

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT KAUFFMAN, CAPTAIN MIHELICH, OFFICER BLASINGAME, AND OFFICER GOLEZ OF FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Kauffman, Captain Mihelich, Officer Blasingame, and Officer Golez of Fairfield, California.

Sergeant Kauffman will retire after nearly 30 years of law enforcement service with the City of Fairfield. He was hired as a Public Safety Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on July 5, 1983. Sergeant Kauffman served the community in a number of non-emergency patrol functions while putting himself through the police academy. After graduation, he was rehired as a Police Officer on June 30, 1986 where he worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Solano Narcotics Enforcement Team (Sol-NET), and Field Training. Sergeant Kauffman earned the Police Officer of the Quarter award in November 1999 for his reliability and commitment to community service. On December 31, 1999, he was promoted to Police Corporal and then earned the City Manager's Commendation on July 28, 2003 for his contributions and dedication to the City's Driver Training program.

On March 3, 2006, Sergeant Kauffman was promoted to Police Sergeant and ultimately supervised a number of different units including Patrol, Professional Standards, and Major Crimes. In 2009, as the Police Department experienced changes in leadership and command staff, he stepped in and assisted City management in filling the gaps. Sergeant Kauffman assumed the Police Lieutenant's position and managed Patrol Operations for several months. He has a can-do attitude and he consistently provides quality service to the community.

Sergeant Kauffman has been a valued employee and leader, and his commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Captain Mihelich will retire after nearly 29 years of law enforcement service, with 25 years of that service to the City of Fairfield. After serving over three years as a Reserve Officer and Police Officer with the South San Francisco Police Department, Captain Mihelich was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on October 12, 1987. As an officer, he worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), Special Operations, Gang Suppression, Special Activity Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team, and Field Training.

Captain Mihelich was promoted to Police Corporal on December 31, 1999 and then to Police Sergeant on December 28, 2001. He skillfully mentored and supervised units in Patrol and Training & Personnel, and was named Manager of the Year in 2006. After being promoted to Lieutenant on June 6, 2008, Captain Mihelich served as a Commander for Patrol,

Quality of Life, and Administrative Services Bureaus. He was a strong and decisive leader and as the Police Department experienced changes in leadership and command staff, he consistently stepped in and assisted City management in filling the gaps. He assumed the Police Captain's position and managed the Support Services Division beginning in April 2011 before being formally promoted on February 10, 2012.

Capitan Mihelich has been a valued employee and leader, and his commitment to the City and community was evidenced on a daily basis. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic. Captain Mihelich is commended for his selfless contribution to Fairfield and its constituents.

Officer Blasingame will retire after 30 years of law enforcement service, with 23 years of that service to the City of Fairfield. After serving seven years as a Correctional Officer and Deputy Sheriff with the Solano County Sheriff's Office, he was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on September 25, 1989, and served the community in a number of capacities within the Patrol and Investigations Bureaus.

Officer Blasingame has received numerous commendations from citizens and coworkers for his consistent and skillful performance. Some of his most significant contributions to the Police Department have been sharing his knowledge and experience of solid investigative skills, exceptional memory, and quality reporting techniques with fellow officers. Officer Blasingame has been a dedicated team member, mentor and positive representation of the Fairfield Police Department.

Officer Golez will retire after nearly 30 years of law enforcement service to the City of Fairfield. He was hired as a Public Safety Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on January 7, 1983, and served the community in a number of police and fire functions until he attended the police academy in early 1985. After graduation, he was promoted to Police Officer on May 20, 1985, where he worked in various capacities within the Patrol and Traffic units.

Officer Golez has received numerous commendations from citizens and coworkers for his consistent and exemplary performance. Some of his most significant contributions to the Police Department have been the development of the Police Cadet Program and sharing his motorcycle expertise with fellow officers. Officer Golez has been a dedicated teacher, mentor and a positive representation of the Fairfield Police Department.

Sergeant Kauffman and Captain Mihelich will be presented with their retirement memorabilia at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012, during an Employee Recognition reception in Willow Hall at the Fairfield Community Center. Officers Blasingame and Golez will be recognized in early January. All are welcome to join the celebration of these distinguished careers.

