

Audra joined the Good Company Players' junior company, and soon after, landed a role with Dan Pessano and the Good Company Players.

Audra is a graduate of Roosevelt High's School of Arts program. She continued her education in the arts at Juilliard School and graduated in 1993. Audra has seen great success on Broadway and in the Opera. In addition to having won three Tony Awards by the age of 28, Audra is the recipient of two Grammy Awards, an Emmy Award, Drama Desk Awards and Outer Critics Circle Awards.

Most notably, Audra is the recipient of six Tony Awards, making her the most statuette-laden Tony Award winner. Audra's most recent Tony Award was for her incredible portrayal of Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*.

Not only is Audra an exceptional actress, but also a wonderful person who is involved in various philanthropic endeavors. She actively gives back to her community and seeks to improve the lives of those around her. Audra is a strong champion for the LGBTQ community, ensuring that all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, are treated equally.

Audra is a source of inspiration and pride for the San Joaquin Valley and our entire nation. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Audra McDonald as she receives the National Medal of Arts for her lifelong career as a singer and actress.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH
OF NOAH ALEXANDER CORTS

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my constituents Stephanie Cortis and her husband, Alexander Cortis, on the birth of their son, Noah Alexander Cortis was born at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at Lakes Region General Hospital in Laconia, New Hampshire. Noah weighed seven pounds and five ounces and measured 19 inches. He is the first child for the happy couple and I look forward to watching him grow as he is raised by talented parents who will be dedicated to his well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Noah's grandparents, Adam and Michelle Downs of Meredith, New Hampshire, and Irene and Jochen Cortis of Remscheid, Germany. Congratulations to the entire Downs and Cortis families as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

PROTECTING REFUGEES: CAMP
LIBERTY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, an estimated 1,200 Iranian dissidents remain in Camp Liberty in Iraq at the mercies of the Iranian government in Baghdad. These refu-

gees, mainly members of the People's Mujahedin of Iran (otherwise known as the MEK) are unarmed, innocent people who have been forced to flee their homes because of their opposition to the tyrannical theocratic regime in Tehran. They have endured decades of exile outside of Iran marked by continuous suffering and persecution.

Since 2013, seven rocket attacks have targeted Camp Liberty, wounding hundreds and killing at least 139 residents. All of these attacks are believed to have been carried out either by Shiite militias in Iraq linked to the Iranian regime or by agents of the Iranian Quds Force. No one has been held accountable for these attacks. In fact, no one has even been arrested. Despite the fact that the Iraqi government signed a Memorandum of Understanding ensuring the safety and security of the residents of Camp Liberty, it appears that the Iraqi government's subservience to Iran takes precedence.

These dissidents are not safe in Iraq and must be relocated as soon as possible to some other country. Thankfully, 1,800 residents have already been resettled outside of the country, particularly in Albania, which took in the most recent batches of refugees leaving Camp Liberty in early August. However, recent reports from MEK sources within Tehran now suggest that the Quds Force is contemplating another major strike on Camp Liberty before the remaining refugees are allowed to leave. At the same time, Quds Force-linked paramilitary forces have been increasing their presence in Baghdad International Airport—a troubling sign that could presage another strike on the camp that is located not too far from the airport.

The Iranian government would like to extend the reign of terror it wages at home against any and all people who speak out against it—including the dissidents in neighboring Iraq. How many more people have to die? How many more times will unarmed refugees be attacked by rockets? The Iraqi government must live up to its commitment and protect these refugees until every last one of them finds his or her way to safety.

And that's just the way it is.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,524,335,895,543.03. We've added \$8,897,448,846,729.95 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF A FARM LESS
ORDINARY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Maya Weschler and Greg Masucci of A Farm Less Ordinary in Loudoun County for the creation of this extremely important organization. A Farm Less Ordinary strives to provide a compassionate and useful service through the agricultural industry to both Loudoun County and the Commonwealth as a whole.

