

REMEMBERING DEBRA KING

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Debra King, the chief executive of Community Alternatives for Supportive Abodes—known simply as “CASA”—a nonprofit that has developed housing for thousands in the Triangle counties in North Carolina. Debra died on April 14. My staff joins me in this Tribute, for we have long admired and supported her work to ensure decent housing for some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Born and raised on a small farm in Beulaville, North Carolina in 1959, Debra was the first in her family to earn a college degree, majoring in journalism at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Following graduation, she settled in Raleigh, where she began work as a medical transcriptionist. She soon transitioned into what would become a lifelong passion for non-profit work, beginning as a grant writer for Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health. One of the first grants she landed was for a housing project to support individuals with mental illnesses, a project that set her on course as a champion for affordable housing.

Soon after, the Wake County Area Mental Health Program launched CASA, seeking to secure housing for people with disabilities and mental health challenges. In 1995, CASA asked Debra to serve as its Director and CEO, overseeing 15 apartments with one other staff member.

CASA’s housing model was unique and far-sighted for its time. Rather than housing people with illnesses in group homes or transitional housing, the organization provided permanent, safe, and affordable units with access to public transportation and supportive services as needed. Through 22 years of remarkable social entrepreneurship, Debra helped the non-profit grow to a staff of 27, managing nearly 500 units in Wake, Durham, and Orange counties.

Debra’s years at CASA coincided with most of my years working on affordable housing on the House Appropriations Committee. She was masterful at pursuing available funding—picking up on the national mandate, for example, to end veterans’ homelessness—and putting together the partnerships to put units on the ground. In the process she taught me and the other elected officials and staff with whom she worked how to make public programs most effective. It was a joy to cut ribbons on completed projects with her, but the spirit of those occasions was always, “We’ve got to do more.”

When she was named “Tar Heel of the Week” by the Raleigh News & Observer in 2015, Debra declared: “The greatest gift we can give people is the chance to be who they are . . . Housing is so critical to who we are. If you lack that, how can you be okay?” She was a stalwart believer and advocate for the “Housing First” philosophy, insisting that individuals in crisis will see better outcomes if their basic needs, particularly decent housing, are met from the onset.

Debra’s compassion and dedication to her cause, combined with hard work and business

acumen, have bettered the lives of many in the greater Raleigh area and have left behind a strong organization—including many who have learned and drawn inspiration from her—that will continue to serve. We join with Debra’s family, her many friends and admirers, and members of the communities she served, in mourning her passing and honoring her life of compassionate leadership and public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAUL
HOWARD RICH

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life of Paul Howard Rich, an outstanding leader and beloved member of the community. I am honored to represent in Congress. Mr. Rich, born on April 14, 1941 in Worcester, Massachusetts later moved to Southern California where he worked his way up in the labor movement as an active member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 441. If it were not for Paul, I would not be where I am today. He was a true mentor, not only to me, but to countless young people who joined the labor movement in Southern California. During his 55 years as an IBEW member, Paul was an inspirational leader who left a lasting impact on multiple generations of electrical workers to come up through the ranks. Everything Mr. Rich championed served the greater good.

Beyond his dedication to social justice at work, Paul was an active member of his church community and the consummate family man. His faith was an inspiration. I know that Paul will forever remain close to the hearts of so many, including Mary, his wife of 57 years, his 5 children, 16 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. Countless other family members, friends, and colleagues will carry on Paul’s legacy service to the community.

Although no words can take away the pain from Paul Rich’s loss, may his loved ones find comfort in knowing that his legacy will never be forgotten.

NO ASSISTANCE FOR ASSAD ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4681 the No Assistance for Assad Act.

This legislation limits U.S. assistance for regions of Syria controlled by Bashar al-Assad and Russian forces. H.R. 4681 states that we will not provide early recovery, reconstruction, stabilization or aid in parts of Syria controlled by Bashar Assad or associated forces.

The conflict in Syria is intensely complicated and the Syrian people are suffering. However, we cannot keep providing support for a regime that is poisoning its own people and ravaging the region with irreparable wounds. The U.S. has provided over \$7 billion in aid and plays

an essential role in clearing unexploded ordnance in Syria—a service that all sides on the conflict depend upon. H.R. 4681 will put critical pressure on Assad’s forces and his allies by limiting this service to regions controlled by U.S. allies and forces fighting for freedom from Assad’s tyranny. Concrete and powerful steps must be taken to move towards a resolution and H.R. 4681 is a good step in restoring order in the region.

Providing aid worldwide is a critical element of the United States position as an international voice for Democracy and peace. However, we cannot assist a regime that attacks its own people with chemical weapons, and we cannot support Assad by cleaning up his mess. H.R. 4681 will force Assad to face the consequences of his actions and I support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Ms. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I was absent to attend a memorial service. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 148 and YEA on Roll Call No. 149.

HONORING MARGARET K. LEWIS
ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret K. Lewis of Panama City, Florida who turned 100 years old on April 20th.

Ms. Lewis has led a life of service to North Florida and represents the best of America. She pioneered special education in Bay County, Florida and cared for a group of students who had seemingly been left behind.

Fifty years ago, students with special needs had nowhere to turn when it came to schooling. Ms. Lewis took on the role as teacher and advocate for these students. She started teaching classes in shared spaces, and then transformed a local school into an inclusive environment for students with all levels of ability. In 1980, that local school was named after her.

Ms. Lewis has been a pillar of the community and remains an active member of the school’s advisory board.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Ms. Margaret K. Lewis a Happy 100th Birthday and thanking her for her service to students and families throughout North Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: Yea on Roll Call No. 148, and Yea on Roll Call No. 149.