

addition, Dr. Wisdom has served on the faculty of the University of Michigan Medical School's Department of Medical Education since 1987 and has taught as an adjunct professor in U of M's School of Public Health. Dr. Wisdom's work focuses on health disparities, health care equity, chronic disease, unhealthy eating habits, and infant mortality, to name a few.

Throughout her professional endeavors, Dr. Wisdom has witnessed firsthand the importance of a diverse and inclusive workforce that can provide equitable treatment to patients. Dr. Wisdom's exceptional efforts have been instrumental in improving the health of those disproportionately affected by poor health outcomes, and her work continues to make a difference in patient care. Dr. Wisdom's passion and professional expertise makes her an excellent addition to the Advisory Committee on Minority Health, where she will assist the committee in discovering ways to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Dr. Kimberly Dawn Wisdom on her appointment to the Advisory Committee on Minority Health. We are grateful for her lifetime of impactful work and wish her many years of continued success.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution to support the goals and ideals of the American Legion on their 100th anniversary. The American Legion is our country's largest wartime veterans service organization and has advocated for a countless number of veterans, servicemembers, families, and communities.

Federally chartered by Congress in 1919, the American Legion evolved from a group of war-hardened World War I veterans to one of the most influential nonprofit organizations in America today. The Legion is committed to mentoring youth, sponsoring beneficial programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continuing devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

The nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization has given countless hours of service and produced millions of dollars in donations at local, state, and national levels. While American veterans have valiantly served to protect our country and interests around the world, the contributions from the Legion assist these veterans and their families during times of need and stand behind the issues most important to our nation's veterans.

The Legion now has approximately 2 million members of the Armed Forces and veterans in its membership in over 13,000 posts worldwide. A gift from the people of Indiana, the National Headquarters of The American Legion is located in Indianapolis near the Indiana War Memorial Plaza. As the Representative

for the 7th Congressional District of Indiana, I am proud to have such an important and meaningful organization, headquartered in Indianapolis, especially one that has done so much for the well-being of our country's veterans and communities.

Among other notable members, three Hoosiers have served as National Commander of the American Legion. Paul V. McNutt, George N. Craig, and Frank I. Hamilton all served in the highest echelons of leaderships at the Legion as National Commander.

Paul McNutt was an American diplomat and politician who served as the National Commander of the American Legion (1928 to 29), 34th Governor of Indiana (1933 to 37), high commissioner to the Philippines, administrator of the Federal Security Agency, and Chairman of the War Manpower Commission and ambassador to the Philippines.

Craig was the 39th Governor of the State of Indiana from 1953 until 1957. A lawyer and veteran of World War II who was promoted to serve as a division command staff, Craig first gained popularity in the state as National Commander of The American Legion (1949 to 50). Craig served four years with the 80th U.S. Infantry Division in General George Patton's hard-hitting Third Army. He participated in all the bitter fighting of the Patton campaigns in northern France, in the Rhineland, in the Ardennes and in Germany. Through battlefield promotions he reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Hamilton was born in Indianapolis, the home of American Legion National Headquarters, on January 6, 1923. He attended public schools, graduating from Wiley High School in Terre Haute; earned his BS degree from Indiana University, and received his LLB and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees from the Indiana University Law School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in 1942, and went on active duty later that same year. In 1945 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant at the Infantry School in Ft. Benning, Georgia, and served with the U.S. Army of Occupation in Japan. He was separated from active service in 1946 but held his commission until 1953, when he resigned with the rank of First Lieutenant.

Hamilton was a practicing attorney in his home community of Greensburg. He was a member of the Decatur County and Indiana State Bar Association. He served as chairman of the Indiana State Veterans Commission and as a member of the Governor's Economic Committee of the Ninth District of Indiana. Hamilton was extremely active in a number of civic, fraternal, professional and service organizations including: Past Exalted Ruler, Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, Lodge 475; President and Chairman of the Board of Lambda Corporation of Sigma Chi social fraternity; Chairman, Indiana University Varsity Club of Decatur County; President, Decatur County Bar Association, and Deacon of the Presbyterian Church. He held membership in many other social and fraternal organizations, including several Masonic Orders.

Another notable figure in the Legion's history includes former Marine Corps Lieutenant General Carol Mutter. She is the first woman in the history of the United States Armed Forces to be appointed to a three-star grade. She retired from the Marine Corps on January 1, 1999, and her last active duty assignment was as Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower and

Reserve Affairs (DC/S, M&RA) at Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Mutter currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana and is a member of Legion Post 438.

