

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate the Clarinda Community Theatre for reaching this 60-year milestone. I am proud to represent all those who have been involved in creating this outstanding theater. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them on a job well done and wishing them nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. CHARLES DORCH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Charles Dorch, a remarkable leader whose passion for music and teaching has touched so many young people in Kansas City. Mr. Dorch attended Arkansas AM&N University in Pine Bluff on a music scholarship, and then turned down a job in Detroit to teach in Kansas City at Southeast High School after his wife was hired at Paseo High School. As we celebrate the distinguished and acclaimed history of Southeast High School in Missouri's Fifth District, it is necessary that Mr. Dorch be celebrated as well. His dedication to his students as the band director reached far beyond expectations.

Starting at Southeast Junior High in 1970 and continuing to Southeast High School in 1973, Mr. Dorch was a gift to the music department of the Kansas City School District for over fifteen years. He was determined to revitalize the band program at the high school, by encouraging students to enjoy playing music in and outside of the classroom. While he was band director, the high school participated in numerous publicized appearances, including varsity football games, pre-games, and half-time shows; annual American Royal parades; the once Kansas City Kings basketball games; and even a bicentennial half-time performance at the Kansas City Chiefs football game. The regard of the band program, under his leadership, is clear when looking at this list of striking performances.

In addition, Mr. Dorch led students through the jazz lab, stage band, and symphonic concert band. All of these opportunities were ways in which students could be involved in activities outside of the classroom. Prospects for students to perform at such occasions as the Goombay Festival on a Bahamas cruise, the nationally televised Republican National Convention at the Charlie Parker Center, or move on to compete in district or all-state bands, were all ways in which students were enthused to further appreciate music and continue their education.

Mr. Dorch urged students to pursue music beyond high school. He knew the importance of a college education, and many students continued on to schools such as Bishop College, Florida A&M, Langston University, and Prairie View A&M University, which I proudly call my alma mater. His effort to help his students' musical interests did not stop with his students either. Mr. Dorch also created the Band Parents Association in order to get the students' parents involved, as well as help with fundraising, which provided such amenities as new uniforms.

His instruction through music also brought him to direct the St. James United Methodist Church choir for nine years. His musical aptitude shined in his ability to not only prime and motivate the choir during worship, but also expand their reach by adding instruments and genres of music to their ensemble.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our fellow colleagues in conveying our gratitude to a teacher, a man of worship, and a man of music. Mr. Charles Dorch has spread his passion for music and has inspired thousands of his students, young and old alike. He has provided them with opportunities to show off their full musical talent and adoration, where they may have not been able to before or under different guidance. We join the alumni and leadership of Southeast High School in honoring the accomplishments of Mr. Charles Dorch for his tireless enrichment of our community and country.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL R. FREY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS SULLY DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend my former colleague Michael R. Frey on the occasion of his retirement after a distinguished 38-year career in public service, culminating in his six terms representing the residents of the Sully District on the Fairfax County, Va., Board of Supervisors.

Michael has represented the Sully District in western Fairfax since it was created following the 1990 census. Prior to seeking elected office, he served 14 years as a staff member to former Springfield District Supervisor and Chairman Jack Herrity and former Springfield District Supervisor Elaine McConnell. The Sully District was carved largely out of the Springfield District, so Michael was intimately familiar with the community. I had the great pleasure of serving with him during my 14 years on the Board, first representing the Providence District and then as Chairman.

Fairfax County is the largest local jurisdiction in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the National Capital Region, and Michael had a front-row seat for much of that growth, particularly in the western part of the county, where the once sleepy rural community has become the largest magisterial district in the County. As a testament to his skill in working with those growing communities and managing the growth in Sully, Michael has chaired the Board's Development Process Committee since 1992.

In a career spanning four decades, Michael's accomplishments are many, but let me cite just a few to convey the magnitude of the imprint he will leave on the community and our county. Michael and I both share a passion for history, and the Sully District is a historically-rich community. It is home to several landmarks, including the Centreville Historic District and Park, which Michael helped to initiate and expand. The park contains remnants of one of the first fortifications constructed by the Confederate Army during the Civil War and was actually occupied by both sides during the

conflict. He was instrumental in preserving historic Mount Gilead and the Sears House as well.

Michael was active in the effort to launch Centreville Days, an annual community festival that attracts families from throughout the region. He championed the expansion of public facilities into western Fairfax, from new schools and libraries to parks and recreation centers to meet the explosive growth and demand from new residents. Of course, he was intimately involved in the project to construct the Sully District Police Station, in which his office is now located. I know I and the community will never forget the leadership and compassion Michael displayed following the May 8, 2006, tragic shooting outside the station in which two officers were killed.

For those who don't know him, Michael has been a lifelong sports fan. He has coached youth baseball and basketball for multiple community sports leagues, and we worked together during my tenure on the board to convert playing fields to synthetic turf in Fairfax to expand such opportunities for our youth. Michael was active in the bid to lure a Major League Baseball team to Northern Virginia. He served on, and at one time chaired, the Virginia Baseball Stadium Authority. As we all know, the team ultimately relocated into Washington, D.C., but the efforts of Michael and the Authority were instrumental in baseball's return to the National Capital Region.

Of course, I cannot mention Michael without bringing up his steady canine companions. Since I've known him, Michael has owned a series of German shepherd rescue dogs—first Mosby, then Marley, and now Boomer—that have been a fixture by his side at community events and in his office. They made frequent appearances at Board meetings and retreats. Our love of animals is another shared bond, and I was pleased to work with Michael on various efforts to support the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and the construction of its new headquarters.

During his tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Michael has represented Fairfax on a number of regional organizations, including the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Transportation Planning Board and the Environmental Quality Advisory Committee. He has served on the Inova Health Care Services Board. In addition, Michael has represented Fairfax as part of regional or statewide delegations traveling overseas.

In fact, I had the pleasure of traveling with Michael to Israel as part of a trip hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council, in which we visited the Dead Sea. Wanting to have the full experience, we thought we'd partake in a mud bath, which we were assured held healing powers. Well, there's a very unfortunate picture of the two of us that will never see the light of day under a "mutual self-destruction pact" we've made and continue to honor, and I will remind Michael that our agreement endures past his life in elected office.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Frey's commitment to our community and the mission of local government is unparalleled. He leaves behind a legacy that will enrich our community for generations to come. His career in public service is truly commendable and deserving of our heartfelt gratitude. When I was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Michael often heard me joke at retirement announcements that we

should not allow retirement for such talented and dedicated public servants. I know the residents of the Sully District certainly wish that was the case here. I join the community in wishing Michael the best of luck in his retirement, and Task my colleagues in the House to join me in expressing our appreciation for his commitment and service to not just the Sully District but all of Fairfax County.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE AND RUTH
DIX

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Charlie

and Ruth Dix of Council Bluffs, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Charlie and Ruth were married in 1955.

Charlie and Ruth's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Cheryl, Eric, Mark, Andy and Paula, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. I salute this devoted couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion. I wish them and their family all the best moving forward.

REGARDING THE ABSENCE OF
REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 14, my family and I said goodbye to a remarkable woman, my mother, Ruth Ann Trousdale. A devoted wife to our father, Earl, for 51 years until his death in 2012, she was a strong woman with an even stronger faith. As we mourn her passing, we also find comfort in knowing she is in the arms of our Lord and reunited with her beloved Earl, whom she missed so much. She was an inspiration to us all, and we will hold her memory in our hearts until we are reunited in heaven.