Maya Weschler and Greg Masucci moved to Loudoun after buying a family farm, where they sought to provide a safe and calm environment to raise their family. After seeing the positive impact the farm had on their autistic son Max, Maya and Greg decided to learn more about farming and to establish a place for others who faced disabilities to learn valuable work skills. Their farm has grown into an organization that is able to provide a sympathetic place of work and competitive compensation for their workers, who come from their partner organizations in Loudoun and Clarke County.

Maya Weschler and Greg Masucci strongly believe in being good stewards of the land and caring for the environment. Perhaps most of all, the couple firmly believes in giving back to the community through their organization and their Community Supported Agriculture network. The success of Maya and Greg is a tremendous accomplishment and their aspirations for expansion are admirable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Maya Weschler and Greg Masucci for their service to the community through A Farm Less Ordinary. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
BROTHER DABNEY NAPOLEON
MONTGOMERY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor to join our Nation, New York State and The Village of Harlem as we celebrate the life of and pay tribute to our beloved American Hero, Brother Dabney N. Montgomery, who made his transition to his Lord and Savior on Saturday, September 3, 2016. A fellow member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and patriarch of Harlem's historic Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Dabney N. Montgomery was a member of the ground crew of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and served as a bodyguard for Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the historic 1965 March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Dabney N. Montgomery was born in Selma, Alabama on April 18, 1923 to Dred and Lula Anderson Montgomery. Brother Montgomery was drafted into the Army Air Corps during World War II and served in the 1051st Quartermaster Trucking Company of the 96th Air Service Group, attached to the 332nd Air

Fighter Group, as a ground crewman with the Tuskegee Airmen in southern Italy from 1943 to 1945. During his heroic service, Brother Montgomery was awarded a Good Conduct Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, a Service Award, the Honorable Service Medal, and a Basic Driver and Mechanic Medal.

After the War, he enrolled into Livingstone College, Salisbury, North Carolina, and received a B.A. degree in Religious Education. He served as a Charter Member of the Sphinx Club and was one of the first to be admitted into the Gamma Mu Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. In 1955, Brother Montgomery joined Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church—the oldest Black Church in the State of New York, organized in 1796 in Harlem, New York, and immediately began to serve as Sunday School Teacher.

To give you some content and background, Tuskegee University was awarded the U.S. Army Air Corps contract to help train America's first Black military aviators because it had already invested in the development of an airfield, had a proven civilian pilot training program and its graduates performed highest on flight aptitude exams. What makes the story of prominent New Yorkers such as Captain Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., Intelligence Officer Percy Sutton, Lieutenant Colonel Lee Archer, Jr., Armorer Joseph Herman Spooner and Grounds Crewman Dabney N. Montgomery remarkable, is their selflessness and devotion to a country, despite the segregation and barriers they faced. They were willing to put their lives on the line for American values and freedoms even when discrimination compromised their own rights and liberties. Through their patriotism, the walls of segregation were finally removed from our Armed Forces on July 26, 1948.

The great exploits and historic successful missions carried out by Grounds Crewman Dabney N. Montgomery and the Tuskegee Airman fighting group, who never lost a bomber on their watch, was never properly recognized by this United States government until I introduced and proudly sponsored Bill H.R.—1259. This bill, passed by Congress in 2006, awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, our highest civilian honor, to the Tuskegee Airmen. On March 29, 2007, my good friend attended the ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, where he and the other Tuskegee Airmen, collectively, not individually, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their service.

Brother Dabney Napoleon Montgomery left his indelible mark on this earth as a war hero, Veteran, moral leader, educator, husband and godfather to many devoting his life to the betterment of all humankind, community, and country. In honor of Brother Montgomery's Civil Rights legacy, "The Heels" from the shoes he wore in the 1965 historic march from Selma to Montgomery will hang in the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC, which opens September 24, 2016.

I join my colleagues and the rest of the nation as we say goodbye and pay tribute to our beloved brother, Dabney Napoleon Montgomery, a true American hero.

