

their carbon footprint. Stella also served as one of my appointees to the Tysons Land Use Task Force, a multi-year effort to re-envision the National Capital Region's second largest economic center as a transit-oriented, walkable, green city served by the new Silver Line rather than a collection of disjointed office parks reachable only by automobile. Today, thanks to the leadership of Stella and so many others, that vision is becoming a reality.

In addition to her work in our local community, Stella works on regional water quality issues. She has served on the Boards of the Center for Watershed Protection and the Potomac River Keeper, and as a Virginia appointee to the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Council. Stella also is a founding member of the Fairfax League of Conservation Voters, which assesses the environmental agendas and records of candidates for local public office for endorsement. Her many accomplishments were recognized by the National Association of Biology Teachers' Outstanding Biology Teacher Award in 1989, the Virginia Wildlife Federation's Water Conservationist of the Year award in 1992, and the Fairfax County Park Authority's Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, which was named for our late friend and fellow champion for the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Stella Koch on her retirement and thanking her for many years of dedicated and selfless service. Thankfully, she is only retiring from her professional duties. In fact, she'll now have even more time to continue sharing her expertise and advocating for our environmental agenda. Much like the saplings, stream restoration, conservation easements, and many other projects in which she has had a hand, our community will continue to benefit from Stella's handiwork for generations to come. On behalf of a truly grateful community, I wish her all the best in this semi-retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN KELLIHER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Temecula, California are exceptional. Temecula has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. John Kelliher is one of such individual. On February 21, 2015, John will be honored at the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Gala where he will receive the Citizen of the Year award.

Grapeline Wine Tours was founded and introduced in Temecula, California by John and his wife, Kim, in June of 2002. The company's reach now spans through Santa Barbara County and Paso Robles. Prior to their inception, Temecula did not offer many options regarding wine tour operators. Grapeline Wine Tours has now grown to become the largest wine tour operator in Southern and Central California, shuttling over 20,000 visitors through the beautiful vineyards of Temecula. John's Grapeline venture has become so suc-

cessful, the business has announced their upcoming expansion to Northern California, encompassing wine regions in Sonoma.

Over the past ten years, Temecula has now become even more of a destination for travel and tourism as over hundreds of thousands come to visit the region. Much of this can be accredited to promising businesses such as Grapeline Wine Tours that encourage fun-filled experiences in Southwest County.

In the course of Grapeline Wine Tour's progression, John has won a variety of awards and accolades for its success. The business and its founders have won awards including the 2005 Sterling Business of the Year from the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Hospitality Award and Tourism Professional of the Year Award from the Temecula Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau in 2013. With unmatched depth and experience, Grapeline Wine Tours is sure to be successful in their future endeavors throughout California.

John Kelliher's tireless passion for the Southwest County has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Temecula, California. I am proud to call John a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DANE A. MILLER

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Dane A. Miller, a pioneer in his field and a remarkable Hoosier.

Dane was a loving and devoted husband to his wife of 48 years, Mary Louise. Respected and beloved by his colleagues, Dane revolutionized the orthopedic industry when he co-founded Biomet. There, he served as the company's CEO for 29 years, increasing the number of Biomet employees from just eight to more than 6,000 during his tenure. In his spare time, Dane loved helping others and was able to give back to his community by serving both as Director of Kosciuszko Community Hospital and as a member of the President's Council for Grace College and Seminary.

Dane Miller was also my friend, and I am grateful for his support of my career. Like so many other elected leaders in Indiana over the last several decades, I could always count on Dane for wise counsel and a straight answer. He will be missed.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Dane A. Miller. My thoughts and prayers go out to Dane's family, and may God comfort those he left behind with His peace and strength.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GARLAND LEE THOMPSON, SR., FOUNDER OF THE FRANK SILVERA WRITERS' WORKSHOP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Garland Lee Thompson, Sr., a New York theatre producer, writer, director, actor, and co-founder and Executive Director of the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop. Garland Lee Thompson, Sr. will be memorialized and honored in a Three Act Performance Tribute on Saturday, February 14, 2015, which would have been his 77th Birthday. Garland was recently honored at the "Harlem is . . . Theater" Exhibition at The Interchurch Center in New York, that was on view through January 6, 2015.

