

HONORING WILLIAM A. RYAN IV

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William A. Ryan IV. Will is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Will has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Will has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Will has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Will organized and completely renovated the Girl Scouts storage facility at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Additionally, I am proud to say Will has been accepted into the United States Military Academy Class of 2018. I am sure he will serve his country with the same dedication as fellow north Missourians and West Point graduates, Generals John J. Pershing and Omar Bradley.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William A. Ryan IV for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF DR. WANDA COOK-ROBINSON AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a local education leader in Metropolitan Detroit, Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson, the superintendent of Southfield Public Schools for the last seven years. In recognition of the profound impact of her leadership on the quality of public education in Southfield, Dr. Cook-Robinson was honored in 2013 as the Michigan Superintendent of the Year by the Michigan Association of School Administrators.

Dr. Cook-Robinson became the superintendent of Southfield Public Schools in 2006—directly serving the community she has called home for the last 30 years. She brought with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in the realm of public education as an instructor for both graduate and undergraduate education classes at Grand Valley State University, Marygrove College, and Wayne State University, as well as a tenure of service as Assistant Superintendent for Student Performance and Human Resources for the Oakland County Intermediate School District.

The constant theme of Dr. Cook-Robinson's term has been promoting collaboration with staff and community stakeholders across all sectors of Southfield to fully leverage the maximum educational experience for her students. Among the fifty-two active partnerships South-

field Public Schools' has engaged in on Dr. Cook-Robinson's watch, is the Revolution Read program which has brought together local elected officials, the higher education sector, and small businesses with the goal of having every Southfield Public Schools' student reading at grade level by the end of their fifth grade year. It is a program that has already seen success as reading scores on state assessments improved in the program's second year. Dr. Cook-Robinson has also overseen the Southfield Public Schools' accreditation in the AdvancED program of the North Central Association Commission, which requires high academic standards to obtain—a distinction that had been achieved by only five other school districts in Michigan at that time. Additionally, Dr. Cook-Robinson has been directly involved with the creation of high school preparatory academies for Southfield students, providing a uniquely tailored small-class-size environment for students as they transition from middle school to high school in the eighth and ninth grades.

For her outstanding record at the forefront of leadership in the public education sector, Dr. Cook-Robinson has been recognized by many organizations. She has been honored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s Southfield Alumnae Chapter as its Educator of the Year, and has been named a Distinguished Educator by the Wayne State University College of Education Alumnae Chapter. Dr. Cook-Robinson remains an active leader across a number of local organizations including the Southfield Community Foundation, Wayne State University Board of Visitors, the Oakland University Department of Educational Leadership and the Southfield Area Chamber of Commerce, where she continues to build partnerships that are providing Southfield Public School students the tools they need to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to move into a future where knowledge is an increasingly critical component to our nation's enduring prosperity, providing a world class education that prepares our youth to meet this demand is crucial. The work of educators, like Southfield Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson, is key part of the continuing success of the Greater Detroit region, the State of Michigan and our Nation. I congratulate Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson on her achievements and know that as she transitions to new responsibilities at the Oakland Intermediate School District, that she will continue to play a vital role in preparing our youth to meet the challenges and demands of our changing world.

HONORING ELAINE POMEROY
MCKELLAR

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Ms. Elaine Pomeroy McKellar, devoted wife, mother, sister, friend and colleague. With her passing on January 8, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of her life's work to improve the social welfare of individuals and families as well as the countless lives she touched over the course of her career in social work and advocacy.

Born on August 3, 1944 in Thomasville, Georgia, she and her family moved to Valley City, North Dakota following World War II, where she grew up with her three younger siblings Linda, Earl, and Glenn. Mrs. McKellar received her Bachelor of Science in Social Work from the University of North Dakota, and obtained her Masters in Social Work (MSW) at the Washington University in St. Louis.

After completing her studies, Mrs. McKellar headed to the San Francisco Bay Area determined to work in the progressive political climate and change-oriented environment. While she walked on the front lines advocating for fair wages and walking a picket line for the United Farm Workers, she met her husband Larry McKellar. They had one son, Dominic McKellar.

She started her career off in the 1970s at Catholic Social Services in San Francisco. She primarily worked on foster care services and with youth transitioning out of the foster care system. She later went to the Children's Home Society as the Coordinator of Emergency Foster Care Family and recruitment, a non-profit agency serving children and families through critical child welfare services.

In the late 1980s, Mrs. McKellar's career took her to Bay View Hunters Point Foundation, where she helped to implement elementary school mental health programs with her experience and expertise in social welfare. Following her experience at the Bay View Hunters Point Foundation, Mrs. McKellar worked at the UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion through a Robert Wood Johnson grant and provided critical mental health services to children victimized by domestic violence.

In April 2005, Mrs. McKellar came to work in my Oakland District Office. While initially starting as a part-time caseworker, she quickly rose to become the Senior Caseworker managing the casework services. She had spent the past 8 years providing outstanding constituent services to the residents of the 13th Congressional District. Mrs. McKellar's experience as a social worker was an asset to my office, as her institutional knowledge and expertise in social welfare easily allowed her to work closely with federal agencies and handle sensitive situations with the upmost professionalism and ease. She was committed to ensuring that my constituents received timely responses from agencies, often going above and beyond what was required.

Mrs. McKellar worked closely with veterans and constituents with issues relating to Social Security and Medicare. Her many contributions to the office have not gone unnoticed. For 5 years, she was responsible for organizing An Artistic Discovery, an annual Congressional high school art competition aimed at encouraging students to express themselves through the arts. Mrs. McKellar worked tirelessly to build relationships with high school art teachers and community stakeholders, which helped to successfully grow the event. In 2012 and 2013, Mrs. McKellar worked closely with staff from Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER's office to host the Veterans' Fix-It Event, an event to address the backlog in veterans' claims and cases with the Oakland VA Regional Office.

