

oil painter. She is also well-known in her community as being passionate about the environment, often advocating for greater environmental protections and voicing her opinion in local newspapers. Yvonne loves to spend time with her large family, and is often be found at her grandchildren's soccer games and school events.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Yvonne Wright on her 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF WORLD POLIO DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House that in many parts of the world, polio is on the run. What in the past was a worldwide epidemic is now a controlled, limited disease and the potential for total eradication is very real.

One of the groups that has dedicated much of its attention to this problem is our Rotary Clubs. Most of us think of Rotary as being that eclectic group of community volunteers who turn out at charity events or serve at pep rallies for the local high school football team. Their dedication to local goodwill is important, true, but they are actually much more.

In reality, more than 34,000 local Rotary Clubs throughout the world initiate and deliver service projects to address today's challenges, including illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water, peace and conflict resolution, and environmental concerns. Back in 1985 Rotary began a mission to eradicate Polio. At that time more than 350,000 children were stricken with Polio every year at a rate of nearly 1,000 people afflicted by the crippling disease every day. Today, the reality is much different. The number of countries which are polio-endemic has been reduced to just three—Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Polio cases have been reduced by 99% to fewer than 700 recorded cases in 2011.

This advancement in health is due to the effort of many governments and charities and even individuals around the world dedicated to public health. But key among them is Rotary which has taken on as one of its central missions a positive initiative to create awareness and to educate the citizens everywhere about the vital importance of eradicating polio worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, on October 24 Rotary Clubs will mark World Polio Day and I commend them on their contribution to the worthy goal of eliminating polio around the globe.

REMEMBERING WALLACE "WALLY" BELL

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to learn of the death of Wally Bell of Austintown, OH in my Congressional district. Wally Bell was a very well known umpire who

had risen to the highest level of officiating in the MLB. Wally was another great sports product of the Mahoning Valley. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to all of his friends and family.

I submit the following article that appeared in the New York Daily News on October 15.

[From the Associated Press, Oct. 15, 2013]

MLB UMPIRE WALLY BELL DIES OF APPARENT HEART ATTACK AT AGE 48

NEW YORK.—Major League Baseball umpire Wally Bell, who worked the NL playoff series between the Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals that ended last week, has died. He was 48.

The commissioner's office confirmed Bell's death Monday. He died of an apparent heart attack in his home state of Ohio. "All of us at Major League Baseball are in mourning tonight regarding the sudden passing of Wally Bell," Commissioner Bud Selig said in a statement.

"I always enjoyed seeing Wally, who was a terrific umpire and such an impressive young man. On behalf of our 30 clubs, I extend my deepest condolences to Wally's family, fellow umpires and his many friends throughout the game."

Bell became the first active MLB umpire to die since John McSherry passed away of a heart attack on the field in Cincinnati on opening day in 1996.

Bell worked the 2006 World Series and three All-Star games, including this year's event at Citi Field, where he was stationed at first base. A veteran of 21 big league seasons, he had also worked four league championship series and seven division series since joining the major league staff in 1993.

According to Bell's biography on MLB.com, his proudest moment as a big league umpire was returning to the field after having open heart surgery in 1999. "I am deeply saddened and shocked at the loss of umpire Wally Bell," said Joe Torre, MLB executive vice president for baseball operations.

"Umpiring was his life, and he touched so many people within the game of baseball. Aside from being an accomplished, All-Star-caliber umpire, Wally was a loving dad to his two teenage children. I extend my deepest condolences to them, his girlfriend Renee, the rest of his family and his admirers across Major League Baseball."

Bell was 34 and 2½ weeks from leaving for spring training in 1999 when his heart problem was detected. He had quintuple bypass surgery on Feb. 18, 1999, that left him with an 8-inch scar down the middle of his chest. Two of his arteries had been 100 percent blocked. Two more had been 80 percent blocked, another 70 percent. But he returned to work 11 weeks later in San Diego for a game between the Padres and Atlanta Braves. That night, plate umpire Mark Hirschbeck took the first ball out of play, and planned to have all the umps sign it before presenting the souvenir to Bell.

