

both congratulations and thanks to the Rotary Club of Peekskill and its past and current members for their century of service to our community.

HONORING TC AND MAEGAN
SCHWINDLING AND ALL ADOPTIVE
FAMILIES IN ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2019

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, our opening prayer yesterday morning was offered by Pastor Phil Waldrep from Decatur, Alabama. I want to thank Pastor Waldrep for his dedication to the scripture and his passion for families.

Six years ago, Pastor Waldrep's extended family grew through the gift of adoption. In Spring of 2013, his oldest daughter, Maegan Schwindling, and her husband, TC, began pursuing adoption from the Democratic Republic of Congo. They were matched at the beginning of summer 2013 with a young girl in Lubumbashi, DRC.

Things took an unfortunate turn a few months later. On September 25, 2013, adoptions from the DRC came to a halt as President Kabila blocked internationally-adopted children from leaving the country. Child placement agencies and adoptive families scrambled to find their way through this roadblock yet they were undeterred in getting these children home.

I had the privilege of meeting Maegan and several other Alabama families during this season while they were stuck with children on the other side of the world. We worked closely with the Congressional Caucus on Adoption and the U.S. State Department to help these families be united here in their new homes.

Pastor Waldrep's granddaughter Zoe finally came home to the United States with Maegan and TC on April 16, 2016. She became a proud American citizen on September 27, 2016—almost 3 years to the day after President Kabila suspended international adoptions in the DRC.

On Thursday, a little over 6 years after Zoe's journey with her family began, Zoe was in the gallery to watch her grandfather open the House of Representatives in prayer. Zoe has suffered loss and tragedy in her life, but through the gift of adoption and the love and care of her parents and extended family, she has become a true example of beauty in broken places.

As the House Republican co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Adoption, I'm honored to recognize the Schwindlings and all of the adoptive families in Alabama. Next month we will celebrate National Adoption Month. May Zoe's story be a reminder to us all of the magnitude of loss and the beauty of coming home that can be found in adoption stories across the country.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND
THEODORE GIBSON

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend Theodore Gibson, champion of civil rights in Miami.

Born in 1915, Reverend Gibson emerged as a leader in South Florida's desegregation movement. Determined that his son would attend an integrated school, Reverend Gibson filed a lawsuit against Dade County Public Schools. He also led desegregation efforts at lunch counters and department stores, and even helped integrate Crandon Park Beach by leading a swim-in.

Reverend Gibson served as president of the Miami NAACP from 1954 to 1964. During that time, he refused to turn over the names of the members of the local NAACP chapter to the Florida state legislature, which was hunting for communist influence in American political organizations. Reverend Gibson was arrested and fined for standing up for the dignity of the NAACP.

In 1972, Reverend Gibson was appointed to the Miami City Commission, where he continued to promote civil rights and empower African American communities. A powerful orator and moral leader, Reverend Gibson devoted himself to the Christ Episcopal Church in Coconut Grove, where he served as a rector until his death in 1982. He is survived by his wife, Thelma Gibson.

Reverend Gibson dedicated his life to promoting the rights and welfare of the African American community of Miami. His influence continues to resonate in South Florida and will be felt for years to come. I'm proud to honor his memory.

IN RECOGNITION OF SARAH KEW

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarah Kew and congratulate her for being a Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber (SWCRC) Women of Achievement Award Honoree. Her commitment to our community in Michigan makes her a deserving recipient of SWCRC's Unsung Heroine Award.

Kiwanis International is a global community of clubs and members with a mission to "empower communities to improve the world by making lasting differences in the lives of our children." Kiwanis Clubs throughout our community embody this mission and tirelessly strive to serve the needs of children in creative ways by tackling hunger, improving literacy, promoting leadership, and offering guidance.

Kiwanis Clubs throughout Michigan cannot operate without strong and effective leaders who demonstrate a true commitment to the organization's mission. As Kiwanis of Michigan

District 5th Lieutenant Governor, Sarah Kew dutifully leads our community's Kiwanis Clubs, working quietly behind the scenes to ensure the organization continues to improve the lives of our children. Known amongst her peers and colleagues for her high degree of professionalism, compassion, and ambition, and she is well-loved and cherished by so many within the Kiwanis organization and beyond. Sarah truly embodies all the qualities of an admirable leader—she humbly strives for excellence without seeking praise or recognition for any of her significant accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sarah Kew as she receives SWCRC's Unsung Heroine Award. Sarah's dedication to our community's children is remarkable, and her continued leadership in the Kiwanis Club is deeply appreciated. Sarah truly deserves the SWCRC Unsung Heroine Award.

HONORING BILL WINKKY IN
HONOR OF HIS EIGHTIETH
BIRTHDAY

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Bill Winkky who recently celebrated his eightieth birthday.

Bill Winkky, son of Mary Emma and Robert Winkky, was born in Kingston, New York on September 29, 1939. In his eighty years of life, he has been a mentor, a friend, a father, a husband and an all-around good man that deserves to be recognized.

In 1963, Bill married Charlotte Sommerfeld and has remained by her side for the past fifty-six years. Bill has such dedication to his wife and his family, it is heartwarming to see.

Yet, his family is not the only thing he has been dedicated to over the years. He was a teacher, dedicating thirty-two and a-half years to educating and enriching the lives of the youth he taught. He also coached several sports, including football, wrestling, swimming and track. The hours he spent dedicated to young people were well spent, and he had a profound impact on his students.

Bill also has dedicated time to serving people as the Town of Veteran supervisor for ten years and continues to hold this role now.

It is not often you have the pleasure of meeting a man as dedicated to helping others as Bill Winkky. He is a pillar in the community, has given so much of himself to our youth through his coaching and teaching tenure. He continues to do a great deal as the Town of Veteran supervisor. I am honored to know him, and I am equally honored to celebrate his achievements, his legacy of hard-work, compassion and community-mindedness here today.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to honor Bill Winkky on his eightieth birthday.