations under Mayor Marion S. Barry, Jr; in 1998, she was

appointed city historian for Washington, D.C., the first person to hold the post; serving as the president of Carter G. Woodson's Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in Washington; and being appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser to the D.C. Commission to Commemorate and Recognize the Honorable Marion S. Barry, Jr. She was also awarded a Southern University Alumni Federation Lifetime Achievement Award from the school in July of 2018.

Dr. Harris was a proud member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., an artist, and the author of *Black crusaders in History*, *Congress and Government: Teacher's Guide* and other books.

Our nation has lost a trailblazer, a champion for civil rights, and a woman of many firsts. Dr. Janette Hoston Harris, legacy will forever be a part of this nation's history and her dedication to justice embodies the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Dr. Harris, but surely, we can try to match her sense of service. We cannot match Dr. Harris' courage, but we can strive to match her devotion.

Dr. Harris is survived by her husband, Rudolph Harris; their son, Rylan; and daughter, Junie.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Janette Hoston Harris.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Commission of Fine Arts District of Columbia Home Rule Act. This bill is necessary to prohibit the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) from exercising authority over non-federal property in the District of Columbia.

Under presidential executive orders (EOs) and federal law, the CFA has review authority for D.C.-owned parks and buildings, as well as certain private land in D.C. Under the relevant EOs, CFA has review authority for the design of D.C.-owned parks and buildings. Under the Shipstead-Luce Act, CFA has review authority for the design of private buildings in the District "adjacent to public buildings and grounds of major importance," such as Rock Creek Park and the Potomac riverfront. Under the Old Georgetown Act, the CFA has review authority for the design of private buildings in the part of Georgetown referred to as "Old Georgetown" in the act. The members of the CFA are appointed by the President.

The federal government, including the CFA, has no business in local land-use policies and decisions. Not only is the federal government's authority over D.C. buildings and private property anti-democratic, it also delays and increases the cost of public and private development in the District.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF COACH KAREN
KLASSNER ON HER INDUCTION
TO THE PENNSYLVANIA SPORTS
HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor coach Karen Klassner, who was inducted to the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame on November 3, 2018. Klassner was among those honored during the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame held in Plains, PA.

Since 1972, Klassner has served as the head coach of the field hockey team at Wyoming Seminary. She has led her teams to win six state championships, six district championships, and ten league championships. Additionally, Sem has made twenty-eight district playoff appearances (after joining the PIAA in 1985) and 14 state tournament appearances. She also led her team to victory at the Moravian Tournament eight times, most recently in 2017. Her overall field hockey coaching record is 660-171-46.

Klassner's unparalleled leadership ability has been recognized throughout her career. She was named "Coach of the Year" seven times, named 2006 Developmental Coach of the Year by the United States Field Hockey Association, inducted into the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2009, inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 2003, and named national coach of the year in field hockey by the National High School Coaches Association in 2009. She has also dedicated her time and expertise to various service positions, including chairing the PA All-State Selection Committee from 1998 to 2009 and serving as the president of PA State Field Hockey State Coaches Association from 1998 to 2009. In addition to coaching field hockey at Sem, she currently serves as a consultant for the Keystone State Games.

It is an honor to recognize Klassner's achievements and her impressive career at Wyoming Seminary, and it is fitting that she should be inducted as a member of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. I join with the members of the Hall of Fame in recognizing Klassner's career and in celebrating her impact on Wyoming Seminary athletics for decades.

RECOGNIZING RYAN TOPPER

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave actions of Ryan Topper from Bremen.

Ryan is a student, a rising football star, and a lifesaver. Good instinct and determination tend to give people the opportunity to achieve, but for Ryan, these qualities also helped him change the course of his best friend's life.

One night, Ryan and friends were driving to a lake house for the evening. Ryan, driving ahead of his friends, realized their truck was