Act 1: At 11:00 a.m., New York's theatre and film elite will gather at St. James Presbyterian Church at 409 West 141st Street on St. Nicholas Avenue in Harlem, New York for a memorial tribute in remembrance of Garland Lee Thompson, Sr.

Act 2: At 3:00 p.m., Garland Thompson, Jr. and Sean C. Turner will host an afternoon of readings, poetry, and performances, concluding with a birthday celebration and reception in Garland's honor at the Johnson Theater for the New City, located at 155 First Avenue, between 9th and 10th Streets.

Act 3: The Final Act will take place on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at Harlem's historic National Black Theatre, located at 2031 5th Avenue and Dr. Barbara Ann Teer Way, where Garland created the Readers Theatre Series at the prestigious National Black Theatre Festival.

Born on February 14, 1938 in Muskogee, Oklahoma, Garland Lee Thompson, Sr., passed on November 18, 2014. He was 76 years old. He is survived by his two children, Alexandria Dionne and Garland Lee Thompson, Jr.; his two grandchildren, Colson Oliver and Hazel Duncan; his sisters Shirley Thompson and Addie Jean Haynes; his brother, Jim Thompson; his nephews, Dr. Bryan Haynes and Oscar Haynes Jr.; his niece Karen Haynes; and a host of other cousins and relatives.

Garland is best known to television audiences as Transporter Technician Ensign Wilson on the classic original series, "Star Trek." He also appeared in several other popular television series, including "Bewitched" and "Perry Mason."

Garland co-founded the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop in 1973, along with famed actor/director Morgan Freeman, director/actress Billie Allen Henderson, and journalist Clayton Riley, as a living memorial to the life, and work of his mentor, the late actor, director, teacher and producer, Frank Silvera. Under Garland's reputation, for the past 41 years, the Writers' Workshop built a prestigious reputation as a nationally and internationally renowned playwright's development theater for emerging, featured and established writers and artists of color from all over the world. With the workshop, Garland passed on decades of wisdom to rising and established artists of all walks of life. Members of the

workshop included the late Ruby Dee, poet Mari Evans, scholar Larry Neal, and playwright Ntozake Shange.

Mr. Speaker, Garland Lee Thompson, Sr. was also a founding member of the Harlem Arts Alliance, Incorporated and served on the Board of Directors. It should also be noted that while Garland did not land many large roles, his greatest impact may have been behind the scenes, where he worked to pass on his gifts to other budding playwrights. Garland's genius and generosity will be greatly missed by all of us. The theater community has lost a colleague, friend, and dedicated actor and producer. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the theatrical life and legacy of Mr. Garland Lee Thompson, Sr.

25 YEARS YOUNG

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Austin Parkway Elementary School for celebrating its 25th anniversary on Tuesday, January 27th. The faculty, inter-scholastic programs, and volunteer network of Austin Parkway Elementary are vital to providing a quality education for the students.

As Austin Parkway Elementary celebrates 25 years of excellence, the community joined faculty and students in recognizing past principals. Their contributions have helped cultivate generations of leaders and their honorable service laid the groundwork for the strong educational foundation this school represents.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Austin Parkway Elementary School on celebrating 25 years of quality education for the community. We look forward to its continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LINCOLN PENNY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our 16th President Abraham Lincoln and his first and most enduring monument, the United States penny. Just three years after adoption of the U.S. Constitution, Congress passed The Coinage Act in 1792 and established the U.S. Mint. In 1793, the first federal building constructed in the then-capital city of Philadelphia, minted the first circulating coins, 11,178 copper cents. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that the Mint was and remains in my own district and that it continues to produce high quality products for the American people. And true to its Philadelphia roots, the first pennies were designed by one of our town's most famous sons, Benjamin Franklin.

In 1909, after several design and composition changes, the penny's design was changed to honor President Lincoln, the first real person to appear on an American coin.

The Lincoln penny is the longest used design of any American coin, and its release was timed to honor his 100th birthday.

The Lincoln penny was the first U.S. coin to carry the motto "In God We Trust," and it preceded by five years the construction of the Lincoln Memorial. For generations of Americans, the penny has served as a memorial to the first President assassinated in office, as well as a reminder of the brutal Civil War that threatened to end the American experiment, and the liberation of the enslaved African.

