

to four children: Sam, Dante, Philip, and Alexandria. He is a Licensed and Ordained Minister of the Gospel and currently serves as Minister of Membership Assimilation at Greater Fairview Baptist Church.

Reverend Williams is currently enrolled in Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College pursuing a Master in Christian Education. He earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Mississippi Valley State University in 1987 and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Mississippi in 1991. He is a graduate of the Mississippi Certified Public Manager Program, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Leadership Yazoo City's Inaugural Class in 1992, and the 2008 Inaugural Class of FOCUS—DMH's Succession Planning/Accelerated Leadership Development Program.

Reverend Williams organized and has facilitated T and T (Thad and Teresa) Food/Outreach Ministry since 2000 where they have received both national and local recognition for their service to the community including the 2014 "WJTV Jefferson Award" and the 2013 Southern Christian Services "Hands of Providence Award."

Reverend Williams has served as Chaplain for the Mississippi Valley State University National Alumni Association, employed with the State of Mississippi since 1992 and currently with Mississippi Department of Mental Health's Central Office where he was voted by his peers as the 2012 Employee of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY LOU LAVAL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Betty Lou Laval, who passed away on June 27, 2014, at the age of 79. Betty Lou's optimism and appreciation for life will be missed greatly by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Betty Lou spent most of her life in Fresno, California. She met her future husband, Claude Laval III, in kindergarten at Heaton Elementary School. For a short time, she left Fresno and attended the University of Southern California on a full scholarship. Betty Lou was a very active member of the Delta Gamma Sorority and recently attended their 50th reunion. She adored her alma mater and was one of the university's greatest supporters.

Betty Lou and Claude were married for 57 years. They raised two daughters: Melinda and Luann. Family was most important to Betty Lou. Her children and grandchildren—Nicholas, Chase, and Ellery—took priority over everything else in her life. Betty Lou will be greatly missed by Claude, her daughters, grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and relatives.

Staying involved in the community was always very important to Betty Lou. She was an active member of the Junior League of Fresno and served on the Board of Trustees for Children's Hospital Central California. She was

also a dedicated member of La Feliz Guild for over 40 years.

One of Betty Lou's greatest passions was music, and she was a very talented musician. Betty Lou could play any string instrument and especially loved the banjo and ukulele. In addition to her appreciation for music, Betty Lou also enjoyed traveling with Claude. They visited many different countries together, making friends from all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Betty Lou Laval. Betty Lou will be remembered as someone who always brought joy to others, and her commitment and dedication to the community she loved dearly will never be forgotten.

TONY GELDENS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Tony Geldens is known locally in Kingwood, Texas for being a community and political activist and strong patriot. There is much more of a heroic story to tell.

It gives me great honor to tell you about Tony Geldens' courageous account of resistance under Nazi Germany's control of the Netherlands. Throughout World War Two, Tony courageously fought Hitler's Nazis as a member of the Dutch Underground. He helped to feed, hide, and protect Dutch Jews.

Born in the 1920s, Tony grew up in Hertogenbosch, Netherlands where his dad owned a brick factory. Like most of the world in the 1930s, the Netherlands, suffered from a Depression.

Tony grew up belonging to the Boy Scouts, like most Dutch teenagers, camping with fellow Scouts, riding bicycles along canals and by old brick buildings. Tony remembers a close circle of friends consisting of both Christians and Jews. After school, like most young boys, they all enjoyed hanging out together.

However, on May 10, 1940, most of Tony's world suddenly changed. Sixteen year old Tony was camping in the woods, close to his dad's factory, when without warning the German Army invaded the Netherlands. His dad came and retrieved Tony from his camping site, and the family quickly evacuated to their home ahead of the invading forces. The Dutch resistance held out for three days before surrendering; marking the beginning of the Nazi Germany's occupation of the Netherlands.

The Nazi occupiers soon imposed anti-Jewish measures on all Dutch Jews. As was throughout Nazi Germany, Dutch Jews were required to wear a yellow Star of David at all times. Strict curfews were enforced, Jews could not own businesses, and students were forced to transfer to segregated Jewish schools.

In January 1941, Hitler required all Jews to register themselves as Jews. A total of nearly 160,000 Jews in the Netherlands registered. They were issued ID cards stamped with the letter "J" for Jew.

