

IN HONOR OF N. MICHAEL RUCKA

LOUDON COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
ROY H. BLEDSOE**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor N. Michael Rucka, an important community leader whose entrepreneurial spirit, tenacity, and ethical standards enriched the lives of his family, law partners, friends, and clients. Mike was a dear friend and wonderful mentor. He was the very essence of life, compassion, generosity, and curiosity. World affairs and domestic politics were always on Mike's mind and he was never shy about sharing his thoughts with me. Mike passed away on July 28, 2014, after struggling with cancer. His passing has left a huge empty space in those of us who knew and loved him. But what we will remember the most is the way he enriched so many lives and made the Monterey Bay Area, and indeed the world, a better place.

Mike was born on October 3, 1939 in Brooklyn, New York. His parents, Nettie and Arthur, soon moved to Los Angeles and then settled in San Francisco. Mike graduated from Lowell High School before attending the University of California, Berkeley. Following his graduation from UC Berkeley and the University of San Francisco School of Law, Michael relocated to the Monterey Peninsula in the 1970s. There, he worked ambitiously alongside his friends Emmet O'Boyle, Alfred Lombardo, and J. Andrew McKenna to develop the Rucka, O'Boyle, Lombardo, and McKenna Law Firm in Salinas, California.

Mike devoted every day to representing injured parties in matters of workers compensation and Social Security disability. Mike won the Granado Case before the California Supreme Court, thus establishing the rule that temporary disability and medical treatment are not subject to apportionment. Thanks to his work, this rule has benefited all injured workers since.

Michael co-founded and acted as one-time National Chair of the Workplace Injury Law & Advocacy Group. He also served as the President of the California Applicant's Attorneys Association from 1975 to 1976. In 1993, Mike received the Eugene Marias Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mike was uniquely respected both in this community, throughout California, and by his peers throughout the country. In a small block of marble in his office is a short handled hoe, presented to Michael in honor of his instrumental work and help in getting the back-breaking short handled hoe banned from the agricultural fields of California. He donated his time, resources and energy to organizations that are committed to advancing the rights of injured workers and others who need a voice.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in honoring Mike's lifetime of achievement and in extending our heartfelt condolences to his friends, and family members, including his wife Corry, daughter Brandy, sons Greg and Nick, and his grandchildren.

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Loudon County Commissioner Roy H. Bledsoe is a long-time friend of my family, and one of the most honorable men I have ever known.

He recently retired from 55 years of public service to Tennessee. During that time, he impacted the lives of thousands of people in many positive ways. Our Nation would be a much better place if there were more people like Roy Bledsoe.

Roy's public service began in 1959 as a member of the Soil Conservation District in Sweetwater Creek. He then went on to be elected to the Loudon County Commission in 1966 and become the first mayor of the county in 1968.

His remarkable 48 years of service on the Loudon County Commission is unmatched.

Recently, the state of Tennessee honored Roy's service with a Joint House Resolution, which stated that he "distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community," and that his "remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life."

Roy was a friend and supporter of my father, and I have been blessed to have his friendship and support over the years as well. I know even in retirement he will continue to impact the lives of many.

Mr. Speaker, Commissioner Roy H. Bledsoe is a patriotic and great American known for his work ethic and generosity. I bring his service to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD and wish my friend well on the occasion of his well-earned retirement.

HONORING STANISLAUS COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
MANAGER III DEBORAH  
THRASHER

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services Manager III Deborah Thrasher on her retirement. After 13 years of valuable service to the Emergency Operations Center and county, Mrs. Thrasher retired on September 5, 2014.

Mrs. Thrasher has been an integral part of the development and maintenance of emergency operations plans for Stanislaus County and nine other cities. She has developed and handled the annual maintenance and continuity of government plans and operations for the county and hosted workshops for local agencies. Mrs. Thrasher managed the local hazard mitigation plan and developed several programs for the county, including the agri-

culture plan, avian influenza plan, and functional annexes for emergency operations plans.

