

Sr.'s lifetime of achievement and service to his community.

RECOGNIZING PLEASANTON CITY
COUNCIL MEMBER ABRAHAM
SAENZ, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pleasanton City Council Member Abraham Saenz, Jr. for his 30 years of service to the city of Pleasanton and to the state of Texas.

Councilman Saenz, a Pleasanton native, is a remarkable and highly respected member of the community who has dedicated his career to promoting the quality of life for all residents of Pleasanton. First elected in 1983, Mr. Saenz has served the community as a Member, and now Senior Member, of the Council of Pleasanton.

During his tenure Mr. Saenz has been instrumental in implementing many city projects. Some of the most important include: paving roads throughout his district and other areas of the city, preparing the city to have an ample water supply for the next 50 years, improving infrastructure in the areas of drainage and wastewater collection, facilitated the construction of a sports complex for youth, and the construction of a new City Hall, Police Headquarters, Public Works Facility, Library, and Civic Center. More recently Mr. Saenz represented Pleasanton in Economic Issues with Atascosa County and has been at the forefront of planning initiatives to accommodate the exponential growth of the city due to Eagle Shale Oil and Gas Play.

Not only has Mr. Saenz held an esteemed and honorable career in the Council, he has devoted his life to his family, community, and country. After attending Pleasanton High School, Mr. Saenz joined the United States Air Force in 1952. While in the Air Force, Mr. Saenz fought in the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1956. Upon his return to Pleasanton Mr. Saenz began working as a barber, becoming the sole proprietor of the City Barber Shop in 1971. In 1961 he married Ermelinda Gomez Saenz with whom he now has 5 children, 6 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and pleased to have had this time to recognize Councilman Abraham Saenz Jr. on his career and community involvement. He has contributed his time, knowledge, and efforts to his community.

SERGEANT PATRICK C. HAWKINS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Army Ranger Sergeant Patrick C. Hawkins from Carlisle, Pennsylvania who was killed in action on October 6, 2013 in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Hawkins was on his fourth tour in Afghanistan and serving as a rifleman, gun team leader and Ranger team leader when he was

killed by an Improvised Explosive Device in Kandahar Province. He was tending to another wounded Army Ranger when he died.

Sgt. Hawkins graduated from Carlisle High School in 2007 and went on to spend three years studying culinary arts part-time at Harrisburg Area Community College before enlisting in 2010. He is survived by his wife Brittanie, of Lansing, Kansas, and his parents, Roy and Sheila Hawkins, of Carlisle.

Mr. Speaker, Sgt. Hawkins was clearly following part of the Army Ranger creed which says "I will never leave a fallen comrade" when he gave his life for our country. Therefore, for his dedicated service and sacrifice to protect our great Nation, I commend Army Ranger Sergeant Patrick C. Hawkins.

RECOGNIZING MS. KRISTIN BECK
FOR HER COURAGE AND SERVICE
TO THE NATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Kristin Beck, a decorated U.S. Navy SEAL who not only spent 20 years fighting for her country in uniform, but is now leading the charge for equal rights for transgender Americans. During the course of her distinguished military career, Kristin was known as Chris Beck, and served through 13 deployments in Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, including seven combat deployments, before retiring and coming out as the first openly transgender Navy SEAL. From fighting terrorists overseas to knocking down gender barriers at home, she is a true patriot and source of inspiration.

At the age of five, the young Chris Beck knew that he was different, being drawn to his sisters' feminine clothes and toys. The son of a socially conservative, dogmatically religious farmers, however, he was sent to a Christian school operated by televangelist Jerry Falwell and pushed into traditional masculine roles, such as playing football and riding motorcycles. Fifteen years later, Chris found his calling with the SEALs, the Navy's elite special operations force. He proved himself to be a courageous and much respected hero, while developing the deep bonds of brotherhood with his fellow SEALs. In between missions, though, when Chris had a little time to himself, he could not help but dress in women's clothes. Over the next two decades, he went on to serve on a tour with the counter-terrorism unit known as SEAL Team Six, famous for its harrowing missions and rescues, and earned the Bronze Star with "V," the Purple Heart, and other numerous honors.

In 2011, Chris retired from the military and embraced his true feminine identity as Kristin Beck. She started undergoing hormone therapy and physically transforming herself into a woman. With this metamorphosis came the decision to officially come out to the world. It began with replacing her LinkedIn profile picture with one of her dressed as a woman, and changing her name from "Chris Beck" to "Kristin Beck." On February 9, 2013, Kristin officially came out to the military in a press release, in which she stated that she "respectfully remained silent regarding her gender

identity" during the era of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and deeply desired to be "afforded the freedom to live in a manner consistent with her life-long gender awareness as a female."

