

volunteered with the Camarillo YMCA and the Naval Base Ventura, Youth Sports Association where he coached basketball and soccer for six youth teams. He volunteered at local homeless shelters and rescue missions distributing food at Thanksgiving and giving out gifts at Christmas. He routinely opened the station for tours to local schools and provided outreach by visiting and speaking at local schools during Career Day functions.

For over two decades, Lieutenant Miller's exceptional career and community involvement is indicative of his commitment to serving his country. As he embarks on a new chapter in his life as Commanding Officer for the Coast Guard District Response Advisory Team in New Orleans, Louisiana, I want to express my sincere appreciation for Lieutenant Miller's honorable and selfless service to our community. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING
MIKE RINGLER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend John Michael "Mike" Ringler on the occasion of his retirement, having served for 17 years on the House Appropriations Committee. In total, he has provided more than 27 years of distinguished, quiet service to our country. His integrity stands as a model for us all.

Mike, a native of Rector, Pennsylvania, graduated from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service, enhancing his experience by studying abroad in the United Kingdom and Ecuador. He also earned a Master of Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. Mike counts himself as an avid fan of Steelers football and Hoyas basketball, and he fine tunes his own basketball skills at weekend games with friends and colleagues.

Mike began his career in Washington, D.C. in 1987 as a Presidential Management Intern at the U.S. Information Agency, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. From there, he rose through the ranks as a budget analyst then financial manager by 1996 before spending a year as the budget officer for the Broadcasting Board of Governors. In 1997, he started his dedicated service to the House Appropriations Committee, serving as Professional Staff from 1997 through 2001; Majority Clerk and Staff Director from 2002 through 2006; Minority Clerk and Staff Director from 2007 through 2010; and finally as Majority Clerk and Staff Director from 2011 through the early spring of 2015. Mike spent his entire Congressional career working on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, where he was responsible for leading the review, analysis, and production of the annual appropriations bill providing more than \$50 billion for the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and several related agencies. He also oversaw spending for various State Department programs and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mike recently has gone back to his roots and now works for his alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh.

Mike's contributions extend beyond his role on the Appropriations Committee. For years, he participated as a reading mentor with Everybody Wins! in Washington, D.C., a literacy mentor program with one-on-one, read-aloud sessions. Mike's other passions include music—both playing guitar and attending classical Indian music recitals and small music venues.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Ringler has left a tangible, lasting imprint on the Congress where he was known as a calm, diligent force on the Committee and a trusted mentor for professional staff and fellow clerks alike. He will be remembered for his many contributions to the Committee. I wish Mike and his family continued success as he enters this next stage of his life, and I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing my appreciation for his tremendous contributions to our nation.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MR.
WILLIAM "BILL" CLEMENS
WALKER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. William "Bill" Clemens Walker, who passed away peacefully on April 24, 2015. Bill was born to his loving parents Lewis and Ina Walker on May 5, 1925. He was raised in Southern Illinois where he attended a one-room schoolhouse, and while attending school he began working in his father's general merchandise store in Grantsburg, IL as well as his father's furniture store in Vienna, IL.

Bill was very successful in his schooling having graduated from Vienna Township High School in 1942, Northwestern University in 1945, and the Harvard Business School's Mid-Officer Certificate program for Navy Supply Corps Officers in 1945. Bill was very kind and hardworking but above all else, he loved his family and they were his most prized possession. For all who knew Bill, one of his proudest achievements in life had been serving as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. He was stationed as Commissary Officer on Guam, until he was honorably discharged in 1946. Bill later dedicated over 32 years working for General Electric (GE) in computer systems until finally retiring in 1988. Bill was passionate about cooking, photography, writing, and working with computers.

On January 16, 1955 Bill married Ms. Joyce (Harkins) Walker in northern Georgia and later the pair welcomed their son Jeffrey and daughter Nancy. After Joyce's passing, Bill married BettyAnn Walker in 1997. The pair lived in Naples, Florida until his passing this year. Bill is preceded in death by his father Lewis; mother Ina; wife Joyce; and his two brothers Newton and James. He leaves behind his wife BettyAnn; son Jeff; daughter Nancy; sister Elizabeth; and seven grandchildren. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Bill's entire family. He was a great man whose legacy will continue to live on, and he will be missed.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS.
CARL AND HEIDE HAGAR ON
THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Carl and Heide Hagar on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, which they will be celebrating on July 10, 2015.

