

blessed with two grown children (and one deceased son) and seven grandchildren. I have had the pleasure of knowing Dianne and Bob for over a decade. Dianne is actively involved in her local community where she has spent her time fulfilling a selfless passion to serve others. Dianne is a member of many civic service organizations and advisory groups including: Vice-Chair of the Denton County Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, Denton County Commissioners' Re-Districting Committee, and Board of Directors of the Denton Chamber of Commerce, among others.

Throughout her adult life, Dianne has been involved in nearly every aspect of the political arena. Dianne is the former Executive Director of Republican National Coalition for Life. She has served as a National Republican Convention Delegate in 2000, former President of the Denton Republican Women's Club, Chair of Senate District 12 Rules Committee, Chair of the 2012 and 2014 State Convention Permanent Organization Committee, and managed or volunteered in dozens of Republican candidates' campaigns for nearly 20 years in Denton County.

In 2002, Dianne was elected as Chairman of the Denton County Republican Party and serves on the Board of the Texas Republican County Chair Association. Dianne has spent countless hours educating voters on public policy and encouraging voter engagement. As a creative planner and master organizer, Dianne has the ability to bring people together around a common goal and vision. She has worked with precinct chairs and candidates to ensure that Denton County remains conservative. As a result, every county, state, and federal elected office in Denton County is held by a Republican.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I would like to thank Dianne Edmondson for her leadership as the Chairman of the Denton County Republican Party. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Dianne for her lifetime of service.

#### HONORING MR. JOSEPH FAZIO ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2016*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the incredible life of Mr. Joseph Fazio.

Born in 1916 in the Bronx, Joseph was the oldest son of 5 children. Tragically, when Joseph was in high school his father passed away, forcing him to quit school so that he could provide for his family. After receiving a small loan from a friend, Joseph bought his own truck and subsequently started a trucking business. He worked tirelessly for his customers to ensure they received the best possible service year after year. Joseph's altruism is only one of the many qualities that make him such a wonderful and caring person.

Joseph retired at the age of 65 so that he could truly appreciate the community of Mastic Beach full-time; however, you would not know that by the way he has maintained such an active role in the town's affairs. To name a few of his many contributions to Mastic Beach:

Joseph has built floats for the Mastic Beach Parade; built benches for the docks; volunteered for the Annual Seafood Festival; was the former Director of the Mastic Beach Property Owners Association; and enjoys playing the piano for other seniors. When he's not busy helping his fellow community members, he takes great pleasure in gardening, planting hundreds of tomato plants and many varieties of vegetables. He is known as the Beloved Farmer of Mastic Beach, as he generously shared the treasures of his garden with friends throughout the Tri-Hamlet Community. Joe is also a long standing member of St. Jude Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus.

Joseph will be turning 100 years old on March 27, 2016. Joseph, and his lovely wife Ann, are the proud parents of 2 children, 5 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren. Good food, good family, good friends and a strong belief in God have kept him going to 100. I am blessed to serve and represent such an incredible human being like Joseph Fazio in the First Congressional District of New York, and proud to express my gratitude for all he does for his community; as well as wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL WARD, CHAIRMAN AND CEO AT CSX CORPORATION, ON RECEIVING THE CITIZENSHIP SERVICE AWARD BY VOICES FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2016*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Michael Ward, for his outstanding service to his country through his volunteer work with City Year.

Michael has invested tremendous amounts of time, energy and resources to support City Year, an education-focused national service organization that is dedicated to helping our students and school succeed. City Year provides high-impact student, classroom and school-wide support to help students stay in school and to graduate from high school, ready for college and career success. City Year is partners with 27 urban, high-poverty communities across the United States and abroad, and Michael was instrumental in bringing City Year to Jacksonville, Florida.

In addition to serving as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of CSX Corporation, Michael is a dedicated Trustee of City Year and is the Chairman of the local City Year program. In addition to his work with City Year, Michael also serves on the board of United Way of Northeast Florida and on the board of Hubbard House, which helps victims of domestic violence.

Earlier this year, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that oversees millions of American volunteers, faced significant budget cuts that would have forced many national service programs to close. However, Michael took action and led the effort to remind my colleagues that federal investment in national service is vital to improving lives, strengthening communities and uniting the nation.

The drive to protect federal funds for national service succeeded in no small part

thanks to the contributions of Michael Ward. In recognition of all of his many contributions to national service, Michael Ward was recently awarded the Citizen Service Award by the Voices for National Service.