With the pain of shrapnel, broken bones, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as reminders of a life of extraordinary military service, Kristin agreed to participate in a study of "resilience" by Dr. Anne Speckhard, a Washington-area psychologist and adjunct professor at Georgetown University Medical Center. An expert in the psychology of terrorism, Dr. Speckhard wanted to study how service members draw upon coping mechanisms to integrate the stresses and exhilarations of combat with their workday lives back home. What she found was the disjointed story of a woman coming into her own following a lifetime of military service and societal pressures. After more than 100 hours of interviews that often resembled psychotherapy, Kristin and Dr. Speckhard co-authored the book *Warrior Princess: A U.S. Navy SEAL's Journey to Coming Out Transgender*.

Kristin has embarked upon perhaps the greatest mission of her life: self-actualization. Since her return to civilian life, she has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the issues affecting both the transgender community and veterans. Kristin works closely with Healing Grounds, the non-profit organization she founded to support returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Healing Grounds lends therapeutic help to them by providing specialized training in landscaping and gardening to build a place of tranquility in their own backyards. In addition, she has two teenage boys from a previous marriage, and works as a Pentagon consultant.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Kristin Beck for her outstanding bravery and service to our nation. All her life, she has selflessly put duty and country ahead of her own needs. Kristin's story reminds us of the many daily struggles faced by transgender Americans and veterans alike, including the continued discrimination faced by transgender service members who must hide their identities in order to serve in the military. As she continues working to advance lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality and address the needs of veterans, I remain an ally in Congress and wish her the very best in her new life's mission.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF OSCAR JACKSON
MOONEY, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to honor Oscar Mooney, Jr., a distinguished Alabama veteran, on his 90th birthday.

Mr. Mooney was born on December 2, 1923 at home in Weogufka, Alabama. In 1943, Mr. Mooney enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a sergeant in the 16th Armored Division. The 16th Armored Division was instrumental in the liberation of Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. Mr. Mooney has received the WWII Victory Medal, the American Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal with one bronze star and the Good Conduct Service

Medal. This long list of accomplishments highlights the bravery with which Mr. Mooney has lived his life.

On July 21, 1950, Mr. Mooney married Jeannette Rodgers. Together they have two children, Roger Emory Mooney and Emma Elizabeth Mooney Fielding. They also have 4 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

After 18 years of working full-time for the Kimberly Clark Corporation, Mr. Mooney retired to work full-time on their farm, the Mooney Home Place.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and Mr. Mooney's family in celebrating 90 years of Mr. Mooney's life, and please join me in thanking him for his outstanding service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING TULLYTOWN BOROUGH POLICE CHIEF PATRICK PRIORE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a career of service to the community of Tullytown Borough by Police Chief Patrick Priore.

Chief Priore retired from the force at the end of August after serving more than 15 years as chief and nearly 24 years with the department overall.

The Chief's commitment to the people of Lower Bucks County was well known and widely respected. His dedication to protecting the people of his region continued even after he was seriously injured in the line of duty in May of 2009—an injury that forced him into an early retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Chief Priore for many years. A law enforcement professional of the highest integrity, Pat has been a good friend and confidant to me and an abiding influence on his officers and community. Most of all, he is a great father and husband. These traits are being passed through Pat's family and in to the community that has been privileged to have been blessed with his leadership, courage and faithful commitment to service.

While Chief Priore may no longer be the head of the Tullytown Borough Police Department, we still recognize and honor his service and sacrifice today and wish him the best during his retirement.

I thank you; the people of Tullytown thank you.

CONGRATULATING HONDA MANUFACTURING OF INDIANA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Honda Manufacturing of Indiana on celebrating their fifth anniversary of mass production. Honda's Indiana facility is located in Greensburg, in my congressional district.

On October 9, 2008, Honda opened their seventh North American auto assembly plant in my hometown of Greensburg, Indiana. The

facility has grown to employ over 2,000 associates and has been a valued asset for the economy of Greensburg and Southeastern Indiana. Each vehicle produced at the Greensburg facility contains about 900 parts from hundreds of suppliers, many of them in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky. In 2011 alone, Honda spent \$16 billion with suppliers, supporting good jobs throughout the region. To-date more than 650,000 vehicles have rolled off the Greensburg facility production line. These include the Civic Sedan, Civic Natural Gas, and the Acura ILX.

