

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE
OF MICHAEL WILLIAM PEARSON

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to Michael William Pearson, a Navy veteran and small business owner from Southern California.

Mike was a true gentleman, and he will be missed by everyone who had the good fortune to know him. He will be remembered for his generosity, patriotism, and love of life.

Mike was born on August 6, 1939 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. God called him home on December 26, 2013.

Mike proudly served in the United States Navy as a medical corpsman. He served in the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and was honorably discharged in 1960 with the rank of Petty Officer, 3rd Class.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Mike began his career as a driller in 1960. He traveled the United States to drill in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Washington, DC, and other locations.

Mike was proud to have participated in the construction of the Rayburn House Office Building in the early 1960s.

Mike returned to California in 1970 to start his own drilling company, Pearson Drilling. Mike was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, and neighbor.

I first met Mike when he was my neighbor in Diamond Bar, California.

We were both in the residential construction field, so we crossed paths many times over the years outside of our neighborhood.

Mike became the stepfather of my Senior Policy Director, Lesli McCollum Gooch, in 2006.

I can tell you first hand what a blessing Mike was for Lesli's mother, Loretta Steven-son, and for their family.

Mike will be sorely missed, but I know his legacy will live on in his family, which includes two children, three stepchildren, and eight grandchildren.

Mike was caring and active in his community, and he shared his passion for the United States, founded in the ideals of liberty and free enterprise, with his family and friends.

Our community was strengthened by his life of service, and our country has been immensely bettered by his patriotism, optimism, and goodness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of our colleagues in the House to join me in remembering Michael William Pearson, and to honor him for his service to our country and community. We are grateful for the legacy he has left for our nation.

REDUCING EXCESSIVE DEADLINE
OBLIGATIONS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2279) to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act relating to review of regulations under such Act and to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 relating to financial responsibility for classes of facilities:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2279, which would needlessly complicate efforts to clean up our most dangerous Superfund sites by letting polluters off the hook for cleanup costs and creating conflict and confusion between state and federal law.

One in four Americans lives within three miles of a hazardous waste site, frequently in vulnerable communities. These sites endanger human health, increasing risk for cancer, birth defects, acute poisoning, and injury from fire or explosion. They are also blights in communities—vacant lots and underutilized land that impede economic development.

Our nations' Superfund law, passed in 1980, gives the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to compel polluters to pay to repair the damage they caused, either by cleaning up themselves or by reimbursing the federal government for its cleanup efforts. The cleanup process requires assessing and ranking sites to prioritize the most hazardous areas, and working with states and private parties to remediate the land.

Today's bill would undermine the requirement that high-polluting industries obtain insurance or post bonds to ensure that areas would be cleaned up if they become Superfund sites, reducing the incentive to limit contamination and sticking taxpayers with the bill if cleanup is necessary. It would prohibit the EPA from enforcing financial responsibility requirements in any state that sets its own rules, even if those rules are inadequate to protect taxpayers. It also confuses federal and state responsibilities on cleanup sites, subjecting federal employees to fines or imprisonment if they fail to comply with state orders even when they conflict with federal law. This confusion will only lead to increased litigation, delay, and wasted resources.

Superfund sites are dangerous threats to public health and economic progress in our most vulnerable communities, and we should be working to make the cleanup process as seamless and efficient as possible. This legislation would hinder that effort, and I urge a no vote.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST
ARMEN BEDROSIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay to tribute to the life of Ernest Armen Bedrosian who passed away on January 1, 2014 at the age of 80. Ernie had a significant role in the raisin industry, and his advocacy on behalf of farmers throughout California will undoubtedly be missed.

Ernie grew up in Parlier, California with his two brothers; Krikor and Kenneth, and his sister, Clara. His parents, Murad and Elizabeth, were first generation immigrants who survived the Armenian Genocide. Growing up in an immigrant family with strong parents, Ernie quickly developed great values and principles.

