

In 1966, the family moved to Orange, California, where Rex entered his junior year at Orange High School. He took classes in agriculture, became active in the Future Farmers of America, and raised steers until graduation.

In 1972, Rex moved to Napa where the region was just starting to transform itself into one of the most respected and famous wine areas. Rex began his career by cleaning hillside land that was then planted with Cabernet Sauvignon. Sterling Vineyards acquired the land and kept him as their vineyard manager. From those humble beginnings, Rex evolved to be one of Napa's most experienced and sought after viticulturalists and hillside developers. During his ascent, he worked for well-known vineyards such as Stag's Leap, Domaine Chandon, Spring Mountain Vineyards and many others. Rex also took several courses about viticulture and enology at UC Davis.

In the 1990s, Rex started a business that designed and developed environmentally responsible hillside vineyards. One of his clients, T.J. Rodgers, eventually hired him full-time. According to Dr. Rodgers, his company had to court Rex for five years until he decided that he "was ready to focus on making the world's best Pinot Noir."

Rex and his wife of 37 years, Amy, raised their children, Alison and Michael, in Napa. After living in the wine country for 27 years, Amy and Rex headed for the coast and now live in El Granada. However, Rex did not leave the wine business behind; he is now developing the winery and vineyards for Clos de la Tech. He also has served as the board president of the San Mateo County Farm Bureau since 2009.

Mr. Speaker, the San Mateo County Farm Bureau is right to honor Rex Geitner as Farmer of the Year. His lifelong dedication to environmentally responsible farming and viticulture have both benefitted and delighted Californians and wine connoisseurs all over the world.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROGER GEIGER TO HIS FELLOW VETERANS

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger Geiger of Torrington, Connecticut. Mr. Geiger is a veteran and this year's recipient of the American Veterans Post 24 member of the year award.

After serving his nation in the armed services, Mr. Geiger continues to serve his community as a member of AMVETS Post 24. Mr. Geiger and his wife Diane founded and continue to run Post 24's Heroes on Wheels program. This program takes in donations of electric wheelchairs and scooters for the benefit of Connecticut veterans. Many of these wheelchairs and scooters are received out of working order and Mr. Geiger takes it upon himself to repair and refurbish this equipment that is essential to ensuring the mobility of many elderly or disabled veterans. Once the repairs are completed, Mr. Geiger and his fellow Post 24 members deliver the electric wheelchairs and scooters to veterans in need.

Mr. Geiger's tireless work has resulted in hundreds of veterans in Connecticut and neighboring states being provided with chairs that have returned to them their freedom of mobility. It is for this reason, in addition to his service as the chapter chaplain and his general dedication to the chapter, that Roger Geiger was awarded the Post 24 member of the year award in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can all agree Roger Geiger deserves recognition for his outstanding service, both to his nation and to his fellow veterans. His efforts to provide his fellow veterans with the tools they need to maintain their mobility and independence are undoubtedly worthy of recognition. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Roger Geiger for his service to our community of veterans.

RECOGNIZING MS. EILEEN BREEN FOR HER SERVICES IN THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, with health care in our nation at the forefront of many discussions, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor a notable health care provider, Ms. Eileen Breen. I find it befitting to acknowledge those who help improve the quality of health care in our country.

Ms. Breen moved from New York City, New York in 1991 to serve medically underserved populations in the Mississippi Delta. Ms. Breen has serviced Tallahatchie County, Mississippi as a Nurse Practitioner for over eighteen years. She has worked in various clinics throughout the county, including those in Glendora and Tutwiler Mississippi, two of Mississippi's most underserved communities. Ms. Breen is well known in the community for treating patients regardless of their access to health care insurance. She has been instrumental in bringing to the forefront awareness of crippling health issues affecting Mississippi and is a pillar in her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Eileen Breen for her commitment to improving health care throughout the Mississippi Delta.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GARY BOBER

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Lieutenant Gary Bober of the Streamwood Fire Department on the occasion of his retirement. He recently concluded his loyal service of over 34 years to the community.

