

Maura Downes and Tim, Sean Fitzgerald, Megan Hurlburt and Tyler, Carolyn, Laura and Raymond Larson, Eric Larson and Sue, Glenn, Jeffrey and Deborah Larson, Samantha Jeter, and Jon, Cori Larson, Joe Bennell and Natasha, Chaim Bennell, Gina and Nickolas Onidi, and Matthew and Arianna Larson; and 11 adored great-grandchildren; she also leaves an niece, Candace Bryan, and nephew Brian Elton; and several cousins and extended family members. Pauline's family extends a very special thanks to Dr. Roy Zagieboylo, Karen Chadderton and the entire staff at Riverside who took such loving care of her, especially Delanney, Kathy, Charmaine, Janet, and Maria and many other who treated her with compassion and dignity.

RECOGNIZING DAVE ROBERTSON  
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE  
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend David J. Robertson on the occasion of his retirement from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, where he has served with distinction for the past 26 years, culminating in his appointment as executive director a decade ago.

The Council of Governments functions as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the National Capital Region, and it is comprised of 21 regional governments representing Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. COG and its leadership play a key role in coordinating the regional response on issues ranging from Chesapeake Bay preservation to affordable housing and from homeland security to transportation planning. Those activities are financed by the member jurisdictions, federal and state grants, and private sector funds.

Dave has been a mainstay at COG, where he began as a regional planner in 1986. Throughout his tenure, Dave has held a series of roles, both technical and managerial, and prior to being named executive director, he was head of COG's Department of Human Services, Planning and Public Safety. In a region with overlapping local, state, and federal interests and competition, Dave has proven adept at keeping the organization's staff and membership focused on the mission of addressing our shared challenges to improve the lives of our collective constituents.

It was my great pleasure to serve on the GOC board of directors while I was a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. I also chaired the COG board in 2000 and collaborated with Dave on a number of projects, including my initiative to increase telework among the regional governments. In addition, I chaired COG's Emergency Preparedness Council, where Dave was instrumental in coordinating response and preparedness efforts not only among the local governments, but also with the states and the federal government, which is no small task as each major weather incident or natural disaster reminds us.

In addition to his role at COG, Dave also served on a number of regional organizations,

including the American Red Cross of the National Capital Region, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the American Planning Association, the International City/County Management Association, and the Washington Region for Justice and Inclusion.

Prior to his tenure with COG, Dave worked for the National Association of Home Builders and former member of Congress David Bonior of Michigan. He received a Master of Urban Planning degree from George Washington University, and also holds a Bachelor's degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dave Robertson on his many accomplishments and thanking him for his tremendous service to the Council of Governments and the National Capital Region. Thanks to Dave's leadership, we spent more time focusing on those challenges that unite, rather than divide us, and that continues to serve as a lesson for us all to follow. We wish Dave the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MIKE TYNER

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mike Tyner, a remarkable young man who died tragically last year. Mike was a field crew leader for the Ventana Wildlife Society's California Condor Reintroduction Program. During a powerful wind storm on November 30th, 2011, a falling tree branch struck and killed Mike when he was in the field in Big Sur, California, to ensure the safety of a newly released endangered condor. He was just 35 years old.

Mike graduated from California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology and Systematic Biology. He lived a life of accomplishment, serving as a research assistant at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a volunteer for the USDA Forest Service. He joined the Ventana Wildlife Society in 2002, studying songbirds along the Carmel River and conducting surveys for Spotted Owls in the Big Sur backcountry. He also achieved success in his work as an ornithologist, botanist, and a desert biological monitor.

In 2006, Mike began working full-time on Ventana Wildlife Society's California Condor Recovery program. He quickly rose to the position of field crew leader. Mike was dedicated to protecting condors, even in the most challenging conditions. During the 2008 Big Sur wildfire, Mike and his team safely rescued seven captive condors that were held in a field pen in the fire's path. Thanks in large part to Mike's efforts, all biologists and condors were brought to safety. Releasing a young condor into the wild was not only Mike's last act of service to our earth community, but it was an act that captured the essence of Mike's legacy.