In 1955, Ernie graduated from Fresno State College with a Bachelor's Degree in agriculture. Upon graduation, he joined the United States Army and became a food specialist. A year into his service, Ernie married the love of his life, Carlotta Ketchian. They raised two children; Bryan and Tammy.

In 1958, Ernie completed his time with the Army and went back to work on his family farm. Ernie and his brothers began a grape harvesting business, and in his spare time, Ernie served on various raisin boards and met stakeholders who farmed throughout the Valley. In 1966, he formed the Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA). Ernie served as the first president of the RBA and guided the association through its early years. Today, the RBA is the most successful and largest raisin bargaining association in the country.

While Ernie was establishing the RBA, he and his brothers were also expanding their farming operation. In 1967, they decided to go into the raisin packing business and opened National Raisin Company (NRC). The Bedrosian brothers and their partner Harry Rustigian developed the "Champion" brand. Ernie served as the president and was responsible for sales and daily operations. The NRC had a strong beginning and decades later, it still continues to prosper. It is the largest independent raisin, prune, and dried fruit operation in the world.

It is obvious that Ernie was an extremely successful businessman, but he never took full responsibility for his accomplishments. He attributed his success to Carlotta and his sister in-laws; Katherine and Jane, who served as a support system to the Bedrosian brothers while they were forming their business. Ernie loved the raisin industry, but family always came first. He was a loving and devoted husband and a supportive father. He also enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren; Corney, Tyler, Armen, and Lillian.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Ernest Armen Bedrosian. His presence will be greatly missed, but his legacy will surely live on in the Central Valley.

HONORING CITY OF HOPE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, U.S. Representatives, JUDY CHU and ADAM SCHIFF, to congratulate the City of Hope on the 100th anniversary of their first patient served and to thank Dr. Michael Friedman for his 10 years as Chief Executive Officer.

City of Hope started from humble beginnings in the San Gabriel Valley. Founded by a group of volunteers to treat tuberculosis patients in two large army tents on a 10-acre lot in Duarte, California in 1913, City of Hope has since grown to become a world-class health care facility that includes more than 100 buildings and is still growing.

Today, City of Hope is a leader in medical discovery. As one of 41 comprehensive cancer research centers in the United States, City

of Hope has been credited with developing over 200 patents with 3 of the top-selling cancer drugs on the market being based on discoveries from their laboratories. This institution is also a pioneer in the field of bone marrow transplantation with over 11,000 bone-marrow transplants performed since the institution's creation.

Under the leadership of Dr. Michael Friedman as Chief Executive Officer, City of Hope has entrenched itself as a scientific and medical institution of national renown. Throughout his 10 years as CEO, Dr. Friedman has maintained and expanded one of the largest and most successful cancer research and treatment institutions in the country. On Saturday, January 11th I have the honor of attending a gala on the 100th anniversary of City of Hope's first patient to recognize Dr. Friedman, his successor Ronald W. Stone, and Chairman of City of Hope's Board of Directors Norm Payson.

Mr. Speaker, Representatives CHU, SCHIFF and I ask all Members to join us in celebrating the centennial anniversary of City Hope's first patient and recognizing Dr. Michael Friedman for his service.

HONORING ALBERT "AL" LITTLE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an innovator of the community, Mr. Albert "Al" Little and Al's Flower Shop.

Albert, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, decided to return to Yazoo County, MS after living in Chicago for 40 years, where he worked in real estate. Upon retirement Al decided that Chicago was too cold and decided to make a change.

After returning to Yazoo City in 1995, Al worked with Mary Anderson, who handled landscaping for the city. Mr. Little credits Mary for teaching him about plants and flowers. Al is the owner of Al's Flower Shop located on Broadway in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Inside the shop, the static clears and the antique radio picks up some lively tune from the 1930s. "This business is really just a fun hobby to me. I love doing it, and that's all there is to tell," says Al Little.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Albert "Al" Little for giving back to the community in which he was born.

TRIBUTE TO GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students at Cherry Creek School District's Grandview High School for their victory in the Classroom Law Project's We The People competition on December 16, 2013. Grandview will now move on to Washington, DC, where they will represent the great State of Colorado in the national contest.