As a Member of Congress, I have the privilege of supporting the work of outstanding individuals, such as Michael Ward. Michael has striven tirelessly to ensure to promote education across the country and in my district, and I am proud that Michael calls Jacksonville, Florida home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of Congress to join me in recognizing Michael Ward for his tireless dedication to educational attainment and congratulate him on receiving the Citizenship Service award.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SARKIS SAHATDJIAN

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Sarkis Sahatdjan of Madera, California, who recently passed away on December 29, 2015—at the age of 95. Mr. Sahatdjan was a remarkable farmer of 80 years, and a generous leader who was pridel of his community, and Armenian roots.

Sarkis Sahatdjan was born in Constantinople in 1920 to Armenian parents, Vagharshag and Makrouhi Sahatdjan. The Sahatdjians were survivors of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, an event Sarkis would never forget. His family set sail on an unpredictable journey when Sarkis was two years old, and his brother Haig only five days old. The Sahatdjan family first landed in Buenos Aires, Argentina where they resided for one year and a half. After this the family immigrated to the United States, arriving through Ellis Island, and eventually settling in California's San Joaquin Valley in April of 1924. The Sahatdjians started off as migrant workers, working at canneries and packing houses throughout California following the crop cycles. In 1928, the family bought their first farm—twenty acres of vineyards, where Sarkis worked after school and on weekends while attending Central High School.

After graduating from high school in 1939, Sarkis worked at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, repairing warships. Sarkis joined the Army Air Force, serving in Guam during World War II as a military policeman guarding Japanese prisoners of war. After the war he married Iris Odabashian in 1947, and soon after had three children. The couple went on to purchase a farm in Madera, California in 1947, and Sarkis returned to farming.

In 1963, Sarkis and his brother Haig Sahatdjan, purchased raisin processing equipment, placed it on 40 acres in Madera and named it in memory of their late father: Victor Packing. Victor Packing became a full-time farming and packing business when Sarkis and his brother Haig began to process and pack their own raisins along with the raisins of other growers. The business required all hands on deck. Sarkis's wife Iris handled the payroll; their eldest child Victor and his high school friends worked as clean-up crew; and their daughter Margaret and youngest child Bill

joined in later. The family company Sarkis co-founded has grown to become a leader in the raisin industry; growing, dehydrating, processing, and packing raisins that are sold and shipped worldwide. Victor Packing remains a family business, and currently employs five of Sarkis's 12 grandchildren. Hard work, desire, and business acumen ultimately paid off for the Sahatdjian brothers.

Not only was Sarkis a well-known businessman, he was also dedicated to serving his community. Sarkis was a board member of the local VFW; a benefactor and delegate of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church; major donor to California State University, Fresno's Viticulture and Armenian Studies Department; major donor to Fresno Community Hospital; board member of the Armenian Community School of Fresno; founding board member of the Armenian Technology Group; and countless other local, regional and international charities. Further, he was also a major contributor in establishing the Armenian Genocide Centennial Monument, which marked 100 years since the start of the genocide in Armenia in 1915. The monument is displayed at California State University, Fresno and is the first monument on a U.S. college campus marking the genocide.

Without question, Mr. Sarkis's integrity, honor and long-lasting involvement in the Central Valley made him a reputable man; he was well known, well-liked and shown enormous appreciation by anyone who had the pleasure of calling him a friend. Sarkis lived his life to the fullest, surrounded by family and friends. He leaves behind his loving family, including his wife of 68 years, Iris, their two sons and daughter; their spouses, twelve grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. It is my honor to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man, who will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Sarkis Sahatdjian. His commitment to family and to his community will forever live in the lives of the people he touched. We are all better for having known Sarkis Sahatdjian, a remarkable Californian, and Central Valley native.

**DR. HAMPTON-HENRY TO RECEIVE  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2016*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mildred Dalton Hampton-Henry for her efforts to improve educational outcomes for low-income students in San Bernardino, California. On February 6, 2016, Dr. Hampton-Henry will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dreamers, Visionaries, and Leaders Project during their annual awards ceremony. It is an honor to highlight Dr. Hampton-Henry's professional achievements today.

A native of Arkansas, Dr. Hampton-Henry arrived in San Bernardino in 1983 and became the executive director of the Provisional Accelerated Learning Center, also known as the PAL Center. The PAL Center provides structured educational services to low-income students from urban environments. The pro-

grams at the center strive to reduce the number of high school dropouts in her community.