Mr. Speaker, the penny is the most common and most highly circulated coin in the United States. 62 percent of the 11.2 billion new coins put into circulation by the U.S. Mint in fiscal year 2013 were pennies. The Mint has shipped 90 billion new pennies since 2000. We can clearly see that demand for the penny remains high and we need to keep minting it.

I am proud that my own City of Philadelphia was the first and longest running producer of the penny. As we celebrate President Lincoln's 206th birthday, I am pleased to honor him, and the coin that commemorates his place in our history.

CONGRATULATING JAY OSBORNE, NIXA HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACH, ON HIS MILESTONE 500TH WIN

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Coach Jay Osborne, head coach of the Nixa High School's men's basketball program, on his 500th career win.

Coach Osborne reached this impressive feat of 500 wins in his 23rd season at Nixa High School, a public school located in Nixa, Missouri, right outside of Springfield. With this win, Coach Osborne is now one of only 54 Missouri basketball coaches to reach 500 wins.

Through his tenure as head coach, Coach Osborne's teams have reached one state championship title in 1999, eight district championships, and won seven Blue and Gold Tournaments. On top of this impressive record, Coach Osborne has led his teams into three state final four appearances.

Coach Osborne's exemplary devotion to coaching is a testament of his hard work and dedication to the Nixa High School students, both on and off the court. The Nixa community is justifiably proud of Coach Osborne and the Nixa basketball program. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his well-deserved victories.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB MCEWEN

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a lawmaker who understood the deep values held by the great people living in the North County, represented them with in-

tegrity, and had the heart of a true public servant. Congressman Bob McEwen passed away in 1995, but it is appropriate to reflect back on a life of service as it has been two decades since his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a brief profile of him written by a friend of mine, Cary Brick. Cary was Congressman McEwen's Chief of Staff and remained close to him after his retirement in 1981. Cary's tribute appears in the January 2015 issue of Thousand Islands Life Magazine.

"When Rep. Elise Stefanik raised her right hand in Washington this month, to be sworn in as the North Country's Representative in Washington, she garnered a lot of national media attention as the youngest woman ever elected to Congress.

Exactly a half century earlier, twenty years before she was born, a 45-year-old veteran New York State Republican legislator from Ogdensburg, took the same oath. One of his Congressional friends from the Great Lakes once referred to him as "The St. Lawrence Congressman."

Robert Cameron McEwen, with strong family roots in New York's St. Lawrence County, went on to represent the Congressional district, bordered by the Thousand Islands and Lake Ontario on the West and Lake Champlain on the East, from 1965 until his retirement, in 1981.

Living on the U.S. shore of the St. Lawrence River, he said "almost near enough to see the color of the eyes of the passing captains and pilots," he was the first North Country Congressman with such a strong personal tie to the St. Lawrence and the Thousand Islands.

The United States Customs House in Ogdensburg, the oldest continually occupied Federal building in America, bears his name as a tribute to his public service.

I had the privilege of serving on his Congressional staff from 1969 until his retirement in January of 1981—first as his Press Secretary, later as his Special Assistant and finally as his Executive Assistant.

He never missed an opportunity to promote the island region. In fact, one of his Congressional colleagues once told me "When I saw Bob McEwen I knew I was going to hear a pep talk about either the (Thousand Islands) or the Seaway."

Best Friends Forever:

"Bob" McEwen's Congress was unlike today's; its members debated the issues of the day with gusto, but at sundown they were friends sharing collegiality, respect and friendship. Two immediate lighthearted instances come to mind.

The first was his hosting of his fellow House member, Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, a downstate Democrat (who later was the Vice Presidential candidate on the 1984 Mondale/Ferraro ticket) through what seemed like ocean seas on a small Coast Guard vessel, from Wellesley Island to Morristown. It was a cold, Fall day. All of us onboard were green at the gills and holding our stomachs when we finally docked. The object was to demonstrate to the influential Democrat, the dangers of winter navigation on the river, a red-hot issue at the time. It worked: she joined him in opposition to the idea. On the flight back to Washington she said "OK, Bob, you've made your point!"

The two were political opposites in both party and political philosophy, but they were friends forever.