On a personal note, Elaine was an exemplary example of a public servant. She demonstrated the highest ethical standards and truly embodied the social work code of ethics in all aspects of her life. She will be deeply missed.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and dedicated public servant, Mrs. Elaine Pomeroy McKellar. Her invaluable service to improving the lives of the underrepresented and underserved will live on in the endless legacy of her life's work. I offer my sincerest condolences to her many loved ones, friends and colleagues she touched over the course of her incredible life. May her soul rest in peace.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF GENERAL ROBERT SHOEMAKER

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of General Robert Shoemaker, U.S. Army, Retired. Through a lifetime dedicated to service, General Shoemaker continues to make extraordinary contributions to both the security of his nation as well as to improving the quality of life in Central Texas.

He was born February 18, 1924 and grew up in eastern Michigan. Following graduation from West Point in 1946, General Shoemaker was commissioned in the Infantry. His brave service of nearly 40 years in both the 1st and 2nd Infantry Divisions as well as the 82nd Airborne Division saw numerous tours of duty in Vietnam, various commands, as well as achieving the elite status of Army Aviator. General Shoemaker rose to the highest levels of the military and was promoted to four star general and led the U.S. Army Forces Command. Known as FORSCOM, this command consists of more than 750,000 soldiers, nearly 90 percent of the Army's combat power, and provides expeditionary, campaign-capable land forces to combatant commanders. Under his steady leadership, FORSCOM held fast and true to its motto as "Freedom's Guardian."

Bringing to life Patton's maxim "the soldier is also a citizen," General Shoemaker settled in the Fort Hood, TX area following his 1982 retirement and began the next chapter of his life of extraordinary service. Knowing firsthand of the importance of education to military communities, he worked tirelessly to establish Texas A&M University—Central Texas near Fort Hood. He served eight years as an elected Bell County, TX Commissioner. Important civic organizations sought his tremendous leadership skills and General Shoemaker served as President and advisor to numerous entities, including the 1st Cavalry Division Association, the Heart of Texas Council of the Boy Scouts, and the Fort Hood Chapter of the United Way. The same commitment to excellence General Shoemaker brought to the Army he also brought to his beloved community.

Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have made a difference in the world. General Robert Shoemaker doesn't have that problem. His patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to service reflect the very best values of Central Texas. Let February 18 continue to be a celebration of one of our nation's heroes who devoted his life to keeping us free and making America a beacon of hope

in the world. Along with his friends, family, and loved ones, I wish him both a happy 90th birthday and all the best in the years ahead.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,258,824,690,537.53. We've added \$6,631,947,641,624.45 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING ASCAP ON 100 YEARS OF PROTECTING SONGWRITERS AND COMPOSERS

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize ASCAP, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, on its milestone 100th birthday.

In February of 1914, a group of prominent American music creators and publishers met at the Hotel Claridge in New York to discuss a noble idea: a society that would champion and protect the rights of music writers and publishers by licensing the public performance of their music. The result was ASCAP, officially formed 100 years ago as of this Thursday, February 13th.

ASCAP's earliest members included John Philip Sousa, Irving Berlin and James Weldon Johnson—enormously important songwriters and composers of the early 20th century, and still beloved by Americans today. Since then, ASCAP's membership has grown exponentially. It currently has nearly 500,000 creators and publishers of music of all genres, and licenses the public performance of more than nine million musical works.

The society's membership includes countless musical luminaries past and present, from Duke Ellington to Katy Perry, George Gershwin to Jay Z, Leonard Bernstein to Beyoncé, Marc Anthony to Brad Paisley, Henry Mancini to Hans Zimmer. Equally important, ASCAP also represents many thousands of writers whose names we might not recognize, but whose music we love.

As a long-time member of the House Judiciary Committee, I can attest to ASCAP's commitment to protecting the creative and economic rights of its members, and to working with lawmakers to build a viable future for professional songwriters and composers. ASCAP is always willing to come to Washington with guitars in hand, to remind us that every music creator is a small business owner who helps drive the US economy as they provide the soundtrack to our lives.

I can also attest to the important cultural and economic contributions made by the

3,500 ASCAP members in my congressional district. ASCAP members write the music for Broadway musicals; compose the theme songs and scores for the many movies and TV shows filmed in Manhattan and Brooklyn; and write the musical compositions performed by many New York recording artists. They are an integral part of the cultural and economic fabric of my district.

ASCAP's centennial comes at a critical juncture for music and copyright. The modes of music consumption are changing rapidly, and the future for songwriters has never been less clear. While ASCAP is uniquely positioned to help its members navigate this uncertain future, it is also hampered by a regulatory structure that has not evolved along with the music landscape. That antiquated regulatory structure prevents ASCAP from licensing new services in ways that balances the needs of music creators, licensees and consumers. Those rules need to be updated so that, in its second century, ASCAP can continue to enable songwriters to enrich our culture and uplift our souls while feeding their families and paying the rent.

For 100 years now ASCAP has been at the forefront of the global music industry, nurturing new music talent and licensing every new music distribution platform, all in the name of protecting the songwriters, composers and publishers that call ASCAP home. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing its contributions and wishing ASCAP a second century as remarkable as its first.

HONORING JOSHUA D. McPHERSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua D. McPherson. Josh is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Josh has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Josh has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Josh has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Josh installed a bench and placed landscaping rock at Park Hill Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua D. McPherson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING KEVIN McCORMICK

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kevin McCormick.