Finally, I applaud The American Legion for its more recent efforts in recognizing the military contribution of African-Americans and working to reflect that historical contribution in their leadership ranks. For example, Willie D. Ransom was appointed national sergeant-at-arms of The American Legion on August 30, 2018, at the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis. The sergeant-at-arms preserves the order at national meetings and performs such other duties as may be assigned by the National Executive Committee or national officers.

A Vietnam-era veteran, Mr. Ransom retired from the U.S. Army as a master sergeant. Willie is a member of Maj. Charles A. Ransom American Legion Post 186 in Midlothian, Va. The post was named in honor of Willie's son, U.S. Air Force Maj. Charles A. Ransom, who was killed in action on April 27, 2011, while serving in Kabul, Afghanistan. Willie is a past department commander of Virginia and has also served as the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation chairman for the department.

I recognize the organization and its members for their unrelenting dedication to improving the lives of servicemembers and veterans across the country. With the American Legion's success depending on active membership, participation, and volunteerism, I look forward to working alongside the organization to ensure another 100 years of excellence.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this resolution to recognize The American Legion on its 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING VERMALENE SMITH'S VSO SERVICE

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vermaleene Smith of Jonesboro, Arkansas, who faithfully served as the Craighead County Veterans Service Officer the past 12 years. Without a doubt, our country's 18-plus million veterans would be much better served if every VSO had Ms. Smith's knowledge, determination, and passion.

When I first took office in 2011, Ms. Smith literally opened her office doors to my veteran's caseworker, allowing her to observe and learn the VA processes so we could best serve veterans in the first congressional district of Arkansas. Since then, Ms. Smith readily made herself available to my office, offering us advice and direction when veterans experienced complex issues or bureaucratic red tape.

If a veteran had a need, Ms. Smith pinpointed a resource to fill it. She often located suits or clean clothes for veterans facing job interviews. She found places for veterans to live while in transition, even contacting local hotels to provide lodging. She made sure no veteran was buried without a proper funeral. And in situations where Ms. Smith did not have an available resource, she organized efforts to create one.

Yes, finding Ms. Smith's replacement will prove daunting. She, however, leaves behind the most treasured legacy of all—that of investing in people, including the veterans for whom she cares so deeply and the individuals seeking to help them. Consequently, I have no doubt Craighead County is left in good hands based on the leadership example Ms. Smith set.

My office formally congratulates Ms. Vermalene Smith on her retirement, and we wish her many happy years ahead reflective of the stellar service she provided veterans in Northeast Arkansas.

HONORING THE SERRANO FAMILY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Serrano Family, who have been recognized as honorees at this year's Harvest of Hope Dinner by Catholic Charities in Merced, California. Their strong faith and commitment to serving others have distinguished them as stellar members of their church community that are very deserving of this recognition.

David Serrano was born to Florencio and Anita Serrano on August 13, 1941. The family lived in Chowchilla, California before moving across the highway to Le Grand in the late 50's when the family purchased their farm. Raised in a family with a strong Catholic faith, David joined the Newman Club while attending Fresno State, where he met his future wife, RoseAnn Burkhart, who had also grown up in a strong Catholic household and was an integral member of their parish, Our Lady of Lourdes (OLL).

The commitment to faith exhibited by David and RoseAnn guided them as they raised their family and instilled this faith in each of their children: Christine, Danielle, Matthew, and Michael. Their family remained active in the OLL parish throughout their childhood and volunteered for various ministries in the church. David and RoseAnn became mentors for many and over the years, were asked to be Godparents for multiple children and adults.

David and RoseAnn's unwavering commitment to their religion undoubtedly contributed to the strong character present in each of their children, all of whom continue to remain active in the Catholic faith. Each of their children has remained committed to passing their faith traditions along to the next generation while continuing to serve others.

Their daughters Christine and Danielle, in addition to their son Michael, his wife Erika and daughter Catalina, are all active members of OLL. Christine and Danielle continue to pass along their family's faith traditions as Godparents to Catalina. Their son Matthew and his wife Kimberly are active in Sacred Heart Schools, where their children Isabela and William attend. Though RoseAnn passed suddenly on June 25, 2017, her exceptional family continues to carry on her legacy she built.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring an exceptional family that has been guided by their strong Catholic and distinguished service to their community. I wish the Serrano family and Catholic Charities

of Merced the best as they are recognized as honorees at the 2019 Harvest of Hope Dinner.

RECOGNIZING THE CLEAR LAKE AME CHURCH FOR ITS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Clear Lake African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) for nearly three decades of Christian ministry in the Clear Lake area of Houston, Texas, and the dedication of their new church home. The church is growing, both in membership and spiritual richness, and has embraced its mission statement, "Kingdom Building, One Soul at a Time."

