

RECOGNIZING NIKI KENNEDY'S
FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR ACHIEVE-
MENT

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Niki Kennedy on receiving a renowned Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award for the 2014–2015 academic year.

Niki, a Marionville, Missouri, native, was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to serve as an English Teaching Assistant in Germany. The award has allowed Niki to continue learning the German language and culture after graduating from Missouri State University, while at the same time serving the people of Germany.

A Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship allows individuals to teach English and serve as a cultural ambassador for the U.S. by being placed in a classroom abroad. Niki's work through her scholarship has helped strengthen American ties with the German people and improve American relations with the country.

I am extremely proud that talented, hard-working, and dedicated individuals such as Niki represent the Seventh District of Missouri. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Niki Kennedy for her service and for receiving this esteemed award.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN MIS-
SIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. John Missionary Baptist Church and its parishioners as they celebrate the church's 70th anniversary. As its congregation gathers to celebrate this wonderful occasion, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring St. John Missionary Baptist Church for their contributions to the Sacramento community.

St. John Missionary Baptist Church was formed on August 24, 1945, under the leadership of Reverend Benjamin F. Davis. Their first location was known as "the little storefront church" and was located downtown on Capitol Avenue between Third and Fifth Streets. The church has been at their current location at 2130 4th Street for the last 53 years and it has thrived under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. J. D. Griffin, Dr. William E. Hights, and their current pastor, Rev. Darryl B. Heath.

St. John Missionary Baptist Church is committed to building stronger and synergistic relationships with its neighboring families and businesses. Their motto is "Small Enough to Care, Large Enough to Serve!" They do this by providing much needed social services to the underserved. An example of their exemplary work includes the Repairing the Breach Neighborhood Project which was established in 2008 and the Resource Referral Center opened in 2010, which is staffed by volunteers to assist in home ownership and financial counseling.

Mr. Speaker, as the congregation gathers for their 70th anniversary celebration, I am pleased to honor and recognize St. John Missionary Baptist Church for its important role in enhancing Sacramento's community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued success and thanking them for their service to the Sacramento region.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL JOHN GROSSENBACHER

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Grossenbacher for an exceptional career dedicated to public service. After a distinguished 33-year career in the United States Navy, John became Laboratory Director of the Idaho National Laboratory in 2005. Since becoming Lab Director, John has dedicated himself to making INL a world-class nuclear energy research and development institution. John's tenure as Lab Director will soon come to an end, and while his legacy of leadership will endure for some time, I want to take this moment to say thank you and best wishes for the future.

When John Grossenbacher assumed command of the Idaho National Laboratory, he navigated the separation of cleanup work from research activities and the merger of two distinctly different research institutions. Since that time, John has brought a focus and purpose to INL's nuclear energy programs and he has worked with various leaders at the Department of Energy to strengthen our nation's nuclear energy programs and the important facilities in Idaho. Part of John's charge was to bring in the best and brightest to lead INL and the talent that he has brought to Idaho from other labs, industry and universities has strengthened our institution and its impact. John also spearheaded an effort to revitalize INL's facilities. Today what once was a field in Idaho Falls is now a gleaming boulevard with modern and efficient laboratories and offices. Idaho National Laboratory is now a strong, vibrant and respected institution and John Grossenbacher, the Battelle Energy Alliance, the Department of Energy, and the State of Idaho deserve credit for this enormously successful partnership.

While John pushed hard for the modernization of INL's nuclear capabilities, he also recognized that INL's unique physical and intellectual infrastructure provided opportunities to greatly expand the lab's work in national and homeland security programs, clean energy initiatives and regional partnerships. Today these INL programs are having a significant impact in their own unique areas and more and more people are looking to work with INL to solve their pressing challenges and get results.

As Laboratory Director, John Grossenbacher has steered the lab through numerous challenges and hurdles. In each of these instances, John assesses the situation, he tells you what he thinks, and he does what he thinks is necessary to solve the problem. John's candor, his unmatched integrity and his dedication to his job have ruffled feathers at times but have also brought him scores of supporters and advocates—and respect. Count me among his supporters.

John Grossenbacher has given INL a legacy of leadership and world class capabilities. John still has lots of energy and a desire to serve his country; and I am confident we will see him soon in some other significant capacity after his tenure at INL comes to an end.