HONORING YOUR NEWS NOW
"YNN"

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Your News Now "YNN," a local 24-hour news channel exclusively provided seven days a week by Time Warner Cable. Serving the State of New York, YNN is celebrating its 10th Anniversary.

Across Upstate New York, my constituents rely on YNN for their local news. Since its debut, YNN has provided in-depth coverage of national, state, and local new stories, community events, high school sports, and weather forecasting. This has allowed New Yorkers the ability to access local news coverage regardless of the time of day.

YNN also provides the only statewide political program, "Capital Tonight," covering the State Capitol, U.S. Capitol, and political news from across the Empire State each weekday evening.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the commitment Time Warner and YNN have made to ensuring quality local news programming throughout New York State. As Thomas Jefferson once said, "Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government." YNN is an important part of this effort for my constituents in the 20th District of New York and across our state, and I congratulate them on their 10th Anniversary.

REMEMBERING JACK BROOKS,
FORMER JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the passing of my friend and former colleague Jack Brooks.

As long-time members of the House Judiciary Committee and the Government Reform Committee, Jack Brooks and I worked closely together. I saw firsthand his dedication to serving our nation and his constituents in Texas. Through his leadership as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee in the 1960s, both the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act made their way through the committee and ultimately passed into law. Less than a decade later, he led the effort to hold President Nixon accountable to the public, and helped draft the articles of impeachment against Nixon. As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee from 1989 to 1995, Jack Brooks oversaw the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Violence Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, and the modernization of the Civil Rights Act. Chairman Brooks was also a longstanding champion of competition, antitrust and government accountability.

Jack Brooks will be remembered by many. His lasting contributions will continue to be felt in our civil rights laws across the country.

I'M STANDING IN HONOR OF AN
AMERICAN HERO, SGT JOSHUA
WETZEL, 2ND INFANTRY EARTH
PIGS, THE UNITED STATES
ARMY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of Alabama's most heroic sons, Joshua Wetzel of The United States Army. While out on patrol on May 31, 2012 Joshua was almost killed in an IED explosion in Kandahar Afghanistan. While he lost his legs and suffered numerous other injuries, he never lost his faith. As he said to me the first time I met him in a hospital bed at Walter Reed, I'm still standing! And that pretty much sums up this man's will to live and can do spirit. He makes all of America proud and his town of Glencoe. With the help of his family and wonderful wife Paige, he has already made such great strides in such a short time and it's going to be hard to catch up to him. I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

I'M STILL STANDING

I'm . . .
I'm still standing . . .
Here on this very day . . .
You may take my two strong legs,
but my heart you can not so sway!
I'm still standing!
Look at me out on my way!
For I've got mountains to so climb,
and so many hearts to so inspire,
and such hope to so convey all in my time
along the way!
Yea, I'm still standing,
as I fight this new fight each and every day!
All at speed,
as my heart so gives me all that I so need
. . .
so you better get out of my way!
You see,
War Eagles do not so hesitate!
For I am Army Strong,
as my heart beats loud and long . . .
to fight for freedom night and day!
2nd Infantry, EARTH PIGS who fight and
lead!
And The University of Auburn,
is all part of my very DNA!
Because, sweet Alabama was where I was
born and raised!
And all of my children are going to graduate
from there one day!
For I am a grunt!
Ever on the hunt!
To evil to so confront!
As I was on that fateful day!
As when my short life almost went away!
Without legs, and halfway to death as there
I lay!
As I had a choice,
as when inside of me I so heard a voice,
telling me to stay!
And I got up and run for the first time in my
life without legs!
With the tears running down my eyes,
I began to pray!
As along side of me my Lord God ran with
me that day!
Helping me chase all of that heartache and
doubt away!
As now I must rebuild!
As so inside of me my hearts instills!
The courage and the strength to so will!
Because, I'm Standing Still!
Heartache and pity get out of my way!

