

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DUNKIRK FIRE CHIEF KEITH AHLSTROM

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of heroic member of the Western New York community, Dunkirk Fire Chief Keith Ahlstrom, on the occasion of his retirement after a remarkable career.

Since joining the Fire Department in 1979, Ahlstrom has provided wonderful leadership, serving as chief for the last 8 years. His team of 25 paid firefighters and numerous volunteers work together to provide safety for the residents of Dunkirk. Ahlstrom follows his brother, who also recently retired from the fire service, but his 35 years of committed work will not be forgotten.

Along with his tenure as Fire Chief, Keith Ahlstrom also served as valuable member of the community, spending time as a high school baseball umpire and serving as the most senior Chautauqua County legislator. Ahlstrom looks forward to spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deeply thank Keith Ahlstrom for his dedicated years of service and sacrifice for his community. We wish him all of the greatest happiness in his future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAIME ERNA STRIEBER SHEPPERD

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Maime Erna Strieber Shepperd. Maime passed away in January, just weeks after celebrating her ninety-seventh birthday. Bright from a young age, Maime graduated high school as class valedictorian at the age of fifteen and enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin Journalism School. It was at the University of Texas where she met her husband of 51 years, the late John Ben Shepperd. They were married shortly after her graduation.

Maime and John raised four children together, living in both Austin and Odessa throughout their marriage. She was first-lady to John's political career, first as Texas Secretary of State and then as Attorney General. When the family moved to Odessa, Maime got involved with many cultural, philanthropic, and political organizations. She served on the board for the West Texas Rehabilitation Center and founded the Crystal Ball, an annual benefit event. She was also involved as a board member for the Midland-Odessa Symphony, and was tapped by the New York Metropolitan Opera to serve as their West Texas representative.

During Lyndon Johnson's campaign for president in 1964, Maime served as the Chairwoman of the Ladies for Lyndon West Texas committee. She also joined Lady Bird Johnson on the whistle-stop Lady Bird Special train as it toured eight southern states. Maime's legacy

also extends to the University of Texas Permian Basin's library. As the Odessa chairman of the book drive which founded the library in the early 1970s, she helped obtain over 300,000 books to start the collection that students at the University of Texas Permian Basin still use to this day.

Maime's dedication to her many cultural and philanthropic pursuits was admirable, as was the stable and loving home she provided for her family. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Alfred and Honey Shepperd, her daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and Gary McIntosh, nine grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren. Please join me in remembering the extraordinary life of Maime Shepperd.

**YURITZI MORA**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yuritzi Mora for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Yuritzi Mora is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yuritzi Mora is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yuritzi Mora for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

REMEMBERING A HEINOUS ATTACK AGAINST THE KURDISH PEOPLE

**HON. TIM WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pause and remember a heinous attack against the Kurdish people that occurred 27 years ago this week.

On March 16, 1988, Saddam Hussein's regime dropped chemical weapons on the city of Halabja, killing 5,000 innocent men, women, and children.

Thousands more suffered permanent injuries.

This crime against humanity was the worst part of a larger campaign of more than 40 gas attacks aimed at exterminating the Kurds.

The Kurdish people, however, have proudly persevered, rebuilt, and now provide stability and an ally in an often unstable region.

Today, while we look back on this solemn anniversary, it is important to offer our gratitude to the Kurdish people for their courage and sacrifice in the current fight to defeat our mutual enemy ISIL.

