

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

work into this position as he has his family's business. I am honored to help celebrate my friend Chuck's appointment as chair, and Joan and I wish him the very best as he leads the National Lumber and Building Material Dealer Association to great things.

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP JAMES  
CLINE

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

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

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

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HAR-  
LEM'S COMMUNITY LEADER  
DOROTHY MAE SKINNER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Harlem's community leader Dorothy Mae Skinner, who passed away on Monday, November 26, 2012. I first met Dorothy in my early years in the U.S. House of Representatives in her role as a community activist, concerned resident, and devoted parent.

Dorothy was very engaged in the war on drugs in the 1970's and 1980's and became active with the New York City Police Department 30th and 32nd Precincts and community councils. Dorothy was both friend and foe of the neighborhood drug dealers, for they all loved her but knew she was leading the fight against them, a fight she handily won. As President of the Block Association, she organized block parties, jazz mobiles, Halloween parties in Hamilton Park, and coordinated activities with the Police Athletic League (PAL).

Dorothy Mae Skinner joined the Board of Directors of the West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc., one of Harlem's oldest and largest community based development organizations, which was established more than 30 years ago to revitalize the under-invested West and Central Harlem communities—riddled with dilapidated and abandoned buildings.

Dorothy served as Chairperson of West Harlem Group Assistance Board of Directors for over 20 years and served as the Secretary until her passing. She helped guide the vision of WHGA to recreate a community in which all responsible residents, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders are mobilized and firmly committed to working together willingly and cooperatively. This ensured that Harlem was positioned to enter the 21st century as a safe, socially stable, healthy, economically sound, well-educated and informed, and politically strong community.

Dorothy Mae Skinner was born on June 22, 1926, to the late Herman and Gladys Harris. She was the eldest of 12 children born to that union. With that size family, Dorothy grew up with a great sense of family values, which continued with her own family. Dorothy met and married Robert Skinner on December 24, 1946. They were married for 34 years and were blessed with 6 children: (Butch) Robert, (D.G.) Dorian, Roberta, Rene, Diane, and Cheryl, whom she nurtured and cherished. She is pre-deceased by her eleven siblings and her husband, Robert.

Dorothy loved to travel and it did not matter if it was local or long distance. She continued to preach and teach family values, as she believed in family outings. Every weekend during the summer she would either take her children away, or send her children to the movies or penny arcade. Most people reserve a hotel room when going on vacation, but Dorothy would rent an apartment for a week to accommodate her children and their friends. She also organized yearly dude ranch trips during the summer and Ski trips during the winter.

Educated in the NYC public schools, Dorothy was a determined young woman who received her GED at age 35 and continued her

education and attended City College of New York. She truly believed in education and was employed by the NYC Department of Education for a number of years, nurturing and caring for many young lives, until her retirement at age 65. Many years later, as she would often sit on her stoop, former students, now grown, would stop by and chat with her.

Dorothy was very involved in the Mt Pisgah Baptist Church where she served for several years as Deaconess. She was known to many as Mrs. Skinner, Dorothy, Grandma, or Grandma Dee. Dorothy enjoyed scratchoff and sometimes made a pretty penny too, which kept her scratching.

Mr. Speaker, great women like our beloved Dorothy are precious gifts we temporarily have in this world, but their assistance, contributions and accomplishments are far remembered and everlasting. I ask you, my colleagues, to join me in celebrating the life of Dorothy Mae Skinner.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD  
D. RUPPERT, MD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable human being, Dr. Richard Ruppert. Dr. Ruppert unexpectedly passed from this life on October 22, 2012. Dr. Ruppert was a friend and advisor to many, including me, and we were indeed privileged to have known him.

Born in Rural Ohio 81 years ago, Richard Ruppert worked in the family farm for five years after he graduated from high school. He then went on to Ohio State University, where he received his undergraduate and medical degrees. While at Ohio State University, he met and married his wife, Elizabeth Ruppert, MD.

Following his residency, Dr. Ruppert returned to OSU, where he was professor of gastroenterology in the Department of Medicine for nine years. He was named assistant dean of the College of Medicine in 1970, adding medical director for patient services two years later. He was named vice chancellor for health affairs at the Ohio Board of Regents in 1974, and in 1977 Dr. Ruppert became the third president of the Medical College of Ohio. During his 16 year term, the Medical College of Ohio saw unprecedented growth, was established as a leader in medicine, and came into its own as a premier institution. Dr. Ruppert's able guidance directed the Medical College of Ohio through an illustrious time and his leadership is unparalleled. As one colleague described it, "Much of MCO's success can be credited to Richard D. Ruppert. From a new college on a divided campus—one part farmland and the other a deteriorating county hospital complex—he provided guidance and the political skills to develop the new campus to its present ten structures . . . The school has emerged from its early growing pains to achieve an identity as a quality medical institution during Dr. Ruppert's tenure, with a large credit due to his leadership and vision."

Even as he presided at the helm of the medical college, Dr. Ruppert gave himself to civic affairs. He served a decade on the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority Board, four