In addition to her work with at-risk youth, Dr. Hampton-Henry is an accomplished educator. She was the first African American professor to receive tenure at the California State University, San Bernardino College of Education. In addition, Dr. Hampton-Henry taught courses at Southern Illinois University, the same school from which she received her Ph.D. in philosophy.

I want to congratulate and thank Dr. Hampton-Henry for her passion and commitment to bettering her community. She truly embodies the spirit of selfless sacrifice and is well-deserving of the Lifetime Achievement Award that she will receive on Saturday.

**RECOGNIZING CARLY CRUMP FOR  
HER RESEARCH ON THE DENGUE  
VIRUS AND FOR ATTENDING  
NOBEL PRIZE WEEK**

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2016*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Carly Crump on her outstanding research work on the transmission of the dengue virus and on her invitation to attend Nobel Prize Week in Stockholm, Sweden. As the U.S. Congressman of Jacksonville, Florida and the co-chair of the Caucus on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases it is an honor to recognize Carly for her exceptional accomplishments.

Carly, a graduate of Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Florida, first began her work in her parents' garage breeding mosquitos. Eventually, Carly's work evolved from offering blood meals to these mosquitos to studying the proteins involved in the transmission of the dengue virus, related to the viruses that cause West Nile infection and yellow fever, that can lead to the dengue fever. In her most recent research at Johns Hopkins University, Carly helped identify 11 proteins that may be involved in the transmission of dengue virus 2 and could set the basis for vaccine development.

As a result of her prestigious work, Carly was invited to attend Nobel Prize Week in Stockholm, one of only 26 young people from 19 countries invited to attend. There, Carly gave a presentation to 1,000 students on her work and interacted with another 2,000 students who stopped at her booth to discuss her project.

Carly has also been recognized as one of the nation's top 16 young STEM researchers by US News and World Report and has won first place at the International Science and Engineering Fair, the Florida Science Fair, and the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium.

Currently, Carly is studying microbiology at the University of Florida and hopes to be a surgeon like her father and her grandfather and to continue her research.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Carly Crump on the success of her research and on attending Nobel Prize Week in Stockholm. Her research and the research of many other rising talents will lead the world to develop cures

for this and other devastating diseases that cripple both Americans and our foreign partners alike.

**HONORING REV. JAMES ANTHONY  
NOEL**

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of an outstanding member of the Bay Area community, Reverend James Anthony Noel. With his passing on Sunday, January 31st, 2016 at the age of 68, we honor his many years of faithful service.

Born on New Year's Day in 1948, in Queens, New York, Reverend Noel moved to Berkeley, California when he was a young child. He would go on to earn his B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1969, as well as a Master of Divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) in 1975, and his Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) in 1999.

Reverend Noel joined the SFTS faculty in 1988, where he was the H. Eugene Farlough, Jr. Chair of African-American Christianity, as well as a professor of American Religion. He also served as a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty at the GTU, and was the convener of the Black Church/Africana Studies Certificate Program. Reverend Noel received a distinguished professor award from his colleagues at GTU, for his embodiment of scholarly standards, teaching excellence, and commitment to ecumenism.

From 1976 to 1987, Reverend Noel served as the pastor of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Marin City, CA. Following that, until his passing, he was the pastor of New Liberation Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. He also served as interim pastor of Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church in Richmond, CA.

Considered by many a true renaissance man, Reverend Noel was a gifted painter, with his vibrant artwork on display throughout the Bay Area. Reverend Noel was also a 7th Dan Tae Kwon Do Master, having studied the Korean martial art since he was a teenager. He would also often break into song with his rich bass voice during lectures or sermons.

Reverend Noel is survived by his beautiful wife, Dianna, and his children Michelle, Kaiya, Daniel and Amada. He will be forever remembered for his love, legacy, and the impact he had on the hearts and minds of those whom he touched.

On a personal note, Reverend Noel was a prophetic and prolific preacher. He was a great leader who demonstrated what it means to live a life in service to humankind and to God. We will miss this magnificent man of God who taught us what a spirit filled life means.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes the life of an exemplary individual and devoted community member, Reverend James Anthony Noel. I join all of Reverend Noel's loved ones in celebrating his inspirational life and achievements, and offer my sincerest condolences.