

Fred moved to Michigan with his wife, Mary, and daughter, Virginia, taking up an editor post at the Adrian Daily Telegram. Always generous with his time and expertise, Fred consulted for the Lenawee County Democratic Party before going on to serve the public interest working with Congressman John Dingell. It was no surprise to any when Comcast asked Fred to be their man in Southeast Michigan. As the company has grown, so too has Fred's engagement in the community.

During his time with Comcast, Fred has been involved with numerous community organizations. He has served as a board member of The Guidance Center and the International Association for Organ Donation, as a founding member of Everybody Ready! and as chairman of the Great Start Collaborative for Wayne County. Fred has also served on the boards of the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the American Arab Chamber of Commerce, and the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Chambers of Commerce. Our communities have been truly enriched by Fred's commitment.

When there was a need some place, Fred was always the first to say "how do we help?" An event didn't feel complete if Fred wasn't there. Most striking was his outlook on life—always smiling, always positive and always seeing the glass half full. He is leaving our community, and his departure will create a hole in many hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Fred Eaton for his service to our community. I thank him for his leadership and wish him many years of happiness ahead of him.

COMMEMORATING THE INAUGURATION OF MR. HARVEY GODWIN JR. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LUMBEE TRIBAL COUNCIL

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the inauguration of Mr. Harvey Godwin Jr. as Chairman of the Lumbee Tribal Council, which is being held at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke's Givens Performing Arts Center on January 7, 2016.

After his inauguration as Chairman of the Tribal Council, Chairman Godwin has the honor of leading the Lumbee Tribe, which is headquartered in North Carolina's 8th Congressional District. The Lumbee Tribe is the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River with over 55,000 members, and is the ninth largest tribe in the United States.

Prior to his election as Chairman of the Lumbee Tribal Council, Chairman Godwin has been an active member of the Moss Neck community as a business leader and public servant. Chairman Godwin started his own business in the community, Two Hawk Employment Services, and currently serves on the Robeson Community College Foundation Board of Directors and the Lumber River Workforce Development Board. He also has previously served as the President of the Lumbeerton Rotary Club and was a past member of the Lumbeerton Area Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors.

This is an exciting moment for Chairman Godwin and the entire Lumbee Tribe as they celebrate the beginning of a new era in the Tribe's already proud history. Since coming to Congress in 2013, I have taken great pride in representing the Lumbee Tribe and I look forward to continuing this close relationship under Chairman Godwin.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Mr. Godwin on his election as Chairman of the Lumbee Tribal Council and wishing him well as he begins this new role.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIKESHARE TRANSIT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, America is in the middle of a bikeshare revolution: 13 new bikeshare systems launched in 2014 and 11 more launched in 2015, bringing the national total to approximately 80. More than 10 million people rode a bikeshare bicycle last year. Systems are opening in large metropolitan regions like Washington, DC and New York, as well as smaller communities like Dayton and Boise. The increased commercial investment around bikeshare stations and networks drives economic development in these communities.

Some of these existing bikeshare programs received federal monies to get off the ground, but the lack of an established funding source has proved an impediment to other projects across the country. Since the term "bikeshare" is not defined in U.S. Code or described by law as a form of transit, bikeshare systems and transportation officials alike now operate in a gray area. Congress needs to act to clarify that bikeshare projects are eligible for federal funding, providing certainty to investors, business owners, and commuters.

That is why today I am introducing the Bikeshare Transit Act. This legislation will eliminate this gray area by defining bikeshare in statute and making bikeshare systems eligible to receive funding to enhance related public transportation service or transit facilities. They will also be listed as an eligible project under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program.

Additionally, the Bikeshare Transit Act will allow federal funding to be used for acquiring or replacing bikeshare related equipment and the construction of bikeshare facilities.

The Bikeshare Transit Act will remove significant barriers facing new bikeshare projects as well as those existing bikeshare programs applying for federal funding. This legislation underscores that bikeshare programs drive economic development and are an important part of America's transportation system.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER A.J. RIVERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal

congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional public servant and outstanding citizen, Commissioner A.J. Rivers, on the occasion of his retirement as City Commissioner of Cordele, Georgia.