CELEBRATING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF TOLEDO'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial celebration of the Kiwanis Club of Toledo. Members will gather in downtown Toledo on Friday, September 23 to celebrate this milestone.

Only the ninth club in the United States, the Toledo club was chartered on May 8, 1916. Originally thought of as a "businessmen's club" to promote local business, World War 1 changed the focus to that of community service with the members raising funds for the American Red Cross' wartime services. Club membership grew as community service became firmly established. Its focus was on children, with many activities for the youth of Toledo, orphans and Boy Scouts.

According to the club's history, "The name 'Kiwanis' comes from a Native American term 'Nun Keewanis' which means 'I make noise.' The Kiwanis International motto is 'We build.' The Kiwanis Club of Toledo has taken these two expressions to heart . . . As a thriving organization of men, women and youth; we are dedicated to serving the children of Toledo and improving the quality of life worldwide."

The Kiwanis Club's commitment to Toledo and its young people runs deep. The Club sponsors scholarships for high school seniors, adopted central city schools and provides fun and opportunities for the children in those schools, financed the facility housing Assistance Dogs of America, provides for after school tutoring at the Boys and Girls Club and an annual fishing derby and Punt, Pass & Kick program, donated an elephant and the Living Stream at the Toledo Zoo, and supported various activities at Woodward High School in Toledo, the University of Toledo, the YMCA, Easter Seals Summer Camp, Toledo Hearing & Speech Center, and Bethany House shelter for women and their children. By no means complete, this list illustrates the many contributions made by members of the Kiwanis Club and their passion for service to our youth. In keeping with the spirit of giving to Toledo's children, the Kiwanis Club of Toledo has initiated a Centennial Project, partnering with the Toledo Mud Hens baseball club in ventures which will enhance the ballpark experience for families.

The members of Toledo Kiwanis have led by example for a century of service. Members have passed on a strong sense of community through the decades, demonstrating by word and deed the high ideals of Kiwanis and the dedication of its members. To the men, women and families of the Toledo Kiwanis Club, we take the opportunity of this centennial celebration to say "Thank you." Let us express our gratitude as we reflect on the past century of Kiwanis' constancy of service and leadership for community betterment. May this new century yield committed citizens of equal measure who rise above self to promote the common good.

CONGRATULATING GINNY THRASHER ON RECEIVING OLYMPIC GOLD IN THE 10 METER AIR RIFLE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Ginny Thrasher of Springfield, Virginia, on winning Olympic Gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Her dedication, hard work, and athletic prowess earned her the highest honor in the women's 10 meter air rifle event. This achievement is reserved for the most elite athletes in the world, and I am proud one of Virginia's own has joined their ranks.

Ms. Thrasher's hard work, perseverance, and excellence are exemplified in her winning this medal. Winning the first Gold of the tournament, Ms. Thrasher led the way as the United States dominated their competition, winning 46 Gold medals during the 2016 Rio Olympics. We need to recognize and encourage the dedication that athletes like Ms. Thrasher display toward their sports. It is this dedication that creates the level of excellence that Ms. Thrasher has achieved.

In addition to her Olympic greatness, Ms. Thrasher also helped the West Virginia Mountaineers win a fourth consecutive NCAA championship as she won the individual small-bore and air rifle titles at the event. She also holds more than 20 national and international records in her sport.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to highlight the importance of this award and what it represents for Ms. Thrasher, our great nation, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Thrasher on winning Olympic Gold in the women's 10 meter air rifle. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present and voting on Roll Call Number 496, I would have voted AYE.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call Number 497, I would have voted AYE.

COMMEMORATING DOUBLE TEN DAY

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, Monday, October 10 is Taiwan's National Day—also known as Double Ten Day.

The United States and Taiwan enjoy a long-standing relationship that stems from our shared values: democracy, the rule of law, and free elections. Taiwan is an increasingly important partner for our national security, and it is also one of our strongest economic partners. In fact, it was our ninth largest trading