Lieutenant Bober began his firefighter career in West Dundee in 1976 as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter. In 1978, Lieutenant Bober was hired by the Streamwood Fire Department. His training included becoming an EMP/Paramedic

and Firefighter. On July 20, 1988, Gary was promoted to Lieutenant for the Streamwood Fire department.

Day in and day out, Lieutenant Bober worked with the men and women from the Streamwood Fire Department to protect the Village of Streamwood. As a reflection of his commitment, he earned several Illinois certifications, including Firefighter III, Fire Apparatus Engineer, HazMat Technician, Certified Instructor II, Hazmat Incident Command, and Certified Officer I. On February 28, 1999, he received the Disaster Service Medal for participating in 3 structural fires, and later that same year, he received the Meritorious Service Award for rescuing a victim from a residential structure fire. His leadership is reflected in his bravery and achievement.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and the long years of service and commitment that Lieutenant Bober has dedicated to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, I missed one recorded vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 49.

A TRIBUTE TO NORM PARKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic career of the Iowa Hawkeye nation's legendary Defensive Coordinator, Norm Parker.

Norm came to Iowa City in 1999 with a new coaching staff faced with the daunting task of reestablishing the Iowa Hawkeyes as a powerhouse football program on the national stage. Coach Parker played a pivotal role in accomplishing this task in short order by consistently coaching the Hawkeye defense into one of the nation's best. Norm built the Hawkeye defense into one of the most consistently dominant defensive units in all of college football both statistically and physically.

Over the last 13 years, Coach Parker has coached 34 players, prior to this year's upcoming draft, that have gone on to play at the sport's highest level in the National Football League. At the University of Iowa, Norm's rushing defense finished among the nation's top ten on five separate occasions, in addition to three top-ten scoring defenses in the last four years.

Any fan of college football knows that Coach Parker held a commitment to his program that is unlike any other, and in 2010, despite his battle with serious medical issues, coached the Hawkeyes to a fifth-ranked national defense, sixth-ranked rushing defense, and seventh-ranked scoring defense before finishing the season as the Insight Bowl

Champions. In 2011, Norm announced his retirement just weeks after being awarded the nation's Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association.

Throughout his 48-year football career, Norm has held himself to the highest standards of professionalism and commitment. His success as a defensive coach is only matched by his impact as a positive role model for countless young Iowans, on and off the field. Whether you are a fan of the Hawkeyes, the Cyclones, the Bulldogs or the Panthers, there is no denying the profound impact Coach Parker has had on college football and the state of Iowa in general.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Iowa sportscaster Jon Miller said it best when he proclaimed, "Simply put, Iowa football would not be Iowa football without Norm Parker. Iowa football will have a tough time remaining Iowa football without Norm Parker." The impact Coach Parker has had on Hawkeye football and the state of Iowa will be evident for decades. Even as a Cyclone, it is my distinct honor to represent all college football fans across Iowa, the nation, and in the United States Congress, in thanking Coach Norm Parker for his commitment and dedication to the sport of football, his students, and the people of Iowa and wishing Norm and his wife Linda a long, happy and healthy retirement with much less stressful Saturdays.

**U.S. DOLLARS SHOULD CREATE
JOBS FOR U.S. WORKERS**

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, we have to ensure that U.S. workers get jobs. So, today I am introducing legislation that requires that on federally funded construction projects in my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, at least 60 percent of the workforce has to be U.S. workers.

It is just common-sense: U.S. dollars should employ U.S. workers.

There is a threshold. This legislation only applies to projects that cost more than \$100,000. We do not want to enact a law that unnecessarily delays spending or over-regulates business.

But for larger projects funded with federal dollars—and in the Northern Marianas this means road construction, modernizing schools, putting in water lines—we need to make sure that the local, U.S. workers get most of the jobs. We need to make a stand for U.S. workers and for the families they support.

I know that our national economy is still pulling itself out of the worst recession since the 1930s. Although we have seen almost 4 million jobs created in the last two years, we still have unacceptably high levels of unemployment.

But, if you can imagine, in the Northern Marianas the situation is worse—and not improving. Even before the national recession began our economy was sinking. Our island gross domestic product has gone down every year since 2005—20 percent in 2009, the last year the Bureau of Economic Analysis has computed.