When Mr. Rivers was elected City Commissioner in 1972, he became the first African American elected to city-wide office in Cordele. Since that time, he has served his community zealously and with unparalleled commitment.

Commissioner Rivers served our nation with honor and distinction in World War II from 1943 to 1946. He graduated from the Holsey-Cobb Institute in Cordele in 1947. He worked for North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company for 53 years—35 of those years in management and 18 years in agency. He was certified as an Instructor for Insurance Courses by the State Insurance Commissioner's Office in 1983.

Beyond his duties and responsibilities as a public servant, Commissioner Rivers has also dedicated his personal life to serving his community. He has served as a Scout Master; Westside Chairperson of the American Cancer Society; Westside Chairperson of the American Red Cross; President of the 8th District of the Georgia Municipal Association in 2006; President and Corporate Board Member of Big/Brother Big Sister of South Georgia in 2006; and President of the Gillespie Development and Day Care Center for 17 years. He is a member of the American Legion; NAACP; Cordele Community Advancement Council; Crisp County Chamber Executive Committee; and Board of Directors for River Valley Regional Commission, among many other community and professional organizations. Notably, Commissioner Rivers is the Founder and President of the Historical Awards Committee. Always a mentor to those who worked and lived around him, Commissioner Rivers possesses the rare quality of humble leadership.

Throughout his career, Commissioner Rivers has been recognized for his commitment and leadership in the community. His awards and accolades include the 8th District Community Award from the Georgia Municipal Association in 1994; the USDA Rural Development Steadfast Award in 2002; and the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award from the Cordele Lions Club in 2014.

Commissioner Rivers' Christian faith has always instilled within him a desire to positively shape the community in which he lives. As a lifetime member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church, he regularly incorporates his faith into his commitment to public service.

After retirement, Commissioner Rivers will enjoy spending time with his wife, Vera, and their four children, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Commissioner Rivers has accomplished much in his life, but none of it would be possible without the love and support of the family he cherishes so dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Commissioner A.J. Rivers upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career spanning 44 years as City Commissioner of Cordele, Georgia.

TROOPER ELI MCCARSON, NEW
JERSEY STATE POLICE

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of fallen New Jersey State Police Trooper Eli McCarson for his extraordinary sacrifice and exemplary service to the citizens of New Jersey and the United States.

Trooper McCarson's dream was to serve his community as a member of the New Jersey State Police. His perseverance was finally rewarded in February 2015 when he graduated from the State Police Academy at the top of his class with honors. Unfortunately on December 17th, after just ten months on the force, Trooper McCarson was killed in a tragic car accident in the line of duty. His untimely death left behind his loving family—including his wife Jordan McCarson—and a grateful community.

Mr. Speaker, Trooper Eli McCarson's life reminds us that the men and women who serve and protect our communities put their lives on the line every day to protect us. I join with my community and all of New Jersey in honoring the achievements and selfless service of this truly exceptional young man.

HONORING MR. ROBERT JOHNSON,
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST FROM
GRENADA, MS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. Robert Johnson of Grenada, MS, a beloved civil rights activist and renowned public servant. He has been remembered by many as a fighter for justice, freedom and equality for all and a pillar of his community.

Johnson was born to the late Finley and Catherine Johnson on June 17, 1948, in Grenada, MS. The sixth of seven children, Robert learned the value of hard work and sacrifice. He attended Grenada High School where he played football and attended Alcorn State University on a full athletic scholarship.

In 1966, the Meredith March against fear would change the path in which Robert Johnson would take his life. Robert came back to Grenada to join the Civil Rights Movement and worked to establish and protect voting rights in Mississippi. He was the local youth leader of the Grenada County Freedom Movement. Through his work with the Grenada County Freedom Movement, he helped make the nation aware of the threats, intimidation, and lawlessness being inflicted upon Black people in the town.

He joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) as a Field Project Director and worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dr. Ralph David Abernathy to continue SCLC programs in Grenada. His work with SCLC led him on organizing efforts across the country and even in Africa.

In 1971, he was jailed for refusing to be drafted into the military and was sentenced to

five years but was released on a full pardon in 1972 by President Gerald Ford after serving eighteen months of the sentence.