Speaking for many, many others let me say, Admiral, thank you for a job well done.

CONGRATULATING VALDESE WEAVERS ON 100 YEARS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this year Valdesse Weavers, a creative design studio and state-of-the-art manufacturer located in North Carolina, celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The company is the largest decorative jacquard textile mill in North America and a leader in the design and manufacturing of jacquard fabrics for residential and commercial markets.

Valdesse Weavers began in 1915 as the Waldensian Swiss Embroidery Company, a lace and embroidery manufacturer developed by Italian immigrants. Twenty years later, Harley Shuford purchased the company and changed its name to Valdesse Weavers Inc., introducing jacquard woven fabrics to the company's product line.

Today its six branded companies—Valdesse Weavers, Valdesse Weavers Contract, Circa 1801, Home Fabrics, Valdesse International Products (VIP) and Dicey Fabrics—develop fabrics from value to high-end price points and cover the residential, contract, hospitality, health care and specialty markets.

Congratulations to everyone at Valdesse Weavers as you celebrate this significant milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIRE-
MENT OF CHERYL CUNNINGHAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the retirement of Cheryl Cunningham from my staff.

Cheryl was born on August 5th, 1945 in Akron, Ohio to parents Dorothy Newhouse Smith and Charles Coker Smith. She had an older brother named Charles Huntley Smith.

Her family moved to Union Springs, Alabama when Cheryl was two years old and she grew up in this small town and farming community and graduated from Union Springs High School. Cheryl attended Troy State College and Huntingdon College following graduation from high school.

Cheryl started her career working for the State of Alabama in the tax division. She married James C. Cunningham Jr., and had three children, James (Todd) Carter Cunningham III (deceased), Leigh-Ellen and Heather Farrish Cunningham. She is the proud grandmother of six grandchildren including: James C. Ellison (Casey), Charles Tyler Ellison, Earl W. Reed (Trey), Anne Carter Reed, Michael M. Hodges Jr. and Hunter James Hodges.

Cheryl later worked at General Motors in Montgomery before buying their first farm and moving to Macon County, Alabama in 1972. Cheryl became involved in the community of Franklin and was part of the successful effort to incorporate the Town of Franklin in 1977. She served as the first town clerk under Mayor Robert Perry.

Later, Cheryl was hired by Alice Hendon, Tax Assessor of Macon County and by her successor, Ed Corbitt, Revenue Commissioner to serve in their offices as well as serving as Executive Secretary to Macon County Commission Clerk, George Austin in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Cheryl became very active in the Macon County Republican Club and served as County Chairman for several years. She also served as County Coordinator in Macon County for an unsuccessful run by Emory Folmar for Governor of Alabama. She was appointed by Governor Guy Hunt to serve as Chairman of the Macon County Board of Registrars and served many years under Gov. Hunt and Gov. Fob James. She also served as President of the State Board of Registrars for two terms.

In 2000, Cheryl was hired as a Field Representative for Congressman Bob Riley working for him until he was elected Governor of Alabama in 2002. She continued to work for the Third District in my office and will retire on July 31st.

Cheryl served as a member of the Alabama Federation of Republican Women and was later elected as District 3 Director. During her tenure, the first women's Republican club in District 3 was established, the Republican Women of East Alabama.

The Cunningham family loves farming and caring for animals. At present, they have two dogs, three horses, two cats and a pet goat, Bentley. In the past, they have had bob cats, deer, skunks, raccoons, an opossum, flying squirrels and a 650 pound pig named Blossom.

Cheryl attends First United Methodist Church in Auburn, Alabama, is a member of the Macon County Farmer's Federation, Alabama Forestry Association and serves on the Board of Directors for Sunset Point I Condominium Association at Lake Martin.

Cheryl and her husband continue to give back in Macon County. One of their biggest joys is running the Todd Cunningham Christmas Memorial Fund in honor of their late son. Last year they served over 38 families in Macon County that would have not had gifts for their children at Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing a great lady and thanking her for her public service, philanthropic spirit and the great work she did for the Third District. Cheryl, we will miss you, but congratulations on your retirement.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEO BRUNING ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Leo Bruning on the occasion of his 100th birthday, which will be celebrated on August 15, 2015.

