

DEDICATION OF A PORTION OF INTERSTATE 80 IN MEMORY OF HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER RAYMOND CARPENTER

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the city of Rocklin in dedicating a portion of Interstate 80 in memory of Highway Patrol Officer Raymond Carpenter.

This dedication is meant to pay tribute to Ray's life and his long service to our nation and our community.

His great sense of duty and commitment came as no surprise to those who knew his story; in fact it was a testament to his humble upbringing. He was born in a small cabin and raised on the Sullivan Ranch in Auburn, where he learned the long hours and hard work of a ranch hand. This hardy experience taught him the uniquely American values of hard work and the freedom that self-reliance provides. That same tenacity and perseverance would lead him to later become an Alaskan homesteader while stationed there as a Technical Sergeant with the U.S. Air Force, building his own cabin on the frontier of our nation, like his forebears before him had in the rugged wilderness of northern California.

It was to the blessing of his native state that Ray was called to return home in 1956, where his love of the outdoors, motorcycles, and his passion for service led him to the California Highway Patrol. His kind disposition made him friends easily, and he was always fast in offering a helping hand. Whether in his time with the Air Force or as a Highway Patrol Officer after returning to California, Ray had spent the better part of his life in service to his fellow Americans. It was in that service that Ray surrendered his life when he was shot and killed in the line of duty on February 17, 1970.

Mr. Speaker, while Ray's life was cut short, we must celebrate his contributions, for as General Patton said "it is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived." I am proud today to rise to honor his memory and in grateful recognition of his many years of service and sacrifice.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAWRENCE S. SYKOFF, ED.D.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Lawrence S. Sykoff, Ed.D., on his retirement as Head of School of Ranney School in Tinton Falls, NJ. Dr. Sykoff has served as Ranney School's Head of School for 20 years, and his accomplishments are to be celebrated.

Much of Dr. Sykoff's 35 years within the education field have been spent at Ranney School. He has been a dedicated and involved Head of School throughout his tenure. He has been a hands-on administrator, giving lectures; playing guitar along with the music students; and rooting on the athletic teams. His

commitment to the families of the school was exemplified in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Dr. Sykoff ensured that those displaced found places within the community to stay days after the storm hit. The school has also helped support local charities that help the many residents affected by the storm.

In addition to his involvement with Ranney School, Dr. Sykoff is an active member of the community-at-large. He is a member of the Board of Trustees at the Riverview Medical Center Foundation in Red Bank and the American Cancer Society, where he also serves on the Eastern Division's Board of Directors. He also served on the Board of Trustees of Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank and was recognized for his ongoing support of the arts. Dr. Sykoff has received numerous commendations for his work in the community and his commitment to education. He was honored with the 2012 Quarter Century Award by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, CASE, and received the Crystal Star Award from the nonprofit Holiday Express.

During Dr. Sykoff's tenure, Ranney School has expanded enrollment and completed an accreditation process. He has also overseen the expansion of school buildings and modernization of athletic facilities. The improvements to Ranney School have helped highlight the school's merit.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Dr. Lawrence Sykoff on his retirement and thanking him for his service and commitment to education.

REMEMBERING CHARLES "CHUCK" ALBERT POLAND, JR.

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of Mr. Charles "Chuck" Albert Poland, Jr., a school bus driver from Southeast Alabama who died protecting the lives of the children in his care.

Tuesday, January 29, started out just like another day for Mr. Poland, who had worked as a school bus driver for the Dale County Schools system since 2009. However, that afternoon while completing his route, an armed man entered Mr. Poland's school bus and demanded to take children hostage. Faced with this perilous situation, Mr. Poland rushed the children out the bus emergency exit and to safety. Standing between the gunman and the children, Mr. Poland was shot four times and killed. There is little doubt that Mr. Poland's actions saved lives.

This, of course, began the week-long hostage standoff, which, thankfully, ended with the amazing rescue of the child hostage. But who knows how the situation might have ended had Mr. Poland not bravely stood in the gunman's way.

Mr. Speaker, as a mother of two young children, I am particularly moved by the actions Chuck Poland took to protect the children in his care. It is difficult to even imagine our children being in such danger. How heartening to know that—whether in a classroom or on a school bus—people like Mr. Poland are looking out for students and protecting them.

Those who know Chuck Poland best speak to his quiet, humble spirit. They note that he

would likely shy away from the attention. Born in Idaho, Mr. Poland made Southeast Alabama his home in the 1960s. He served in the Army before settling down as a diesel mechanic. When he retired, he took up a part-time job as a bus driver. Ultimately, Mr. Poland was asked to become a full-time bus driver in 2009.

Mr. Poland was a beloved husband to Jan, his wife of over 40 years; a loving father to his son, Aaron, and daughter, Lydia; and doting "Paw-Paw" to his three grandsons, Timothy, Ryan, and Blake.

Mr. Poland and his wife shared a favorite Bible verse, which, in this moment seems very fitting. "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."—2 Timothy 1:12

According to his son, Mr. Poland viewed his students as his own children, and he looked after them as though they were his own. Chuck Poland would be proud to watch them grow up; to see the men and women they become.

One of the children might grow up to be a scientist who makes the next big discovery or cures a disease. One might start a major company that employs thousands. One might be a soldier who fights valiantly for our country. One might be a teacher, a nurse or a firefighter who makes a difference in the lives of others. But one thing is for sure—they each have the chance to live a full and happy life because their bus driver, Mr. Poland, was willing to give his life for theirs.

The author Joseph Campbell wrote, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

Mr. Speaker, today we recognize a true hero. Chuck Poland gave his life so that others may live and, for that, he will always be remembered.

HONORING MR. JOHN OSCAR BOONE, SR.