Johnson continued his activism with the SCLC which led him to Covington, GA, where he met his wife Mary. They were married in November of 1974 and were later blessed with two sons, Cleon and Marcus.

Robert began working for the Metro Atlanta Transit Authority as a bus operator and in 1985 began attending Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church. He and his family joined Mt. Ephraim soon after. Robert Johnson served as a trustee on the Official Board for a number of years. In 2002, he was ordained as a deacon. Around this time, Robert was honored along with Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery, and other grassroots workers of the Civil Rights Movement with a trip to Durban, South Africa where they met South African activist and president, Nelson Mandela.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a special individual, Mr. Robert Johnson—a devoted servant of his community, a fighter for justice and equality for all people, a founder of the Grenada County Freedom Movement, and consummate family man. He will be missed by all those who know and love him.

HONORING UNC PRESIDENT TOM
ROSS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend and a devoted public servant, Tom Ross, who retired this month as President of the University of North Carolina system.

My wife Lisa and have known Tom and his wife Susan for many years. His son Tommy served in my office, making a major contribution to the development of the House Democracy Partnership. I have long admired Tom's dedication to the university, and I am very grateful for his service to our state.

A graduate of the UNC-Chapel Hill law school, Tom answered the call to serve as the UNC system's President in 2011, in the midst of some of the greatest financial challenges that the university has faced in its history. UNC not only overcame these challenges; it has thrived thanks to Tom's perseverance and strategic vision.

During his time at UNC, Tom made it easier to transfer from North Carolina community colleges to the four-year UNC institutions, expanding nontraditional students' access to higher education. He has focused effectively on the access of active-duty military and veterans to the system and on enhancing their chances to succeed. He has carefully overseen the selection of 11 new university chancellors, guaranteeing another generation of exceptional leadership for the system's 16 constituent universities.

Perhaps most importantly, Tom has led the university through economic adversity, protecting its mission and securing its financial footing. Compared to the beginning of Tom's tenure, UNC system graduation rates have risen 18 percent while spending per degree has dropped 15 percent—remarkable achievements that reflect Tom's leadership.

Tom's life has been dedicated to public service. He came to UNC from Davidson College, his alma mater and one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges, where he served as President from 2007 to 2011. At Davidson, he implemented the Davidson Trust, a new initiative designed to fully eliminate student debt through grants and student employment. This innovative program has helped ensure that Davidson graduates do not face a financial burden as they begin their careers. He also oversaw a period of exceptional growth at Davidson, in part inspired by the on-campus career of Stephen Curry, who has gone on to become the NBA MVP and a global superstar. I suppose it's true that success begets success.

Before his tenure at Davidson, Tom was President of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, which provides tens of millions of dollars annually in grants to organizations devoted to economic empowerment. Tom also spent 17 years as a judge on North Carolina's Superior Court, directed the state Administrative Office of the Courts, and led the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Committee, where he oversaw the development and implementation of new sentencing guidelines for non-violent offenders.

I cannot fail to note that Tom is leaving the presidency of UNC prematurely. The Board of Governors last year made an unexpected, unexplained decision to request his resignation, while acknowledging that his stewardship had been exemplary. This leaves little doubt that the decision was based on the fact that Tom does not share the Board's partisan loyalties. This was not only shabby treatment of an outstanding public servant; it also set a dangerous precedent for a university system that for most of its history has been free of this sort of political manipulation.

Tom has handled this difficult situation with characteristic dignity and grace. His final contribution as president may be one of his most important: to help us move beyond this episode in a way that avoids recrimination, protects the university's integrity, and builds on the many achievements of the past five years.

Lisa and I wish Tom well as he transitions to teaching and prepares for future endeavors. With Susan's unfailing support, he has made lasting contributions to our state's judicial system, nonprofit sector, and private and public higher education. He leaves our University stronger in important ways, despite the difficult economic and political environment in which he was called to lead. And he still has much to give. I am pleased to join thousands of North Carolinians in thanking him for his tireless service and in anticipating his contributions yet to come.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL EX-
TENDING ELIGIBILITY FOR NA-
TIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE
PROGRAMS TO CITIZENS OF THE
FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that would enable citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, collectively referred to as the