Over the last 10 years, Mrs. Thrasher was also responsible for management and administration of all related grant programs. During that time, she became one of the most respected operational area managers of Homeland Security Grants. Additional duties included, coordinating FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grants and Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant program.

Mrs. Thrasher served on several local and state committees representing Stanislaus County, including the Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committee, California Emergency Services Association, Stanislaus County Healthcare Executives, and the Stanislaus County Operational Area Council. Through her leadership, she developed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Stanislaus County and United Way. Mrs. Thrasher would also swear in volunteers as emergency service workers and participate in full scale exercises with the county & State of California.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services Manager III Deborah Thrasher on her retirement and in wishing her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

TO RECOGNIZE MS. ALEX HOLLEY

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize Alex Holley who has joined FOX29 as the new anchor of Good Day Philadelphia.

Ms. Holley is a native Texan and comes to the City of Brotherly Love by way of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina where she previously served as a local news reporter and anchor.

Philadelphia, and our region, has a rich history of journalism dating back to the founding of our nation, including the likes of Benjamin Franklin, and the signing of the Bill of Rights which ensure a free and open press. It is my hope that Ms. Holley continues this tradition and will loyally report on the latest news from around the Delaware Valley.

As the federal representative of Bucks and Montgomery counties, and part of Good Morning Philadelphia's broadcasting area, I look forward to her reporting on the issues affecting the people and communities of our region. I join my neighbors in welcoming Ms. Holley and wish her the best of luck in this new, exciting position.

HONORING MS. DORIS HAYNES  
MILLER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding, highly driven professional, Doris Haynes Miller.

Doris Haynes Miller was born, raised and educated in Clarksdale, Mississippi where she

attended public schools until she graduated from Clarksdale High School. She was baptized at the age of 12 at Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church. After graduation, she left Clarksdale to attend Jackson State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Marketing. She later moved to Europe and lived there for 8 1/2 years; primarily in Germany. While in Europe, she attended Boston University and the University of Southern California as she pursued a Master's degree in Human Resource Management. She was employed by the Department of Defense and the Department of the Army as a Social Service Representative until her return to the United States.

Ms. Miller attests that it was the love of family and divine intervention that brought her back to Clarksdale. She lost her father, a cousin and two uncles to cancer within the past fifteen years. As a result of her losses, she has become strongly involved in cancer awareness. She is a champion for education and an advocate for youth, young people and the working class grassroots' community.

She was previously employed by Comprehensive Urban/Rural Ensemble with Tourism, a non-profit agency she assisted in creating during 1998 to spur positive economic and social change in Coahoma County and throughout the Mid-South Delta Region. It was primarily funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

She served as the first Executive Director of the Mississippi Conference of Black Mayors. She is the first African-American female member as well as the first African-American President of the Clarksdale Exchange Club. She has served as Vice-President and President of Clarksdale-Coahoma County Crime Stoppers, Inc. She has served as Vice-President of the Clarksdale/Coahoma County Association of Educators. She is also a member of the Clarksdale Community Council of The Mastery Foundation where she has assisted in planning, organizing and coordinating Community Empowerment Meetings since 2002.

As a result of her work and passion towards racial reconciliation and improving race relations in her community and the Delta Region, she was the only African-American selected to represent the state of Mississippi for the 2004 Ireland Intensive in Derry, Londonderry, Ireland. This global intensive was focused on bridging racial equality, religious beliefs and religion to positively impact lives internationally.

During the 2005 Clarksdale mayoral election, Ms. Miller was the first woman to seek the position. She presently serves as Chairperson of the Voter Registration Committee for the Mississippi State Democratic Party as well as a member of the Mississippi Democratic Administrative Committee. She also presently serves as a member of the Coahoma County Democratic Committee.

She is currently employed by a subsidiary of Homeland Security as a Field Research Traveler and the Alcorn State University Extension Program as a Marketing Associate. Ms. Miller has other ongoing contracts as an Independent Consultant in the areas of Research, Community Development, Evaluation, Public Relations, Marketing, Education and Event Planning.