Seven years later, Bell was behind the plate for Game 3 of the World Series between Detroit and St. Louis at Busch Stadium. During the 2013 regular season, Bell was a member of Tim McClelland's crew.

"Wally was a great umpire, a great partner and a great friend. The umpiring community is deeply saddened by this tragic loss. He will be sorely missed by many," said major league ump Joe West, President of the World Umpires Association.

Bell is survived by his son, Jason, and daughter, Lindsey.

IN TRIBUTE TO HAROLD SHARP

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harold Sharp for his 44 years and 3 months of dedicated government service. Arizona is in sincere gratitude for the assistance, guidance, and leadership you have provided for the Federal Aviation Administration for so many years.

HONORING KA JOOG

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the organization Ka Joog, and to recognize its contributions to the Somali community of Minnesota through art, education, and political action.

Ka Joog launched in 2007 as an organization with no funding, but with an abundance of energy and dedication. The organizers, led by Mohamed Farah, worked tirelessly to establish an environment where Somali youth could gather and solve problems in their community. Their challenges were abundant—from the language and cultural separation of growing up in a foreign country, to the negative media attention of gang shootings and drug trafficking. The members wanted to help Somali teens "stay away"—the translation of Ka Joog—from "drugs, violence, radicalization and other negative influences, and instead to stay on the right path by attaining higher education and serving and volunteering in their communities."

And in that, they have been phenomenally successful. Last year, Ka Joog was awarded the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award by the FBI's Minneapolis Division, as well as the Ninth Ward's Youth Leader of the Year award. In just six years, Ka Joog has established itself as a political and cultural force in the Twin Cities.

Its programming is diverse and effective. Mentoring groups provide support and guidance to the youngest of the community through workshops, field trips and tutoring. A program called "Invisible Art" fosters discussions through prose, poetry and song, nurturing creativity and effective communication. A summer camp last year provided a new connection to Minnesota's natural environment for disadvantaged Somali youth, many of whom had never left the Twin Cities. Ka Joog regularly hosts conferences and roundtables on issues affecting the Somali community, gathering local, state, and federal officials to discuss gang violence, job opportunities, education, health and medical disparities, and the prevention of terrorism. Not only does their work solve many problems through discussion, coalition building, and personal engagement, it also demonstrates to youth who feel left out of the political process that they too can accomplish their goals by working hard and working together.

Ka Joog has already helped thousands of Minnesota youth, and it is poised to help even

more in the future. On behalf of all Minnesotans, I thank Ka Joog for its public service.

HONORING THERESA M. DESFOSSES ON BEING INDUCTED INTO THE RV/MANUFACTURED HOUSING HALL OF FAME

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Theresa M. Desfosses of Scarborough, Maine on being inducted into the RV/Manufactured Housing Hall of Fame.

In August 2013, Theresa Desfosses was inducted into the RV/Manufactured Housing (RV/MH) Hall of Fame, becoming only the fifth member from New England, one of only a few women, and the first Mainer to receive the honor. Inducting its first class in 1972, the RV/MH Hall of Fame was established by the RV/MH Heritage Foundation to recognize individuals that have made a significant, positive impact on the manufactured housing industry.

Throughout her career, Theresa has helped grow and advance the manufactured housing industry on the national and state levels. On the national level, she most recently served on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee, advising the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on manufactured housing regulations and safety standards. On the state level, Theresa was instrumental in establishing the Manufactured Housing Association of Maine as well as Maine's Manufactured Housing Board, serving on its Board of Directors for many years.

Theresa has not only helped transform the manufactured housing industry, but has also had a direct impact on the lives of her fellow Mainers. As owner of State Manufactured Homes, a third-generation family business, Theresa has provided affordable, accessible homes to more than 700 Maine families. Her tireless work ethic and commitment to Maine have made our state a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in recognizing the extraordinary accomplishments of Theresa M. Desfosses and congratulating her on being inducted into the RV/MH Hall of Fame.

IN MEMORY OF JOANN KOOBATIAN

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Foothill High School's choir teacher, JoAnn Koobatian, who sadly passed away on Friday, October 18 after an eight-year battle with a rare form of cancer. She was just 47.