After graduating from San Jose State in 1937 and working as a teacher and coach at Hayward High School until 1940, Lieutenant Colonel Bruning began his military service by joining the Army with the 7th Quartermaster Battalion stationed at Ford Ord in Monterey, California. After the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, he immediately took up training to become a pilot and served in that capacity on the homefront throughout World War II.

Once the need for Army pilots subsided and Lieutenant Colonel Bruning was discharged, he wanted to continue his military service to his country so he joined the Air Force. He was stationed in Vienna, Austria to provide support to U.S. embassies in Budapest and Bucharest in the years immediately after World War II, working under constant tension as his airbase was inside of the Soviet sector of the city.

In 1952 Lieutenant Colonel Bruning returned home and left active duty, but he enlisted in an Air Force Reserve program for troop transport. During the next five years Lieutenant Colonel Bruning led his squadron in compiling a total of 2,600 hours of flying on 23 different types of military aircraft. He remained in the Reserves until his 60th birthday with 35 years of military service.

In addition to his military service, Lieutenant Colonel Bruning has been an active member of the Dublin community for 52 years and was a successful business executive for a local ladder company.

I want to acknowledge Lieutenant Colonel Bruning and extend my sincere appreciation for his stellar career of service to our nation and wish him well as he celebrates this significant milestone of reaching his 100th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATROLMAN JOHN J. WILDING FOR SERVING AND PROTECTING THE CITY OF SCRANTON

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrolman John Wilding, whose faithful watch ended this past Sunday morning, July 12, due to injuries sustained while on duty, and those injuries tragically ended Patrolman Wilding's life the next day.

A native son of Scranton, Pennsylvania, John Wilding joined the Scranton Police Department in April 2014, after working for years to earn his place on the force. John's passion to serve and protect his city was exhibited in his work. A fixture in his community, John would regularly check in with local businesses and talk to West Scranton High School students on their way home from class as part of his policing duties.

Early this past Saturday morning, John responded to reports of a stolen vehicle in Scranton. During a pursuit, suspects exited this vehicle near the 300 block of North Main Avenue. Several officers, including Patrolman Wilding, pursued the perpetrators on foot. During the chase, John leapt over a wall not realizing that a fifteen-foot descent was on the other side. He suffered a serious head injury as a result of the fall. John succumbed to his injuries the next day at Geisinger Community Medical Center.

Patrolman Wilding is survived by his wife, Kristen Tansits Wilding, his daughter, Lola Mae, his son, Sidney Wolfgang. He was a dedicated provider for his family, but, beyond that, he was a loving husband and a playful, devoted, and protective father to his children.

It is a great tragedy to lose such a highly regarded officer of the law and an honest, well-respected man. I am grateful for John Wilding's bravery, his public service, and his dedication to our community. His watch has now ended; may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MS. MADISON KING

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Ms. Madison King of Orlando, Florida, for her acceptance to the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. Ms. King was selected for her academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship.

The mission of People to People Leadership Ambassador Programs is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange. To this end, People to People offers domestic and international educational programs that promote cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and leadership. It is my hope that Ms. King benefitted greatly from her participation in the World Leadership Forum, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING JUAN FELIPE HERRERA

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Juan Felipe Herrera, the United States' newest poet laureate and the first Latino poet laureate. As the son of migrant farmworkers and as a Chicano civil rights movement activist, Mr. Herrera serves as an inspiration to Latino Americans everywhere. His poetry sheds light on the Mexican-American experience and allows people of all generations and backgrounds to appreciate his artistry and history.

Mr. Herrera was most recently the California poet laureate from 2012 to 2014. He retired in March from the University of California, Riverside where he worked as a professor. Mr. Herrera was a Redlands resident and we are so honored and proud to have had him play a role in the Inland Empire community. He brought our community into his world, engaging Redlands residents in his state project "The Most Incredible & Biggest Poem on Unity in the World." The 170-page poem included submissions from hundreds of people across the state, including those in the Inland Empire.

Today we thank Mr. Herrera for sharing his gift with all of us and for giving Latino Americans a voice in the world of poetry. We are so proud of what he has accomplished and commend him on the distinguished honor of being