Unlike many, Tony remained in the Netherlands during World War Two, even after having the opportunity to leave. Remaining because he felt compelled to stay and fight

against the injustices occurring in his country. After Germany invaded, he withdrew from high school due to the war, and then much later attended Architecture school in Tilburg, Netherlands. It was there he met his wife, Anna.

As time went on, the harshness of the Nazi occupation grew. Notice was sent to all Dutch Jews that they would have shipped to work in Germany—forced labor.

Tony was outraged towards the Nazi's treatment of Jews, he and fellow Scouts decided to join the Dutch Resistance effort. Although, the Nazis had immediately disbanded the Boy Scouts, Tony and his friends would always remember the Scout promise, to do their best to do their duty to God and Country; and to other people.

Under Nazi control, resistance was forbidden and often quite dangerous. All resistance happened illegally and occupiers were ruthless.

Captured members of The Dutch Underground were usually shot, imprisoned, or sent to concentration camps.

Nonetheless, Tony and his loyal band of Scouts were not deterred from joining the resistance movement.

Without an organized leader, Tony began a covert four year fight against the Nazis, saving Jews from starvation, torture, imprisonment, and death.

Like a war time Robin Hood, Tony fed hundreds of Jews by holding up German food stamp offices to obtaining food ration books. Drawing from his hobby building radios, he also operated a radio transmitter which transmitted to England information about downed British pilots and Nazi movements.

He would also help downed allied pilots by hiding them among different homes of Dutch citizens until they were able to reach safety in France.

As a result of his actions, he was arrested and imprisoned numerous times. When imprisoned, the Nazis beat and tortured him for information concerning the Dutch resistance cells, or Dutch Jews.

Several times they administered "truth serum"—it never worked! Sometimes they let him go and sometimes he escaped—just to be rearrested again. The last few days before the war ended were the hardest for Tony. One day, Tony came home and discovered an empty house. He ran next door to his priest to find answers. After investigating, the priest informed Tony that the Nazis were holding his family and they would give him three days to turn himself in.

After the third day, Nazis shot his mother first, then his sisters and then his father.

Wanted posters with Tony's picture began to be circulated on trees around Hertogenbosch. In order to save his family, Tony resolved to turn himself in to the authorities. He said his goodbyes to his priest, friends and family. He hid at a bombed out railroad station; sleeping between the railroad ties. On his way to turn himself in, he saw the Canadian Red Cross working the area.

According to Tony the hardest moment throughout everything, was to see liberators but knew he had to turn himself into the Nazis.

Halfway during his trial, shooting broke out between the Canadian soldiers and the Nazi police.

Once again, Tony was able to escape. However, while Tony was at his trial, German Nazis had evacuated his family along with

hundreds of Dutch Resistance citizens thirty miles away.

With the intentions of murdering the resistance fighters, the Nazis put them in five different buildings and subsequently blew up the buildings, including city hall. Miraculously, his family was at the end of the line going into the building and unbeknownst to the Nazi's they hadn't entered before it was demolished. Unlike so many others, they survived.

Soon after, the Netherlands was liberated. At this point however, they thought Tony was dead. Imagine the Geldens reunion when they learned they all had survived.

During World War II, the Nazis deported 107,000 Dutch Jews to concentration camps. Only 5,200 survived. The Dutch Underground helped hide 25,000 to 30,000 Jews. Two-thirds of Dutch Jews in hiding survived the war. Less than 25 percent of Dutch Jews survived the Holocaust.

Tony and thousands like him put his life on the line for freedom. He saw the concentration camps and the victims of the Nazis. He saw friends murdered.

He saw incredible numbers of new graves throughout Holland. But like so many of his generation, he never discusses the details. He does not see himself as a hero; oftentimes the greatest acts of heroism and courage are the ones that go most unnoticed.

After the liberation of the Netherlands, Tony became a successful architect. He stayed and helped rebuild his hometown and his country. Eventually, in 1967 he found his way to Texas, and became a United States citizen in 2000. He and his wife, Anna, raised five children in their home in Kingwood. He now loves this adopted country; and he loves Texas. Tony is a true patriot. He fought the good fight up until his death, July 29th, 2014. He was 90 years old.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize and honor my friend, Tony Geldens, for his part in saving Dutch Jews in World War Two. He was a person of great courage, dignity and compassion and his actions were truly heroic.

The city of Kingwood lost a tremendous man. Tony's selfless service truly made the world a better place. He leaves behind an amazing story, wonderful legacy and a grateful local and national community. I am proud to say I knew Mr. Gelden. He was one of Texas's best.