JoAnn, an East Bay native, joined the faculty at Pleasanton's Foothill High School in 1996. She was vital to rebuilding its choir program, which had disappeared from the school's curriculum in the 1980s.

Since reviving the choir program, JoAnn's ability to connect with students made it ex-

tremely popular. Because of her dedication and passion for teaching music, she was named Pleasanton's Teacher of the Year for 2011.

Even while battling cancer for many years, JoAnn continued doing what she loved—teaching—and she always encouraged the best from her students.

Her students showed their love and devotion for their beloved teacher by hosting many local fundraisers to help JoAnn and her family pay for her medical expenses. JoAnn's legacy will continue in the lives of the students she touched.

I want to express my deepest condolences to JoAnn's husband Richard and daughter Amanda. JoAnn will be missed dearly. Her life is truly an inspiration to students, faculty, and the entire Foothill community.

CONGRATULATING BRAD WILLIAMS ON HIS SELECTION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL APARTMENT ASSOCIATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Brad Williams of Dallas, Texas, on his upcoming installation as chairman of the board of directors for the National Apartment Association (NAA), which will take place on November 8 in Dallas.

Mr. Williams and his work exemplify the spirit of business in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. He has forty years of experience in property management and, with Lincoln Property Company, manages 50,000 rental units in both Texas and the Midwest. He also has a history of leadership in the rental housing industry. He is a past president of the Apartment Association of Greater Dallas and of the Texas Apartment Association (TAA). He has chaired the Texas and National Legislative Committees; and, for the last three years, he has served as chairman of the NAA's Political Action Committee (NAAPAC). Mr. Williams has also worked as Secretary on the Executive Committee for the NAA.

Rental housing is a crucial and growing industry in Dallas, where almost half of the city's people live in apartments. Many of these buildings are new and bring construction, innovation, and an economic boost to the area. Nationwide, 35 million people reside in apartments which contribute \$1.1 trillion and 26 million jobs to the economy—from construction and skilled trades to leasing, operations, management, and even to the various businesses that surround residential buildings. To help ensure that rental housing is of a quality worthy of the public, the NAA makes it its mission "to serve the interests of multifamily housing owners, managers, developers and suppliers and maintain a high level of professionalism in the multifamily housing industry to better serve the rental housing needs of the public." Founded in 1939, the NAA today consists of 170 local and state affiliates, 63,000 members, and 6.8 million homes.

Mr. Williams is a native of Dallas, where he now lives with his wife, Ginny. He is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School and received a degree in History from the University

of Texas. He earned his Certificate of Real Estate from Southern Methodist University and his designation as a Certified Property Manager from the Institute of Real Estate Management.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Chairman-elect Brad Williams and wishing him well as he guides the National Apartment Association through the upcoming year.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP DONALD HILLIARD, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr. on his 30th Pastoral Anniversary. As Senior Pastor at Cathedral International, Dr. Hilliard continues to provide outstanding spiritual leadership to the Perth Amboy, Asbury Park and Plainfield communities.

Dr. Hilliard received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern College, Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and Doctor of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1978 by the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. and was consecrated a bishop in 1995. Dr. Hilliard became the Senior Pastor of Cathedral International at the age of 26.

Under Dr. Hilliard's leadership, the membership of Cathedral International has grown from 125 congregants in 1983 to 6,000 members today. The church is also expected to expand to a fourth location in Cranbury. In addition to leading Cathedral International, Dr. Hilliard is also the Founder and Presiding Bishop of the Covenant Ecumenical Fellowship and Cathedral Assemblies, Inc. and mentors other pastors. He founded and currently serves as CEO of the Cathedral Community Development Corporation, which provides resources and services to the community. He is also a member of many other religious and community organizations, including the NAACP.

Over the years, Dr. Hilliard has been recognized by various organizations for his contributions to the church and community. He has received the New York City Council of Churches' Clergy of the Year Award, the Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce Executive of the Year Award and the National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Award, among several others.

Dr. Hilliard is the son of Alease Hilliard-Chapman and the late Donald Hilliard, Sr. He is married to Pastor Phyllis Thompson-Hilliard and together they have three daughters.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 30th Pastoral Anniversary of Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr. His leadership, service and dedication to the church and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.