I ask the entire Sixth Congressional District to join me in congratulating Honda Manufacturing of Indiana on this milestone. Their leadership and economic impact on our state has been invaluable. On a personal note, I am very appreciative of the impact Honda has had on my hometown of Greensburg and the Decatur County community at large. Honda Manufacturing of Indiana is a great community partner, and I look forward to celebrating many more milestones in the future.

IN HONOR OF MISSIONARY KATHERINE CASH GRIFFEY'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to an outstanding evangelist, life coach, minister, nurse, missionary and all-around phenomenal woman, Evangelist Katherine Cash Griffey, who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on Saturday, October 12, 2013, at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia in Atlanta, Georgia.

Missionary Katherine Cash Griffey was born on October 18, 1933, in Atlanta, Georgia to the late Mr. Robert Cash, Sr., and the late Mrs. Mary Jane Moss. The first of five children, she lived with her parents in the home of her grandparents, Rev. Lewis Woods and Missionary Irene Woods, who had founded Rome Church of God in Christ. Surrounded by religion, she was raised in the Christian Pentecostal Faith. Missionary Woods anointed her at birth, baptized her in the church at one year old and instilled in her a mindset of "Holiness is Right." Missionary Woods also showed by example that a pure, righteous, and true walk in life is the one taken on God's Path.

Mother Woods passed away when Evangelist Griffey was nine, but not before leaving her with these final words that she carries with her to this day, "You are to do great things for the Lord, and to be about His mission in your life." After Evangelist Griffey's grandmother passed, her mother suffered a nervous breakdown, her father joined the Army and the children were separated, each going to live with other family.

Evangelist Griffey went to live with her aunt, who had fifteen children, nine of whom lived in the home, so she never had her own bed in which to sleep. Her world torn apart, Evangelist Griffey became very ill and depressed, leading her to become inactive in the church.

Missionary Griffey attended Wesley Avenue Elementary School-Atlanta Public School System until her father took her and her brother to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she at-

tended and graduated from Westinghouse High School.

After graduation, Evangelist Griffey returned to Atlanta where she met her husband, Joseph Griffey. They began attending Antioch East Baptist Church, where she joined the Usher Board. The Rev. E.W. Lumpkin noticed her and called her in to tell her, "You have something to do. The Lord is trying to speak to you." This was a pivotal moment in Evangelist Griffey's life.

Encouraged by her pastor to accept a call to minister for God, Evangelist Griffey moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where she scrubbed floors while attending the Duval School of Nursing to earn her license as an LPN. She matriculated in the Zeta Van Gibson School of Theological Studies to better understand how she could fulfill the calling that God placed in her life. In 1967, she graduated with her License in Religious Bible Doctrine, Pages in Healing and Spiritual Advising and Teaching and simultaneously, the Spirit of God laid upon her heart the need to start The St. Katherine's Prayer Band at her home in Jacksonville, Florida. Then in 1969, while in constant prayer, Missionary Griffey made the decision to move back to Atlanta and continue her ministry with the Prayer Band.

In April 1982, Missionary Griffey purchased her current home and welcomed the Lord and the Prayer Band inside. The Prayer Band's services were held every second Sunday and every Thursday Night in the "Prayer Room" of the house. A debt-free Missionary Griffey was then led by God to mortgage her home and add the money to the funds that had already been raised to purchase a church building. Finally, on August 9, 1989, the church's first home at 1153 Ormewood Avenue was purchased with cash and officially named and registered as The St. Katherine's C.O.G.I.C., Inc. Through divine intervention and a developer as a benefactor, the church was able to relocate to a larger facility on Covington Highway, where it continues to flourish to this day.

Missionary Griffey has achieved much in her life, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of her husband, Joseph, two sons, Joel and Jonathan, and her beautiful granddaughter, Brittani. Missionary Griffey has reared her family on the faith and belief that "Keeping God first will allow you to get far in life; Prayer without ceasing."

In her eighty years, Missionary Katherine Griffey has endured many tests and trials, but she has survived them all and has come out stronger for it. She has survived sickness, heartbreak, ridicule, and scorn. She has been shot and her office was fire bombed. She has overcome colorectal cancer, heart valve replacement surgery, and 10 hospitalizations since 2006. Although the load may seem heavy, she knows that the Lord would never give us more than we could bear. Through it all, her sturdy faith in the Lord was never shaken and her mission to win souls for Christ never ceased. She has come a long way from the malnourished child with severe asthma to a strong pillar firmly grounded in the Lord.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, to better improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Missionary Griffey has helped to shape the lives of many, including Members of Congress, Governors, Mayors, state politicians, foreign leaders, ministers, and lawyers, among others, by means