

## TRIBUTE TO MIKE KESSLER

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mike Kessler, who died on October 4, 2007 after a short illness. Mike was an active member of his community and a zealous political activist. I will always be thankful to Mike and his wife, Lillian, because they encouraged me to run for Congress.

Mike, a longtime political activist, was born in the College Point area of Brooklyn, New York on September 9, 1916. He married Lillian Hecht in 1941 and was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942 where he served until 1945.

In the late 1940's Mike and Lillian moved to the west coast, where he earned a degree in Education, started a family, and worked as a furniture sales representative. Despite their active personal and professional lives, he and Lillian always found time to champion the civil rights and social justice causes important to them.

Mike achieved many impressive and diverse goals while working as a political activist. As part of the Hayward Demos' response to incidents of racial discrimination, Mike campaigned for adoption of the "No Room for Racism" resolution. Because of his efforts, the "No Room for Racism" placard is now proudly displayed in many cities and schools throughout California. He challenged the Patriot Act, which he said was not only racist but would curb the rights of many citizens. He also advocated for a U.S. stamp in recognition of Paul Robeson. Most recently, Mike was an outspoken advocate for a single payer health care system.

Mike was a lifelong Democrat and was never shy about his politics or seeking justice for those forgotten members of the community who could not advocate for themselves. His intensity, while sometimes overwhelming, did not obscure his sincerity and desire to help create a better world for all, regardless of race or creed.

Mike Kessler's constant activism and dedicated efforts to make a difference will be missed and long remembered. On November 17, 2007, Mike's family and friends will gather to celebrate his life. It was a life well lived where he provided hope, promise and recognition to many. He left his mark on the world and his light will continue to shine.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: November 5, 2007: rollcall vote No. 1034, on motion to close portions of the Conference on the FY2008 Department of Defense Appropriations, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote No. 1035, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 513—National Heroes Credit Protection Act, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote No. 1036, on motion to

suspend the rules and agree, H. Res. 744—Recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING VICTOR DAVIS HANSON,  
PH.D.**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Victor Davis Hanson upon being honored with the 2007 "Friend of Israel" Award. Dr. Hanson is to be honored at the annual dinner for the Republican Jewish Coalition of Central California on November 4, 2007 in Fresno, California.

Dr. Hanson grew up as a Central Valley farmer. He graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a Bachelors Degree in Classics in 1975. He attended the American School of Classics Studies in 1978 and 1979 and received his Ph.D. in Classics from Stanford University in 1980. He was a full-time farmer on his tree and vine farm before joining the staff at California State University, Fresno in 1984 to initiate a classics program. In 1991, he was awarded an American Philological Association Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is given annually to the country's top undergraduate teachers of Greek and Latin.

Victor Davis Hanson has been honored with many achievements and awards. In 1992–1993 he was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavior Sciences and he was a visiting professor of classics at Stanford University in 1991–1992. He has been the recipient of the Eric Breindel Award for opinion journalism (2002) and an Alexander Onassis Fellow (2001). Further, Dr. Hanson was named as alumnus of the year for the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2002. From 2002–2003 he was the visiting Shifrin Chair of Military History at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He was honored with the Manhattan Institute's Wriston Lectureship in 2004 and the 2006 Nimitz Lectureship in Military History at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Hanson has authored about 170 articles, book reviews, newspaper editorials and essays that discuss Greek, agrarian, domestic policy, military history and contemporary culture. He has written or edited sixteen books. He has been published by the University of California Press, Routledge, Free Press, Cassell, Doubleday, Encounter and Random House. Dr. Hanson has had editorials published in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, International Herald Tribune, New York Post, National Review and Washington Times along with numerous others. Dr. Hanson has used these different outlets, in his writings and speeches, to place a focus on the importance of Israel, while keeping the priority on the United States. Dr. Hanson has been a champion of the cause to keep Israel in mind with the United States' foreign policy.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Victor Davis Hanson upon being awarded with the 2007 "Friend of Israel" Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Hanson many years of continued success.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, November 5, 2007, I was unable to cast my vote on Closing Portions of H.R. 3222, H.R. 513, and H. Res. 744 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1034 on Closing Portions of the Conference on H.R. 3222, Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1035 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 513, the National Heroes Credit Protection Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1036 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 744, Recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans, I would have voted "aye."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 961 through 971. I was absent on Monday, October 29th through Friday, November 2nd due to an illness in the family.

If I were present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 1010, "yea" on rollcall vote 1011, "yea" on rollcall vote 1012, "nay" on rollcall vote 1013, "yea" on rollcall vote 1014, "yea" on rollcall vote 1015, "yea" on rollcall vote 1016, "yea" on rollcall vote 1017, "yea" on rollcall vote 1018, "yea" on rollcall vote 1019, "yea" on rollcall vote 1020, "nay" on rollcall vote 1021, "nay" on rollcall vote 1022, "nay" on rollcall vote 1023, "yea" on rollcall vote 1024, "nay" on rollcall vote 1025, "yea" on rollcall vote 1026, "nay" on rollcall vote 1027, "nay" on rollcall vote 1028, "nay" on rollcall vote 1029, "yea" on rollcall vote 1030, "yea" on rollcall vote 1031, "yea" on rollcall vote 1032, "nay" on rollcall vote 1033, "yea" on rollcall vote 1034, "yea" on rollcall vote 1035, and "yea" on rollcall vote 1036.