We do not have unemployment data for the Northern Marianas, but we do know that our population has shrunk from 69,000 in 2000 to 54,000 in 2010. People have left because jobs have disappeared. I can say from personal observation and from talking with my constituents that there are many people in the Northern Marianas who want work and cannot get a job.

I know, too, that many of the local, U.S. workers in the Marianas, who want to work are being passed over for the jobs that do exist.

We have something like 11,000 foreign workers today in the Northern Marianas. One has to ask: how can we have so many foreign workers, when there are U.S. workers unemployed, who want to work.

Something is not right.

The workers I talk to have skills. They have a good work ethic. They are employable. Yet they are being passed over.

We have to do more in this Congress for these U.S. workers. At the very least, we can say that when we appropriate federal dollars for construction projects in the Northern Marianas, those funds will put U.S. workers on the payroll.

We are not even asking that all the workers be U.S. workers, only that most are U.S. workers. We understand that there may be some specialty skills U.S. workers do not have. Maybe there will be numerical shortages that need to be filled.

But as long as we know that there are U.S. workers, who want jobs, who need to work, then let us make very sure that the federal dollars we provide to the Northern Mariana Islands put those U.S. workers to work.

**HONORING ALVIN BENN, RECIPIENT
OF THE ALABAMA PRESS
ASSOCIATION LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Alabama's best known and most respected journalists, Mr. Alvin Benn, who this week is being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Press Association.

Perhaps there's a measure of irony in the fact that the man who has become synonymous with both covering and capturing Alabama history and culture, in a way that only a Southern native could, actually hails from the North. Al Benn was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country on April 25, 1940.

After graduating from Manheim Township High School in 1958, he enlisted in the Marine Corps where he served his country for six years. He was stationed at Cherry Point, NC with the Second Marine Air Wing and at Okinawa, Japan, where he worked for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. After returning stateside, he completed military journalism school at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and briefly attended East Carolina College while at Cherry Point.

His long journey chronicling the history of our region began as a newly minted cor-

respondent for United Press International covering the burgeoning Civil Rights movement. As he details in his 2006 book, "Reporter: Covering Civil Rights . . . and Wrongs in Dixie," Al Benn not only interviewed the major leaders of both sides of this historic struggle—including Dr. Martin Luther King and Governor George C. Wallace—but he used his fearless quest of news to take him to some of the most unsettling venues to get the unvarnished true story.

After two and a half years as UPI's Birmingham bureau chief, Al Benn took on the roles of writer, photographer, editor and publisher at newspapers in Alabama, including the Selma Times-Journal and the Montgomery Advertiser. He also crossed over the state line to work at the Natchez Democrat where he and his news staff were nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Although he officially retired in 2003, Al Benn continues to write his widely read column, "Al Benn's Alabama", for the Montgomery Advertiser.

In commenting about his life's work, Al Benn once observed: "Journalistic integrity cannot be duplicated. That's all reporters really have. We never make much money. What we can leave behind is a good name in our chosen profession. I hope I've done just that. There are those who will disagree but I've tried to be as fair as I could be."

I have never known a more professional, articulate and even-handed reporter than Al Benn. On behalf of the people of Alabama, I offer my congratulations to Al, and I wish him and his wife, Sharon, and their family a future full of happiness.

**RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Streamwood, Illinois, in my district.

St. John the Evangelist celebrated its first Mass with approximately 300 families in June of 1962. In September of 1962, the parish began constructing its first building which served as a church and school. Five years later, due to the rapid growth of the Catholic population of Streamwood, the Cardinal approved the parish's request for the construction of a permanent church building.

Over the last 50 years, St. John the Evangelist has continued to grow. Currently, there are more than 2,660 families registered in the parish. Reaching out to the youth in the community, St. John the Evangelist School has 228 students from kindergarten through the eighth grade, and plans to have 300 students by 2013. St. John the Evangelist also has 331 students enrolled in evening and weekend religious education programs.

Reaching out to the community, St. John the Evangelist's parish has participated in community activities and events that have helped make Streamwood a great place for families to live, play, learn and worship. Annually, St. John the Evangelist sponsors the Bingo table at the Streamwood Fest.