

Republic until annexation, the United States again, and then the Southern Confederacy.

Mr. McKinney's life of public service and dedication to the cause of freedom should inspire each of us. I am proud to honor this statesman and encourage every Texan to study his life so that we may continue his legacy.

HONORING DR. ROLANDO D. HERTS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Black Professional, Dr. Rolando D. Herts, a resident of Cleveland, Mississippi.

Dr. Rolando D. Herts is the Director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. The Delta Center serves as the management entity for the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area, a partnership between the people of the Mississippi Delta and the National Park Service designed to promote understanding of the Delta's cultural heritage through education, tourism, and economic development. The Delta Center also oversees the International Delta Blues Project, a three-tiered initiative featuring an International Conference on the Blues, the development of an academic blues studies program, and a Blues Leadership Incubator for entrepreneurship and economic development, which aligns with Delta State University's goal of becoming a destination for blues education with GRAMMY Museum Mississippi.

Previously, Dr. Herts was Associate Director with the Office of University-Community Partnerships (OUCP) at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. In this capacity, he helped to advance a learning organization model that integrates university-community partnership development, campus and community event planning and management, and campus and visitor information functions. During his tenure with Office of University-Community Partnerships, Dr. Herts collaborated with an array of local, regional, and state entities—including the Greater Newark Convention and Visitors Bureau, Brick City Development Corporation, New Jersey Department of Travel and Tourism, the City of Newark, the Rutgers Center for Latino Arts and Culture, WBGO 88.3 Jazz FM radio, and the Newark Literacy Campaign—to help promote the university and the surrounding community and region as distinctive educational destinations. As a Leadership Newark Fellow, he was presented the Berkowitz Distinguished Service Award for his commitment to the Greater Newark community.

Prior to working at Rutgers, Dr. Herts was a faculty member with the Fanning Institute, a public service unit at the University of Georgia where he was selected to participate in the Emerging Engagement Scholars Workshop of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium. He also served as program director of INSPIRE/TRIO Student Support Services, a top-funded federal retention and graduation program for first-generation college students at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. In addition, he completed a two-year teaching commitment

with Teach For America in the Mississippi Delta region where he taught second grade at Carver Elementary School. He was awarded a "Certificate of Appreciation for Excellence in Teaching" from the Indianola Association of Educators.

Dr. Herts holds a Ph.D. Degree in Planning and Public Policy from Rutgers Graduate School-New Brunswick and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. His dissertation *From Outreach to Engaged Placemaking: Understanding Public Land-Grant University Involvement with Tourism Planning and Development* examines university-community tourism engagement as a destination promotion and economic development strategy. His reflective essay, "Sacred Ground, Traveling Light: Personal Reflections on University-Community Tourism Engagement," won the prize for Best Treatise in Impressions, Ruminations, Treatises: Essays on Intersectionality, Praxis, and the Educational Arena, a collection published by the Institute For Recruitment of Teachers, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts. Dr. Herts also holds a M.Phil. Degree in Planning and Public Policy from Rutgers, an M.A. Degree in Social Science from the University of Chicago, and a B.A. Degree in English from Morehouse College. His interests include university-community engagement and partnership development, community-based tourism planning, place branding/marketing, community and regional development, and interorganizational collaboration. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Cleveland, Mississippi, which is an affiliate of Rotary International, a worldwide network of business and professional leaders dedicated to humanitarian service.

Education, community engagement, public service and cultural heritage development have been prominent themes in Dr. Herts' family. His father, Dr. George E. Herts, earned a Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, became the first African-American Superintendent of schools in the Arkansas Delta community of Eudora, and subsequently completed 30 years of service at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in various leadership capacities, including Dean of the School of Education and Dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies. His mother, Dr. Ruth Simmons-Herts, earned a doctorate in Educational Administration at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and served for several years as a public school central office administrator in Little Rock, Arkansas, and as Assistant Dean of the School of Education and the Director of Performance Based Education at Langston University in Oklahoma. For over 25 years, she has served in local, regional, and national leadership roles as a member of The Links, Incorporated, an international service organization of African-American women. She also was a member of the Rotary Club of Little Rock, the oldest and largest civic organization in Arkansas, and served on several community boards including the Arkansas Arts Center and Black Community Developers, Inc., which brought the internationally-renowned Morehouse College Glee Club to Little Rock for the first time in the singing organization's history during the younger Dr. Herts' tenure as tour manager of the Glee Club and as baritone member of the Morehouse College Quartet.

Dr. Herts is dedicated to building upon the exemplary legacy of service established by his

predecessors. His great uncle, Harrison Douglass, was a contemporary of Booker T. Washington during his undergraduate years at Tuskegee University during the early 20th century, and studied and worked in agricultural extension at Iowa State University. He taught at Tuskegee, Grambling, and Southern universities and established Douglass High School for African Americans in his northern Louisiana hometown. Dr. Herts acknowledges Harrison Douglass, as well as his grandparents Mr. Archie and Leola Simmons and Mr. Hermon and Shelley Herts, as key sources of inspiration for his parents and himself as they completed higher levels of education and committed their lives to serving communities of diversity. Dr. Herts is promoting and preserving this family tradition by encouraging the next generation to learn about and celebrate their heritage. In particular, he is dedicated to sharing heritage-based educational opportunities with his sisters, nieces, and nephew.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing black professional and community landscape innovator.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NUTLEY HIGH SCHOOL CREW PROGRAM

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Nutley High School Crew Program.

The Nutley High School Crew team first began rowing on the Passaic River in 1942. Founded by Coach Bill Bennet, the crew program has provided a productive and competitive outlet for Nutley students for the past 75 years. Although the program initially was available only to male students, the early 1980s saw the introduction of a women's crew program. Since then, both the men's and women's teams have been dominant forces in high school crew, with athletes competing against some of the best teams in the United States and Canada.

Graduates of the Nutley program have gone on to have successful athletic and academic careers, with many continuing to row at some of the top college programs in the country. The industrious nature and sense of teamwork fostered by the Nutley program in its athletes are easily translatable in a variety of settings. These athletes utilize the skills developed within the program throughout their post-high school careers.

Nutley rowers are notable for the high academic performance levels they have maintained alongside their athletic achievements. The intensity of training and racing schedules in no way impedes academic performance, but rather assists in forming well-rounded, athletic students.

Nutley High School Crew alumni and their children often return to the program to continue its tradition of cultivating strong rowers and even stronger leaders. Whether coaching or rowing, these individuals are important community figures and contribute substantially to the Township of Nutley.

Over the years, both the Nutley Board of Education and the Nutley Crew Boosters have