THANKS MR. BASEM MUALLEM FOR YOUR SERVICE TO CALTRANS DISTRICT 8

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid farewell to Basem Muallem who will be retiring after 29 years with Caltrans at the end of March. A true man of the people, Muallem will always be remembered as an extraordinary leader who listened and understood the growing infrastructure needs of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. As District 8 Director, Muallem is currently responsible for the largest of the 12 statewide Caltrans districts geographically, with four interstates and 32 routes totaling over 7,000 lane miles within its boundaries. Muallem manages a staff of 1,280 and an operating budget of \$181 million. He oversees all facets of design, construction, operation and maintenance of the state highway system in the greater Inland Empire region. Muallem works in partnership with both regional transportation and local resource agencies to provide a safe and reliable highway network for the traveling public. For as long as I have been in public office, our region continues to face massive growth. As more people, businesses and vehicles come into the area, the challenges of providing a highway system to meet the region's growing needs increase. Muallem has been a good friend to these needs in the various positions he has held within Caltrans. What's next for him you might ask? Muallem, who holds a Bachelors of Science degree in biology, and a Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees in Civil Engineering is headed to Parsons corporation, an engineering and construction company. I wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CARL DJERASSI

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the iconic Dr. Carl Djerassi who died at the age of 91 on January 30, 2015. In the weeks since his death, a great deal has been said about Dr. Djerassi.

Most of these comments focus on his key role in developing the contraceptive pill. Because Dr. Djerassi and two other scientists were able to synthesize norethindrone, a key ingredient of the pill was finally available for widespread use and commercialization. The human race owes Dr. Djerassi a great deal.

Because women were finally able to control their own fertility, they were able to spend time in school, obtain work and to fully join the economy. Millennia spent bearing children and being denied education and advancement due to the demands of raising children were now upended in those nations that embraced artificial contraception. The pill is often characterized as a great advancement for women but in truth all human beings were advanced as women were freed to increasingly contribute their talents and intellect fully to the great research and economic challenges of their eras.

For this reason alone, Carl Djerassi should be heralded as an advocate for human rights and economic development.

Dr. Djerassi came to the United States with his mother as a refugee from a Europe increasingly dominated by Nazi Germany. After writing to Eleanor Roosevelt about his impoverished state, but inquiring mind, she offered him a scholarship. It was a fateful offer for Carl Djerassi and for human beings globally. Dr. Djerassi graduated *summa cum laude* from Kenyon College before his 19th birthday and then earned his doctorate in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin. He subsequently worked for or founded several private companies, including early work for Syntex, the company that commercialized norethindrone into the pill. His research was also key to the synthesizing of antihistamines and cortisone.

After positions at a number of other universities, Dr. Djerassi moved to Stanford where he conducted research and taught for decades. He was the ultimate professor who, because of his extraordinarily high standards, did not suffer fools gladly. Stanford University indicated that Dr. Djerassi published more than 1,200 scientific papers, and made early and important contributions in many areas of chemistry, including the use of analytical tools of chemistry such as mass spectrometry, magnetic circular dichroism and optical rotary dispersion. Those he mentored remarked on his willingness to look after their careers despite an extraordinary schedule that at times committed him to travelling 100,000 miles per year. In 1973, Dr. Djerassi was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Nixon. Stanford noted that he was the only awardee to simultaneously be given that award by the President while also being on Nixon's enemies list.

In our region, Carl Djerassi was also known for his extraordinary love of art, poetry, and his books of "science-in-fiction." According to those who knew him well, his short stories, novels and plays provided unusual detail about the lives and difficult choices of scientists who bear the burdens of historic discoveries.

Mr. Speaker, some individuals leave as their legacy an endowment or a building or fond memories of a life well lived. At least from my perspective, Carl Djerassi left us all something that is much more valuable than any of these gifts: He gave us options in life. Thanks to Carl Djerassi, we can choose to live as human beings have lived for tens of thousands of years or we can acknowledge that human beings may seek a different path—one of self-determination and thus personal responsibility to leave the world a better place than when we entered it. Carl Djerassi left the world a much better place than when he entered it, having explored the greatest secrets of chemistry and some of the most difficult moral dilemmas confronted by inquiring minds. He was truly a man for all ages, and we can only hope that his insights passed down through these past decades will endure and be improved upon for decades yet to come.