And that's just the way it is.

H.R. 4315, THE 21ST CENTURY ENDANGERED SPECIES TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 4315, a package of bills that would weaken the process by which the Administration makes Endangered Species Act (ESA) determinations.

While H.R. 4315 is nothing more than a partisan talking point, it does raise an important debate about the need to reform our regulations to make them more performance-based. Instead of establishing specific rules that tell stakeholders how to achieve specific outcomes, our regulations should instead identify

exactly what we want and allow for multiple paths and discretion for achieving set outcomes. By holding local governments, states, and the private sector accountable, while allowing for flexibility, we can reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and make our regulations more efficient and effective without undercutting public and environmental protections.

The ESA has a clear intention of protecting threatened wildlife species and from 1973 to 2013, it has prevented extinction for 99% of species under its protection. H.R. 4315 does not improve the process, and only moves us away from achieving further wildlife protection and recovery goals.

While framed as a way to roll back red tape, this bill instead creates additional layers of bureaucracy through burdensome and unnecessary reporting requirements on the details of all ESA lawsuit expenditures made by the Department of Interior, the Forest Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Bonneville, Western Area, Southwestern and Southeastern Power Administrations. Given that our federal agencies are already resource-constrained, these requirements will only distract from the charge to protect threatened and endangered species.

The bill also downgrades the quality of science used in the ESA determination process, by defining all data provided by a State, Tribal or county government as the "best available" data without any review of whether or not it actually is the best data.

This legislation does not further the important goals of species recovery efforts. Congress should work to reform regulation in a way that helps agencies, Tribes, local government and private industry increase performance measures, not create additional bureaucracies and waste limited public resources. I oppose this legislation, yet another in a long series of bills passed this Congress to undermine important environmental protections. I was disappointed to see it pass.

SUNSCREEN INNOVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4250, the Sunscreen Innovation Act. This legislation will support the important work of the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation of Palm Beach County, Florida.

Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer, killing one American every fifty minutes. Residents of Florida are especially vulnerable to the cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation from the sun. The Sunscreen Innovation Act will help Floridians protect themselves with the latest radiation-blocking sunscreen ingredients.

I would like to thank the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation for their tireless work in preventing and detecting skin cancer, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I yield back my time.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
VINCE AND PAT FOGLIA

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, Abraham Lincoln once said, "Commitment is what transforms a promise into a reality."

It's with these words in mind that I rise today to recognize Vince and Pat Foglia for their extraordinary spirit of generosity and commitment to people with disabilities in their community as manifested by their years of service and support of the work done by the Pioneer Center for Human Services in McHenry, Illinois.

On June 20, 2014, I was honored to salute them when they received the inaugural "Make Change" Award presented by the Center.

For years, Pioneer Center has lived out its mission of "empowering individuals to achieve their full potential." It engages people of all abilities throughout the community through innovative, effective, and compassionate services. This includes employing and finding meaningful job opportunities for exceptional people to achieve individual and organizational excellence.

When Pioneer Center was in search of client work opportunities, it approached Vince and Pat, and in typical fashion their response went beyond expectations.

As chairman of the board of Sage Products, a global leader in the innovation and manufacture of disposable health care products, Vince understands the meaning of work to people with disabilities. He immediately agreed to partner with Pioneer Center and provide work for the clients.

Vince further "transformed a promise into a reality" by hiring Pioneer clients as employees of Sage. Vince and Pat take pride in knowing their employees personally—a reflection of their heartfelt compassion for helping others.

Vince and Pat also funded the client computer lab at Pioneer Center that included specialized equipment for people with disabilities.

But their benevolence isn't limited to providing opportunities and monetary support. In keeping with their passion and commitment to give back, Vince and Pat have made it a point to stay engaged with Pioneer Center seeking opportunities where they can meet whatever challenges confront Pioneer Center so that they can continue to make a difference in others' lives.

Vince and Pat, how fitting it is for you to be honored with the "Make Change" Award, for your acts of compassion and dedication to helping others have surely made an impactful change for those whose lives and circumstances you touch.

It is with great privilege and heartfelt appreciation that I take this opportunity to recognize you both for your work and charitable spirit.

Your commitment has indeed transformed the promise of hope into the reality of a better future for so many people. For that I wholeheartedly thank you and congratulate you on your well-deserved award.