Ms. Miller enjoys traveling, cooking, entertaining family and friends, walking, attending concerts and watching good movies. She is

the oldest of two sisters and one brother. Her favorite mottos are "always be true to yourself" and "wear life like a big t-shirt".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Professional Woman for her dedication and service to mankind, Ms. Doris Haynes Miller.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY ANGELS CHURCH

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of Holy Angels Church in Colma, California. This diverse and close-knit parish beautifully calls itself a family of faith, sharing time, talent and treasure.

Today the church on San Pedro Road has a seating capacity of 1140, but its beginnings a century ago were much smaller. St. Anne Church was built in 1868 on land donated by Peter Dunks of Colma and named after his daughter Anne Dunks. Priests from San Mateo and San Francisco rode their horses to the church until the advent of the railroad. One priest, Reverend James Cooper, spent so much time in the saddle that he was known as "the horseback priest." It took him four days round trip to travel to the church.

From 1899 to 1914, St. Anne was a mission of St. Michael in the Ocean View district. In 1914, the mission received the status of parish and the name of the church was changed to Holy Angels. Catholics from the coast had to travel to Colma for mass and sacraments until Father Sorasio, the pastor at the time, set up a mission in a house near present-day Nick's Restaurant in Rockaway Beach.

By 1952, the parish had outgrown the size of the church. A growing number of Catholics from Broadmoor, Sterling Park, Sherman, Callan Heights and other new developments joined the church. A campaign to enlarge the church and build a parish school was launched in July of that year under the chairmanship of San Mateo County Supervisor Thomas Callan. As a result, Holy Angels underwent its first major alteration in 87 years. The church was enlarged and a school with eight grade levels, a library, office and convent was built.

In 1960, a fire destroyed the whole sacristy including all vestments and linens. It was accidentally started by children playing with candles in the sacristy.

The following year, the church once again needed to be enlarged and a new campaign began. The new Holy Angels Church and rectory were dedicated in September of 1962. Its mission architecture, mosaic murals and stained glass windows give it a simple beauty and grace.

Holy Angels has had 16 pastors since its establishment in 1914. Father Alex L. Legaspi became the newest one on July 1, 2013. Holy Angels has a rich parish because of its diversity, from its humble beginnings with German, Irish and Italian immigrants and more recently with parishioners from Mexico, Central and South America, the Philippines and other countries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the 100th anni-

versary of Holy Angels Church, a house of worship that enriches its parishioners with a close sense of community.

#### IN HONOR OF IRVING C. WEIL

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Santa Cruz resident Irving C. Weil on the occasion of his 100th birthday. I have had the great pleasure to know Irving as a community activist and political campaign volunteer. He has made his life an example of compassion and civic action for every citizen to emulate. I have had the honor of having a flag flown above the Capitol in honor of Irving in recognition of his many years of service.

Irving was born on August 27, 1914 in Brooklyn New York. During WWII he served in England as part of the U.S. Army, Medical Service Corps. He returned to the Army during the Korean war where he oversaw a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, popularly known as a MASH. Following the Korean war, Irving continued to serve in the Army with postings in Germany and Fort Ord, from where he concluded his Army career in 1968.

Following his retirement from the Army, Irving moved to Los Angeles, where he pursued a college degree. He was then employed by the Mobil Oil Corporation as a chemist and supervisor. Irving later relocated to the Monterey Bay Area where he became active in the local community, particularly with Temple Beth El. He is the recipient of the B'nai B'rith "Akiba Award" for extraordinary service to his Jewish faith and heritage. And even as he turns 100, Irving is active with the Santa Cruz County singing group called the DOGS (Dominican Oaks Guys Singing).

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in wishing Irving a happy birthday and conveying our gratitude for his service to the United States. The world is a better place because of his efforts.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. HATTIE CREWS

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, reaching the age of 85 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Ms. Hattie Crews was born on August 18, 1929 in Effingham, South Carolina and is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Ms. Crews has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Ms. Crews is celebrating her 85th Birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in Georgia, she celebrates a life of blessings; as a Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, friend, a servant and a leader; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; an advocate, faithful matriarch and a community leader; and