The first meeting to organize an AME church in the Clear Lake City area began with prayer and praise on August 18, 1992, in the home of Reverend Brenda Payne and her family. Bro. Jerry Payne led the praise service, Presiding Elder X.L. Williams of the South Houston District read the scripture, and Rev. Payne offered prayer. There were nine adults and five children present at the very first worship service.

In October 1992, at the Texas Annual Conference held at Shiloh AME Church in Galveston, Texas, Bishop John R. Bryant formally gave Rev. Brenda Payne an appointment to begin a mission church in the Clear Lake area. On November 29, 1992, Clear Lake AME held its first 11 AM worship service at the Piper's Meadow Community Center in Webster, Texas. Bible study continued initially in the home of the pastor until it was moved to the Piper's Meadow Community Center in July 1993. Clear Lake added Sunday Church School at Piper's Meadow on January 9, 1994.

On March 3, 1995, Clear Lake AME glorified God for the first time in a new "home" located on El Camino Real road. The Nehemiah Ministry, under the direction of Wilbert Williams, built an altar and carpeted the pulpit area, helping to transform the former office space into a church sanctuary. On April 16, 1996, Clear Lake AME Church purchased 3.5 acres near the NASA Johnson Space Center and the University of Houston—Clear Lake. This land is believed to be the first church property purchased by African Americans in the historic Clear Lake area.

In October 1999, Clear Lake AME Church joined with Primm Chapel AME Church, LaMarque, Reedy Chapel AME Church, Galveston, and St. James AME Church, Dickinson to form the "Mainland 4." The four churches, though small in numerical size, hosted the Texas Annual Conference.

At the 134th Session of the Texas Annual Conference in October 2000, Bishop McKinley Young appointed Rev. Arthur Ferguson Pastor of Clear Lake AME Church. Rev. Arthur Ferguson preached the gospel of peace, love, and reconciliation, preparing the church to grow and become a beacon in the Clear Lake community.

On Saturday, November 18, 2006, at the Post Conference Planning Meeting of the Texas Annual Conference, Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, Presiding Prelate, appointed

Reverend Kevin L. Hodge to serve as Pastor of Clear Lake AME Church. Pastor Hodge and his new bride, First Lady LaShawn Hodge, came with a vision to take the congregation "to the next level" of spiritual growth, church construction, and church expansion. On Sunday, July 1, 2007, Clear Lake AME moved the congregation to its current location on Sea Lark Road.

On Sunday, February 17, 2013, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie moved Pastor and Sister Hodge to a ministry at Shiloh AME Church in Galveston, Texas. On Saturday, March 8, 2013, Reverend Derrick Cyprian was appointed Pastor of Clear Lake AME Church. Rev. Cyprian, his wife Chalita, and their two sons, Derrick and Jared, came with excitement and a desire to help the community reach their committed goals: to grow spiritually, increase God's kingdom, and build a home sanctuary to house Clear Lake AME Church ministries.

The Clear Lake African Methodist Episcopal Church is committed to fulfilling the Great Commission through worship, fellowship, youth programs, outreach initiatives, and Christian education. The Lord has used this church as an amazing witness, and we are privileged to have such a place of worship in the 36th Congressional District of Texas.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF JOHN RUDD AT THE CAYUGA MEDICAL CENTER

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of John Rudd to the Cayuga Medical Center and congratulate him on his retirement.

For the last six years, John Rudd has served as the President and CEO of Cayuga Medical Center. Upon its creation in 2014, John was also named President and CEO of Cayuga Health System. Before that, John served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Cayuga Medical Center for seventeen years. His dedicated service and wealth of experience has ensured the highest of quality service, that Cayuga Medical Center is known for, to people in the Finger Lakes Region.

Under John's leadership, Cayuga Medical Center has grown and experienced a major expansion of their services. He oversaw the opening of the Cayuga Wellness Center as well as the opening of the hospital's first cath lab. John is responsible for forging partnerships and collaboration with organizations such as Mayo Laboratories, University of Rochester Medical Center, and Roswell Park. He was also instrumental in the efforts to join Cayuga Medical Center and Schuyler Hospital as Cayuga Health System, producing a successful system with both hospitals performing well.

John's dedication to the well-being of his community extends far beyond his place of work, as he has served on numerous community boards. He has worked with organizations such as Franziska Racker Centers, OAR, United Way Tompkins County, Tompkins County Area Development, Central New York