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, our nation is blessed to have this innovator and pioneer touch the lives of thousands through his leadership and service; and

Whereas, Mr. John Oscar Boone, Sr.'s legacy is present throughout the nation and the world for all to see, being the first African American appointed to head a major state prison in the United States, serving many roles in the American Correctional System: Commissioner, Superintendent and Director; he valiantly served our country in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II; and

Whereas, this giant of a man transformed the American Correctional System, he was instrumental in the implementation of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1965 and he represented our nation on an international level, he inspired elected officials, motivated the young and the old, as he accomplished so much during his time on this earth; and

Whereas, this remarkable man gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life; Mr. Boone inspired others to do the same by witnessing him walk the walk and talk the talk, he opened doors for others to enter; and

Whereas, Mr. Boone led by doing behind the scenes and on the front lines for many; Mr. Boone was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a brother and a friend; he was our warrior, our patriarch, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of the community until his end; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow an honorable distinction and recognition on Mr. John Oscar Boone, Sr., for his leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Georgia and throughout the Nation; as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Mr. John Oscar Boone, Sr., of Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honorable Distinction"—Mr. John Oscar Boone, Sr., U.S. Citizen of Distinction, in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 8th day of December, 2012.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MICHAEL DAVID VARNER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Michael David Varner, who passed away on February 6, 2013. During his long and distinguished career in education, Mr. Varner served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals throughout Northwest Florida. After an arduous battle with brain cancer, the loss of a great man and unparalleled public servant and educator is felt not only here at home, but across the state of Florida.

Mr. Varner was born on October 8, 1953, in Highland Falls, New York. Upon graduating in 1971 from Niceville High School in Northwest Florida, Mr. Varner attended Okaloosa-Walton Community College, as well as, the University of South Florida. He continued his education at the University of West Florida, where he earned a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science in Teaching.

Mr. Varner's passion for educating led him to Tate High School, where he taught biology for 35 years. He also served as an adjunct professor at Pensacola State College for ten years. During his years as an educator, his commitment was always to the students and helping them reach their goals, both in and out of the classroom. Mr. Varner coached soccer, sponsored Student Government and Exchange Club, and served as sponsor to both the sophomore and senior classes for students at Tate High School.

Mr. Varner has been widely recognized and honored for his years of teaching and service to the community with "Who's Who Among Teachers," Florida Biology Teacher of the Year, and most recently with the Escambia

County Teacher of the Year award in 2011. While the list of Mr. Varner's achievements extends far beyond what is noted here, they all highlight his unwavering devotion to improving the lives of those around him and to bettering his community through service.

In addition to his devotion to his students, Mr. Varner was a man of faith and committed to his parish. For nearly 20 years, he assisted Youth Ministry with planning, organizing, and assisting in many diocesan youth events. He was also a talented musician, who used his gift of music to write and play songs for church services and school functions.

Northwest Florida, Escambia County, Florida, and the many students whose lives were touched by Mr. Varner, mourn the loss of an exceptional man. His contributions and service to the community and this great nation will forever be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the exemplary life of Michael David Varner. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers to his wife Kathleen, his sons Jason and Brian, his parents Richard and Madeleine, his siblings Valarie and Richard, and Mr. Varner's entire family and friends. He will be truly missed by all.

HONORING DAVE OWENS

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dave Owens, a Colorado businessman with a strong commitment to his community. As the owner of FASTSIGNS Greeley, Dave has built a business that has created jobs and provided economic value to Greeley and beyond. Small businesses throughout the area have come to rely on FASTSIGNS and the services it provides.

In addition to growing and managing a successful business, Dave has invested both time and resources into the community.

Dave and his company have sponsored countless events, charities, youth groups, and causes. His support has benefited the children of the Boys and Girls Club of Weld County, the survivors of domestic violence at A Woman's Place, and the countless many who depend on the services of the United Way. And when the men and women of the armed services return home from abroad, they often see a welcome home banner donated by Dave.

On February 7, 2013, Dave was honored at the Greeley Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Awards. He was recognized for his creativity and imagination as a business owner as well as his leadership and involvement in support of his community.

I join the Greeley Chamber of Commerce in congratulating Dave Owens, and I wish him continued success in business and his many civic involvements.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR UNITED WAY OF TUCSON
AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, which has been recognized as a leader among its peers.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is in the top 2 percent of all United Way organizations in the country, according to a new business performance index developed by United Way Worldwide. This special status is based on leadership abilities, engagement in the community and for developing and implementing community strategies that get results.

That means that they are among the top 24 United Ways in the country—and I couldn't be prouder to have them serving Southern Arizona.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona serves a community of more than 1 million residents. Only 55 of the 1,215 United Way organizations in the nation are that large.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona was recognized for its impact promoting early literacy skills, engaging youth in afterschool programs, helping families become more financially stable and helping seniors remain healthy and active.

I especially want to recognize the accomplishments of Tony Penn, president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona. As a leader in his field, Mr. Penn and the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona will be asked to share their best practices with other United Way organizations around the country.

Mr. Penn and his organization are deeply committed to getting more children into high-quality childcare, providing mentors for underserved teens, preparing free tax returns for low- to moderate-income families and providing volunteer opportunities to seniors to keep them healthy and engaged in the community.

I know firsthand the impact that the United Way can have on a community, having had the honor to serve on the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona's board. Southern Arizonans are lucky to have the dedicated and talented staff of the United Way helping to strengthen our community each and every day.

I am proud to recognize the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona as well as its board members and its staff under the direction of Tony Penn for their significant contributions to our community.

REMEMBERING EDWARD L.
MAXWELL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn this week of the passing of Edward L. Maxwell, an old friend who was a community