Carl was born in Oklahoma and grew up in Arkansas. After Carl joined the United States Army, he was deployed to Germany. During his time in Germany, he met his wife, Heide, who was born in Altenmunster, Germany. Through their married years they lived in Germany, Vietnam, and the United States. Carl and Heide settled in Iberia, Missouri and have lived there since 1979. After 22 years of service in the United States Army, Carl retired. Heide worked in the Mess Hall at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for 29 years. They have raised three children, Lou Ann Elmore, Walter Stephen Hagar, and Jeffery Andrew Hagar.

Marriage is a sacred institution that represents true love, commitment, and dedication to family. This is a special time to celebrate and showcase the depth of your love and devotion to one another.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hagar on this momentous occasion.

CONGRATULATING ADEL
HAGEKHALIL

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Adel Hagekhalil, Assistant Director for the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Sanitation, on his election as President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). The Bureau of Sanitation is responsible for operating and maintaining one of the world's largest wastewater collection and treatment systems. Over 6,500 miles of sewers serve more than four million residential and business customers in Los Angeles and 29 contracting cities and agencies, treating an average of 550 million gallons of wastewater each day of the year.

Adel is a dynamic leader who has shown an unparalleled ability to collaborate and bring diverse interests together for a common cause—strengths ideally suited for the NACWA Presidency. During this transition year for NACWA, Adel's steady leadership style will help ensure that the Association will build on its 45-year record of being a dynamic and forward-thinking environmental organization.

Beyond his wealth of environmental, engineering, and management expertise, Adel utilized a collaborative approach to watershed-based solutions that garnered broad support among the public, business, elected officials, regulators and policymakers. He moves the needle in the right direction, is results-oriented, and gets the job done.

Adel is also a staunch and effective advocate for investing in our nation's aging and often deteriorating water infrastructure—investments that convey both environmental and economic benefits and help communities across our great nation create jobs, grow, and thrive. Adel believes that great communities must better understand the true value of water and deserve first-class, sustainable water infrastructure.

Under Adel's direction, the City of Los Angeles prepared an award-winning Water Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) for the year 2020 which relies on public input and participation and integrates water supply, water reuse, water conservation and stormwater management with wastewater facilities planning through a regional watershed approach. He has managed the City's collection system maintenance upgrade efforts resulting in over 83 percent reduction in sewer spills and over 70 percent reduction in sewer-related odors.

Adel's work on Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) reduction has cut FOG-related spills by 90 percent. More recently, he led the development and adoption of a Low Impact Development Ordinance for the City of Los Angeles that focuses on rainwater harvesting and runoff management for new developments and redevelopments. In addition, he was instrumental in the successful development and adoption of a 10-year financial plan including the necessary rates adjustment to support the renewal of the City's clean water systems.

Adel is currently leading the City of Los Angeles' Green Infrastructure program where stormwater is managed through regional and distributed solutions that provide multiple benefits while improving the quality of life in LA's neighborhoods. In addition, he is leading the development of the One Water Plan for Los Angeles for the year 2040 to manage water holistically while reducing consumption, increasing water reuse and reducing dependence on imported water, a critical need in the City's efforts to confront drought conditions.

Adel has more than 26 years of experience in the clean water industry and has published numerous technical papers and participated in various technical conferences and committees. In addition to his service to NACWA, The Bureau of Sanitation is a founding member of the U.S. Water Alliance, and Adel is a proud member of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers, the American Public Works Association, and the Water Environment Federation.

Adel has received many awards at the local, state and national levels. These include the inaugural U.S. Water Prize, Heal the Bay's "Walk the Talk Award," L.A. Water Keeper's "Making Waves Award," and the American Academy of Environmental Engineers Grand Award for Planning. More important to Adel than these professional accomplishments is his family. Adel is a devoted husband and father, married to Lubna Farsakh with whom he is raising three beautiful children, Jana, Jad and Daren.

Once again, I wish to congratulate Adel Hagekhalil on his election as President of NACWA. As he has done for the residents of the San Fernando Valley and the City of Los Angeles, I am sure he will lead the organization down a road marked by innovation, collaboration, progress and success. Best wishes on future endeavors.