## RECOGNIZING ROBERT LEE FINK FOR HIS SERVICE

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Lee Fink for his 50 years of dedicated service to the field of Emergency Medical Services. Bob's EMS career began when he was just 12 years old, when he witnessed an 8 year old unconscious boy being pulled from a public swimming pool. The boy was placed upon the ground, but no one rendered aid to him. This was before CPR, but as a Sea Scout, Bob was taught the Holger-Nielson back pressure arm lift, which saved the boy's life.

This is what drove Bob to become a life-guard, a career he officially began at 16 when he took his first CPR and first aid classes through the City of New York. A few years later, Bob was granted a waiver by the Mayor of New York City to become the first lay person to be a CPR instructor. After graduating college, Bob had a successful 20 year career promoting health and fitness as a Physical Education teacher in Bedford Stuyvesant. In 1977, Bob became an EMT and then in 1979, he became a Critical Care EMT. A few years later, in 1988, Bob was honored with the New York State Advanced Medical Technician of the year. This honor was bestowed upon him for saving the life of a 12 year old boy who was submerged in the waters of Lake Ronkonkoma.

Bob went on to become an EMT instructor in 1996, and since then, he has prepared thousands of students to become EMT's and Critical Care EMT's. At the age of 60, Bob returned to school yet again to become a Paramedic as one of the oldest students in his class at St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center.

To this day, Bob remains dedicated to serving the public, continuing to volunteer and serve his community as a mentor and a Paramedic. Today, I thank and congratulate Bob for his 50 years of dedication and service.

**CARLY BAUER**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carly Bauer for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carly Bauer is a 12th grader at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carly Bauer is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carly Bauer for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedi-

cation and character in all of her future accomplishments.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL GRAVES, FAIA

**HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Graves, FAIA, a prominent and respected architect, who passed away last Thursday March 12, 2015 at the age of 80 at his home in Princeton, NJ.

Mr. Graves was born in Indianapolis on July 9, 1934. Upon graduating from Broad Ripple High School in 1952, he went on to pursue a bachelor's degree in architecture at the University of Cincinnati. Enamored with design, Mr. Graves went on to obtain a masters degree in architecture from Harvard University, before teaching at Princeton University as the Robert Schirmer Professor of Architecture, Emeritus, a pursuit that would turn into a 40-year career.

While at Princeton, Mr. Graves was an inspiring professor who taught architectural design and theory to thousands of undergraduate and graduate architecture students, as well as extending his reach beyond Princeton through serving as guest lecturer at over 1,000 public conferences.

In 1964, Mr. Graves founded his own firm, now called Michael Graves Architecture & Design or MGA&D. in Princeton, NJ. Since its establishment, Mr. Graves has been tasked with designing everything from office buildings, resorts and retail stores, to hospitals, monuments and university buildings. Renowned across the country as one of the New York Five, a group that redefined modernism in architecture, Mr. Graves became among the most celebrated of the postmodernist architects in the 1980's.

Mr. Graves designed more than 350 buildings around the world. Among his most notable projects are the Netherlands Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport in The Hague, the Walt Disney Co. corporate headquarters in Burbank, CA, the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Newark Museum, and an innovative design scaffolding for the Washington Monument Restoration here in our nation's capital. He and his firm have designed over 2,500 products for manufacturers and retailers. Mr. Graves received more than 300 awards and citations, including the National Medal of Arts presented by President Bill Clinton in 1999 for his exceptional achievements in architecture, design and education. In 2001, he was awarded the Gold Medal from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the highest honor the AIA bestows on an individual whose body of work has had a lasting influence on the theory and practice of architecture.

Mr. Graves received 14 honorary degrees from various universities, including Rutgers, NJIT, Emory University, the University of Virginia, and the University of Miami. In his most recent project, Mr. Graves established the Michael Graves School of Architecture at Kean University in New Jersey and Wenzou-Kean University in China, where his architectural legacy will continue for generations to come.

As a United States Congressman, it is my great honor to recognize and commemorate