The knowledge of democracy and the Constitution demonstrated by these young men and women is inspiring. It always encourages me when younger generations take an interest in government and I am privileged to represent these bright young students in the House of Representatives.

This team has studied hard and I look forward to seeing them compete for our home state. I am certain they will represent Colorado well in the national competition and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Grayson Abele, Sofia Carrillo, William Coleman, Cierra Cowden, Samuel Ehrhard, Jacob Fogleman, Selamawit Gashaw, Renee Hansen, Tae Woo Kim, Emily Neff, Khoa Nguyen, Riley Purnell, Margeaux Reed, Paul Salame, Jordan Shank, John-Rudolph Smith, Zachary Talpas, Ande Troutman, and Jonathan Woronoff for their achievement at the Colorado State We The People competition and to wish them the best of luck at the national level.

HONORING JACKSON-HINDS COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Central Mississippi Civic Improvement Association, Inc. (CMCIA), d/b/a Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center. It was incorporated in October 1970 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization to engage in planning and development of comprehensive health services for residents of poor, largely non-white, communities in Jackson, Mississippi and surrounding areas.

Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center (JHCHC) is the largest community health center in Mississippi. Since its inception, JHCHC has grown from a "one-bus-and-Sunday school-classroom" operation to become a multi-site, multi-disciplinary provider of health services in Hinds, Warren, and Copiah counties. Jackson-Hinds is one of only two federally qualified health centers (FQHC) in the state operating a clinic for the homeless and the only FQHC operating a HUD housing complex for low-income elderly and disabled residents.

A seventeen-member Board of Directors governs JHCHC. Its members represent civic and religious organizations, homeless persons, homemakers and residents of medically underserved communities that utilize center services and programs. Throughout its thirty-two year history, the Board of Directors, management and staff of JHCHC have delivered services consistent with its mission statement: To provide low cost, quality, family-based health care and social services to people who may not otherwise have access to them.

A \$16 million per year operation, JHCHC has an annual economic impact of approximately \$32 million on the community. It employs over 180 health professionals throughout its three county service area, purchases goods and services from many local vendors and suppliers and serves as a training site for undergraduate and graduate students in various health care disciplines. Furthermore, JHCHC saves community resources by providing pa-

tients with more effective, cost-efficient care and reducing inappropriate use of local emergency rooms.

As the largest provider of primary health care services to the poor, uninsured and underserved population in central Mississippi, the prime objective of JHCHC is to eliminate disparities in health care access for these groups, which often fall between the gaps of private insurance and personal income.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center for their dedication to serving.

HONORING DAVID R. WHITMER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Whitmer upon his retirement as Agriculture Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures for Napa County. I thank Mr. Whitmer for his thirty-three years of dedicated service to the people of Napa County, during which time his support for agriculture in Napa Valley and the State of California is both admirable and deserving of recognition.

Mr. Whitmer was born and raised in Napa Valley. He attended Napa Valley College before transferring to California State University, Chico, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He returned to Napa, where he served the county for thirty-three years, including five four-year terms as Agriculture Commissioner.

As Agriculture Commissioner, Mr. Whitmer worked to protect local crops from invasive species, including the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, a major carrier of Pierce's disease. When the European Grapevine Moth was discovered in Napa County in 2009, Mr. Whitmer worked with state, federal and international partners to detect, treat and quarantine the threat. For his efforts, he was awarded the first-ever "Special Achievement-Manager Award" from the California Agriculture Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA). During his years of service, Mr. Whitmer took on a leadership role with CACASA, where he served as both President and as Chair of the Pesticide Regulatory Affairs Committee and the Legislation Committee. Now that he has retired, Mr. Whitmer plans to work with Circles USA, a national campaign to combat poverty.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Whitmer for his invaluable service to the County of Napa. David Whitmer's unyielding dedication to protecting and promoting agriculture in Napa Valley is greatly appreciated by the entire Napa community and we wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

HONORING CHESTER H. STANFORD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a challenge-oriented