Mike is survived by his loving mother, Nancy Ann Tyner; three sisters, Theresa Ann Guire, Mary Cynthia Clayton, and Kathleen Julie Morgan; two brothers, Timothy Gordon Skeens and John Eric Skeens; and his many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Lue Tyner.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor the memory of Mike Tyner. Mike gave his life to help endangered species flourish, and his life is a reminder that we can all play a part in devoting ourselves to making the world a healthier and more beautiful place.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT BRIAN FORSYTHE FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR GREAT NATION

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Brian Forsythe for his service to our great nation. A resident of Florida, SMSgt Forsythe has honorably served for 21 years and will be retiring in January of 2013. His contributions ensure the greatest Air Force in the world completes their mission statement to fly, fight, and win. . . in air, space, and cyber space through the mastery of various positions including: Wing Functional Manager, Command Group Superintendent, and Infrastructure Section Chief. SMSgt Forsythe graduated from the Air Force Airmen Leadership School, Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and Southwestern College, among others.

In his 21 years of dedicated service, SMSgt Forsythe has displayed both patriotism and bravery through his successful deployments in Operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom. As a selfless mentor, he has inspired numerous US and Allied Airmen earning recognition for individual accomplishments.

His life is a living testament to the courage and duty our men and women in the armed forces possess, so that freedom and liberty may endure. On behalf of Florida's Sixth Congressional District, I extend my congratulations to SMSgt Brian Forsythe on his retirement from the United States Air Force.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ALBERT B. RATNER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Albert Ratner of Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Ratner celebrates his 85th birthday on December 27 of this year. In celebration of this milestone, his family and friends are honoring him on December 26, 2012.

Albert Ratner was born in 1927 in Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from Cleveland Heights High School in 1946 and from Michigan State University in 1951. Due to his extensive civic, philanthropic and business history, Albert Ratner also holds an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Long Island University and an Honorary Doctor of Engineering Degree from Polytechnic University, both in Brooklyn, New York. He served in the United States Army. Together, he and his wife Faye

raised two children, Deborah and Brian. Though Faye passed, he and his wife Audrey have been married since 1980.

Al developed Forest City Enterprises, Inc. into a cornerstone company and currently serves as Co-Chairman of the Board Emeritus. He has guided his company throughout the decades to become a respected and well-known corporation. At the same time, Al has served on more than two dozen boards and commissions, where his leadership is legendary.

His philanthropy, civic-mindedness and business acumen have earned Al Ratner numerous accolades. Some of these include Downtown Cleveland Recognition Award, Builders' Magazine 20th Gold Nugget Award, the Charles Eisenman Award, the U.S. Department of HUD's Agora Award, Harvard Business Club of Cleveland's Business Statesman of the Year, Financial World Magazine's CEO of the Year and Bronze Medal, Cleveland Business Hall of Fame, Urban Land Institute's J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development, and Michigan State University's Distinguished Alumni Award.

I have been privileged to work with Al Ratner on several initiatives and have appreciated his wise counsel. He epitomizes "a life well-lived." He is a corporate and community leader with boundless energy who has made an indelible contribution to the greater Cleveland community. Not known to mince words, his insights, advice and counsel are sought broadly. He is always willing to assist, to lead and to care. I join his family and friends, his employees and the residents of Cleveland in wishing Al Ratner the happiest of birthdays, with a wish for many more. Onward!

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
MARY KERWIN'S LEADERSHIP IN  
THE COMMUNITY OF TROY,  
MICHIGAN

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Kerwin, my friend and a leader in the community of Troy, Michigan. This year, Mary has been recognized as Leadership Troy's Distinguished Citizen of 2012.

Each year, Leadership Troy recognizes a single community member as its Distinguished Citizen for their volunteer contributions to Troy that have gone above and beyond the requirements of their employment, improving the quality-of-life in Troy. Mary, with her twenty-four years of service in both the non-profit and public sectors of Troy, has on countless occasions demonstrated courage and leadership that has moved her community forward.

Mary's passion for building a stronger, more vibrant and better connected community has been a guiding force that has permeated every facet of her life. It is seen in her volunteer work for countless community organizations like the Troy Community Coalition, The Friends of the Troy Library, the League of Women Voters and the Troy Historical Society. Mary's passion has also reached into the community of her Parish at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church where she serves as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and part of its Women's Fellowship program.

