

CELEBRATING NORMAN WISEMAN
ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norman Wiseman, a great Hoosier celebrating his 80th birthday.

Norman was born on September 25, 1939, in Ridge Farm, Illinois, as the youngest of three brothers. At a young age, Norman moved with his family to northern Indiana, where he attended Madison High School and fell in love with his late wife, Sonja Gall. They graduated in 1958 and got married a year later on Valentine's Day.

Through a lot of hard work, dedication, and compassion for one another, Norman and Sonja built a beautiful life together full of love, laughter, and happiness. They had children, started a business, grew a garden every summer, and even raised honey bees. Norman has always been active in the community and has taught his family the cherished lessons of kindness, integrity, and faith.

Though his business, Wiseman Plumbing, is Norman's passion, his greatest accomplishments are the positive contributions he has made to the lives of those around him and his family. He remained steadfast and committed as his business thrived, and he continues to work years after he closed up his shop. When he's not working, he loves connecting with people and spending time around the community. At church he is known as "Norman the Doorman," greeting churchgoers each Sunday.

His wife Dee and his five children, four grandchildren, and first great-grandchild, David, are life's true blessings for Norman. All who know him are undoubtedly touched by his friendliness and spirit, and I am humbled to call him a friend.

Madam Speaker, Norman Wiseman sets a profound example as a good father, loving grandfather, avid businessman, and caring friend. On behalf of 2nd District Hoosiers, I wish Norman a very happy birthday and many more years of continued health and happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LOCAL
781 CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE
FIGHTERS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize and celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Local 781 chapter of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF). For seventy-five years, Local 781 firefighters in Independence, Missouri, have proudly served and protected their community.

Supporting one of the oldest municipalities in Jackson County, Missouri, the contributions of Local 781 are engrained in the complex history of the Independence Fire Department and steeped in tradition, dedication and bravery. In 1843, as the prospering village flourished, so

did a growing need to protect what they had established, leading to the emergence of the Independence Fire Department.

Consisting of volunteer fire fighters, the Independence Fire Department originally fought fires in the community with buckets as their only equipment. For 175 years, the Independence Fire Department has upheld this same tenacious, innovative spirit. It has evolved and grown to meet the everchanging needs of the community it serves, and today encompasses ten fire stations, over 150 personnel, an area of seventy-eight square miles, and an institution that boldly protects and serves the community.

The men and women employed by the Independence Fire Department have been proudly and faithfully represented by the Local 781 chapter of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) since the formation of the local chapter in 1944, empowering them to maintain the same selfless sacrifice in the protection of countless lives.

Moreover, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) represents more than 295,000 full-time professional firefighters and paramedics who protect eighty-five percent of the nation's population. This endeavor is assisted by the nearly 3,100 affiliates and their members in every state across the United States and Canada. The IAFF not only represents firefighters and paramedics but also includes state employees, federal workers, and fire and emergency medical personnel employed at certain industrial facilities.

As leaders, advocates, and champions for its members, the International Association of Fire Fighters has played a pivotal role in every advance in fire and emergency services in the 20th century. From the introduction of shift schedules early in the last century to the enactment of SAFER in 2003, which helps bolster access to careers in essential emergency response, ensuring better work conditions for these responders, and providing established professional standards for fire service. The IAFF has consistently been there to fight for responders and improvements to public safety.

Today, the International Association of Fire Fighters continues to spearhead policy that ensures the well-being of its members and places emphasis on their ability to safely execute their duties. The growth and success of this institution is reflective of its member-driven initiatives and commitment to be an organization for firefighters, by firefighters.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of Local 781 chapter of the International Association of Fire Fighters. Let us join in recognizing the bravery of its members, both past and present, who honorably serve the community of Independence, Missouri.

CELEBRATING THE PASTORAL AN-
NIVERSARY OF PASTOR EDDIE
WILLIAMS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Eddie Williams for his thirteen years of service to the congregation at

Lakeridge Village Ministries Church of God in Christ.

Lakeridge Village Ministries was founded on the principle of uplifting people from all walks of life in spirituality and that the gift of spirituality is not limited to clergy. Pastor Williams has sought to lead his flock under that guidance, fostering a true sense of community and caring for the most vulnerable. In addition to his work in ministry, Pastor Williams has sought to expand resources and options for people suffering from the pain of addiction and mental illness. His work at Lakeridge Village has accomplished so much in fighting the stigma around mental health issues and connecting those struggling with substance abuse to the assistance they need. In short Pastor Williams has performed outstanding service to the community through his ministry and charitable work.

Please join me in tribute to Pastor Eddie Williams in celebration of his thirteen years in spiritual service to Lakeridge Village Ministries Church of God in Christ.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ATAXIA
AWARENESS DAY

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Ataxia Awareness Day, and to honor the courage of the one hundred and fifty thousand Americans living with Ataxia, a neurodegenerative disease that affects the ability to coordinate movement. Those with Ataxia may have difficulty walking, speaking, and executing fine motor skills, and for some may lead to early death.

I would also like to honor the contributions of the National Ataxia Foundation, which is dedicated to improving the lives of those impacted by Ataxia including those with the disease, and their caregivers through support, education, and research.

I applaud their commitment and advocacy at the State and Federal levels to raise awareness of this disease and urge my colleagues to learn more about it and laud the efforts being taken to break down the isolation barriers and misconceptions around Ataxia.

I especially want to thank my constituent, Ms. Kim Brown for reaching out to me and my office to raise awareness of Ataxia and support research efforts to benefit those in my district and across the nation who live with this condition.

Today I stand in solidarity with all Americans battling Ataxia, and the dedicated scientists, health care workers, and caregivers who support them. I look forward to the day when this devastating condition can be cured.

HONORING SENIOR SPECIAL
AGENT LAZARO "LARRY" COSME

HON. DENVER RIGGLEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Special Agent Lazaro