BEN POWELL EARNS EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dulles High School's Ben Powell on earning the rank of Eagle Scout with Sugar Land Boy Scout Troop 1294.

Ben is among less than ten percent of all Boy Scouts to earn such a prestigious rank by dedicating countless hours towards organizing and working service projects with Troop 1294. For his final Eagle Scout Project, Ben led 42 volunteers in a restoration effort throughout the historical Farmers' Improvement Society Cemetery. Together, they spent three hours resetting over 25 headstones that marked the graves of African American war veterans. Eagle Scouts exemplify the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. We are extremely proud of Ben's selfless dedication to our community and for demonstrating such strong leadership.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ben on becoming an Eagle Scout. You have a bright future ahead.

CONGRATULATING HILLARY CLINTON, 2015 RECIPIENT OF THE BARBARA JORDAN GOLD MEDALLION FOR LEADERSHIP

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, 2015, the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, two of the great institutions of Texas Southern University, which is located in my congressional district and is one of the nation's great historically black colleges and universities, awarded the inaugural Barbara Jordan Gold Medallion for Public-Private Leadership.

The Barbara Jordan Gold Medallion for Public-Private Leadership is presented annually to a woman of demonstrated excellence in the public or private sector whose achievements are an example and inspiration to people everywhere, but especially to women and girls.

The Barbara Jordan Gold Medallion for Public-Private Leadership is presented annually to a woman of demonstrated excellence in the public or private sector whose achievements are an example and inspiration to people everywhere, but especially to women and girls.

It was my honor to present the Barbara Jordan Gold Medallion to the Honorable Hillary Clinton, the former First Lady of Arkansas and the United States, U.S. Senator, and Secretary of State.

As I stated at the award ceremony, it was fitting that the inaugural recipient of this award is a person whose life and achievements embody the passion and principles and values and commitment to service of Barbara Jordan.

When asked to name the woman living anywhere in the world whom they admire most, Americans have named Hillary Clinton in each of the last 13 years and 17 of the last 18.

As a leader on the national and international stage, Hillary Clinton represented our nation with distinction and grace, always reflecting our highest ideals and aspirations.

It was First Lady Hillary Clinton who traveled to Beijing to speak truth to power, declaring on behalf of women and girls everywhere that: "human rights are women's rights. And women's rights are human rights."

It was Hillary Clinton who gave voice to what many of us have always understood, when she said that to raise a happy, healthy and hopeful child, "it takes a family, it takes teachers, it takes clergy, it takes business people, it takes community leaders, it takes those who protect our health and safety, it takes all of us."

That, yes indeed, "it takes a village to raise a child."

But before Hillary Clinton was a household name, many of us in Texas remembered her as a brilliant young activist whose passion for justice and equality brought her to Texas in 1972 to help poor people and African Americans and Latinos register to exercise the right to vote they had been denied so long.

Passed in 1965 with the extraordinary leadership of President Lyndon Johnson, the greatest legislative genius of our lifetime, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was bringing dramatic change in many states across the South.

But in 1972, change was not coming fast enough or in many places in Texas.

In fact, Texas, which had never elected a woman to Congress or an African American to the Texas State Senate, was not covered by Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the language minorities living in South Texas that Hillary Clinton came to help were not protected at all.

But the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the voter registration work performed in 1972 by Hillary Clinton in Texas, along with hundreds of others, helped elect Barbara Jordan to Congress.

In 2006, during the floor debate on the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, I said:

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is no ordinary piece of legislation. For millions of Americans, and many of us in Congress, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things.

But a terrible blow was dealt to the Voting Rights Act on June 25, 2013, when the Supreme Court handed down the decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 537 U.S. 193 (2013), which invalidated Section 4(b), the provision of the law determining which jurisdictions would be subject to Section 5 "preclearance."

The reason the Court gave for its ruling was that "times have changed."

Times have changed, but what the Court did not fully appreciate is that the positive changes it cited were due almost entirely to the existence and vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

And that is why the Voting Rights Act is still needed today.

In the same way that the vaccine invented by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1953 eradicated the crippling effects but did not eliminate the cause of polio, the Voting Rights Act succeeded in stymying the practices that resulted in the wholesale disenfranchisement of African Americans and language minorities but did not eliminate them entirely.