Don't cry for me,
but for all of my Brothers in Arms who now
lie in such soft quiet graves!
And I'm going back home to sweet Alabama,
running one day!
And to this our world,
my life still has so much more to say!
And I've got a wonderful wife,
who is the light of my life who has shown me
that true love really stays!
And this War Eagle,
stands so regal with his courage he displays!
As I'm still standing even taller on this day!

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER LAWRENCE BANKS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Lawrence Banks, who will retire after nearly 26 years of law enforcement service with the City of Fairfield.

Officer Banks began his law enforcement service with the City of Pittsburg as a volunteer Reserve Officer in 1985 and, after putting himself through police academy, he was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on March 16, 1987. He has served the community in various capacities that included Patrol and Youth Services.

Officer Banks received numerous commendations from citizens and coworkers, and he was named Police Officer of the Year for 1993 for his consistent and exemplary performance within our local schools. Some of his most significant contributions to the Police Department have been the special assignments he has held including School Resource Officer, Drug Abuse Resistance Education, DARE, Instructor, and on the Police-Probation Team. Officer Banks was invaluable in these roles because he is skilled at developing better relationships with not only juveniles he came in contact with, but with parents and school administrators. He has taken community service to a new level through his dedicated teaching, collaboration, and positive representation of the City of Fairfield and the Fairfield Police Department.

Officer Banks has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. He is a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Officer Banks will be presented with his retirement memorabilia in early January. All are invited to celebrate his distinguished career.

A TRIBUTE TO KARA KNACK

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kara Knack, who will be retiring from the Friends of the Observatory, FOTO, Board this month after thirty-four years of dedicated service.

Kara Knack's enthusiasm for the Griffith Observatory began long before she joined FOTO.

She first visited the Observatory on a vacation in the 1950's, at which point she was so enthralled that when she moved to Southern California in the early 1960's, she quickly became a regular visitor to the Observatory. Her ardent interest in astronomy came to the attention of Griffith Observatory Director Dr. Ed Krupp, who encouraged her to become a more active member of FOTO by joining the Board of Directors. Upon joining the Board in 1978, Kara began writing and editing FOTO's Update newsletter, which she continued to do for the next 10 years. Since 1985 she has penned the FOTO Notes section in the Griffith Observer, the Observatory's magazine.

Ms. Knack's passion for astronomy and dedication to the Observatory culminated in 2008, when over 2,200 of her celestially themed items were used for the Cosmic Connection timeline, now on display in the Griffith Observatory. For over two decades, Kara has collected celestial objects and jewelry and when the Observatory underwent renovation in 2006, she saw an opportunity to share her collection with the institution she devoted so much of her time to, and with the support of the Observatory staff, the Cosmic Connection was created.

As a member of FOTO's board, Kara has served as the secretary for four terms, as vice president two terms, and as president for three terms. In addition she has also served on the Master Plan Committee, the Architectural Committee, the Selection Committee, the Renovation and Expansion Steering Committee, the Exhibit Planning Committee, the Planetarium Planning Committee, the Reopening Committee and the Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee.

For decades, Kara has demonstrated unparalleled enthusiasm not just for the Observatory, but for public education about astronomy. She has donated her time, her possessions, and her heart to the pursuit of astronomy, and her extraordinary generosity shall continue to be felt at the Griffith Observatory for years to come.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring Kara Knack for her exemplary service to the Griffith Observatory.

8TH ANNUAL "SPIRIT OF INNOVATION" INDUCTION CEREMONY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and admiration that I offer congratulations to Ivy Tech Community College Northwest and its regional partners, who recently celebrated their 8th Annual "Spirit of Innovation" Induction Ceremony. At the ceremony, thirty individuals and teams were inducted as members of the 2012-2013 class of the Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana. Of these individuals, certain members were inducted as Society Fellows for their exceptional efforts in innovation, including Eugene S. Smotkin, Ph.D., Pearl Prince, Olga Petryszyn, Gus Olympidis, and Neal H. Haskell, Ph.D. Additionally, Gregg A. VanDusseldorp Sr. was honored at the event with the Gerald I. Lamkin Fellow for Innovation and Service, a special recognition named for