The one area where Mary's enthusiasm for the Troy community has been so poignantly felt is in her work with young people. Mary has served in a variety of positions both volunteer and elected within the Troy Public Schools. She dedicated personal time to being a mentor to youth, served as President of the PTA at Hamilton Elementary and served on the PTA President's Council as its Parliamentarian. As a twice-elected Troy School Board member, she brought the knowledge of her experiences and pragmatic problem-solving approach to improving the educational experience of the District's students.

Mary later brought this same approach to Troy citizens while serving on the Troy City Council. During her four-year term, she served as Mayor Pro-Tern and as President of the Michigan Municipal League's Elected Officials Academy, a program which helped local elected officials improve and perfect their leadership skills to better serve the communities they represent.

Today, Mary continues to be an active participant in the Troy community and the broader Southeast Michigan region. In her professional capacity, she serves as the Development and Special Events Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Troy, which is actively engaging youth to identify and develop the skills of future leaders. This is a pursuit that Mary also supports through her work at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Institute for Local Government, which is helping the future elected leaders of our region to hone their abilities.

Mr. Speaker, our local leaders are an integral part of the fabric of our Nation, and this is witnessed by the passion Mary has injected not only into building a stronger community in Troy, but also ensuring that we are working to build a brighter future with more opportunity for future generations. It is again a great honor to congratulate her on her award as Leadership Troy's Distinguished Citizen of 2012. I know that Mary's passion will continue to be a driving force in her work within the Troy and the Southeast Michigan communities to build a stronger and more secure future for the region.

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP JAMES  
CLINE

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, alongside my colleague, Congressman KEVIN MCCARTHY, we rise today to honor Phillip James Cline, District Attorney of Tulare County, on the occasion of his retirement.

Mr. Cline is a Tulare County native, having graduated from Exeter Union High School, College of the Sequoias, California State University Fresno, and San Joaquin College of Law. He also served in the United States Air Force as a Staff Sergeant.

After joining the bar and working briefly in private practice, Mr. Cline joined the District Attorney's Office in 1978. He served as a prosecutor for more than 30 years, specializing in homicide cases and winning numerous high-profile death penalty cases.

In 1992, Mr. Cline began serving as District Attorney. Re-elected three times, he initiated

programs to address workers' compensation and automobile insurance fraud, domestic violence, major narcotics, sexual assault and child abuse, welfare fraud, auto theft, gang violence and child abduction, among others. He created the state's first Rural Crime Program, designed to protect the agricultural industry, and developed other programs addressing consumer fraud, career criminal prosecution, victim's services, elder abuse prosecution and the safe neighborhoods program. Mr. Cline and his staff also implemented programs designed to strike at the root causes of crime. These included a program to reduce teen pregnancy, which received statewide recognition, as well as a Veterans' Court to address the needs of combat veterans.

Mr. Cline is a member of many professional and philanthropic organizations. He is past president of the Tulare County Bar Association and is an active member of the California and National District Attorney's Associations. He is the only District Attorney ever elected president of the Tulare County Police Chiefs' Association. Mr. Cline has also served on the boards of the HEART after-school program and the Tulare County Library Foundation, among others. He has been active in Pro Youth Walk Run, the Justice Run and the annual Victims of Homicide Memorial Quilt Ceremony.

Please join Congressman MCCARTHY and me in congratulating Mr. Phillip James Cline on his retirement from his position as District Attorney of Tulare County.

HONORING MR. CHUCK BANKSTON

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come to you today to honor Mr. Chuck Bankston. Chuck has been elected to chair the National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association.

Chuck has proven himself to be the man for the job over the years. A native of Barnesville, GA, Chuck attended Georgia Southern and graduated with a degree in marketing. He then became the fourth generation owner and president of his family business, Bankston Lumber. Under Chuck's leadership, Bankston Lumber is debt-free and has remained profitable every year in spite of these tough economic times. Chuck believes in enjoying life and his work, so much so that he has a sign in his warehouse that reads: "If you're not having fun, you're fired."

Prior to his recent nomination, Chuck served as the chair of the Construction Suppliers Association, as well as the Georgia Senate Lien Law Advisory Committee. Having owned my own construction business, the work Chuck has done to protect and represent the interests of independent building dealers throughout Georgia and Alabama is not only appreciated, but well respected. In 2008, he was honored with the National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association's Grassroots Dealer of the Year Award for his participation in legislative matters.

Having visited Bankston Lumber and seen its operations, I know that Chuck will put the same amount of dedication, passion, and hard