

the Colorado Corn Amicus Friend of Agriculture Award, throughout his lifetime for his many acts of public service. It is clear that he cared greatly about bettering his community through leadership and hard work.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to the family of Mr. Charles Bartlett. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Charles Bartlett for his accomplishments.

RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH CACHERO SELECTION AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Cachero, a student at Hilltop High School in Chula Vista, California, for his selection to represent the State of California as a Delegate at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. The event will be held at the Tsongas Center at University of Massachusetts Lowell in Lowell, MA, from June 29, 2017 to July 1, 2017.

The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is an honors-only program designed to motivate and direct the top students in our country who aspire to be scientists, engineers, and technologists and encourage them to stay true to their dream. All delegates are nominated by their teachers or the National Academy of Future Scientists based on proven academic excellence and a demonstrated desire to enter the scientific or technology professions.

I want to congratulate Joseph Cachero and Hilltop High School in their success and leadership in the scientific field.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE WATTS

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Joyce Watts.

After 40 years as Allegan County Clerk and Register, this past December Joyce made the tough decision to hang it up and retire.

She did so as the longest-serving elected county clerk in the entire state of Michigan and simply put one of the most dedicated public servants our great state has ever seen.

Joyce juggled many duties in her career. Before she was clerk-register, she was register of deeds for 12 years. She also served on the board of directors of the National Association of County Records and Clerks.

Joyce always impressed me with her professionalism, work-ethic, and tireless advocacy on behalf of our corner of the state. Joyce was someone you could trust to get the job done right. And as a clerk handling elections, it's absolutely imperative you have someone of her character and integrity serving in that position.

There is no doubting her passion and commitment. But above all, Joyce was a wife, mother, and a friend to me and countless others in our Allegan community.

And so, I want to wish Joyce, her husband John, and their son Jason and his wife Lesley best of luck in the coming years and I look forward to remaining close friends.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CECILIA ZÁRATE-LAUN

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Cecilia Zárate-Laun, a constituent and dear friend of mine who dedicated her life to building a more just and peaceful world. I first met Cecilia while serving on the Dane County Board of Supervisors in Wisconsin, where we worked together on a sister-city relationship between Dane County and Apartadó, in Antioquia, Colombia. I had the honor of visiting Apartadó on a delegation that Cecilia led, and worked with her to host Colombian dignitaries visiting the U.S. over the years.

Cecilia was born in 1945 in the Santander Province in Colombia. The eldest of five sisters, she studied nutrition in Bogotá, and later, as a Master's student at the University of Wisconsin. In 1976, she married Jack Laun, whom she had met while studying in the United States. They celebrated their 40th anniversary together last year.

Her lifelong mission was to educate and inspire ordinary people to become involved in the messy work of democracy. She had an intimate understanding that efforts to change government policy here in the U.S. had a profound impact on the lives of untold billions across the world. By shifting our priorities away from militarism and war-making, the United States could instead contribute to sustainable development and solving real human needs globally.

Co-founding the Colombia Support Network (CSN) in 1987, Cecilia went on to lead more than 50 delegations of residents of the United States to Colombia, supporting the formation of CSN chapters in the U.S. and matching them with communities in areas of conflict. CSN sought to achieve peace with justice in Colombia by changing U.S. policy and minimizing the violence faced by people caught between guerrillas on the one hand and state security forces and paramilitaries on the other.

Cecilia's commitment to social and economic equality, and a deep sense of solidarity with people around the world, drove her tireless efforts. That passion had a lasting effect on me and will continue to inform my work and the values I strive to uphold as a public servant.

Even in the weeks just before her passing, she worked closely with me as we pursued strategies to ensure accountability, truth, and justice for the victims of Colombia's 50-year conflict. She lived to see the end of Colombia's brutal civil war, which was the fruit of her labors and the efforts of persistent, dedicated peace activists just like her. Her life is a window into the decades-long commitment from millions of people in order to produce real social change.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the life and legacy of Cecilia Zárate-Laun today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on February 7, 2017, I did not cast my vote on roll call votes No. 81 and No. 82. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on both votes.

On February 14, 2017, I was unavoidably absent due to illness and unable to cast my votes on roll call votes Nos. 88 through 92. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll call vote 88 on ordering the previous question; NAY; Roll call vote 89 on agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 99; NAY; Roll call vote 90 on ordering the previous question; NAY; Roll call vote 91 on agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 116; NAY; Roll call vote 92 on final passage of H.R. 428, the Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act; NAY.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF KENNETH WILLIAM THOMPSON

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Downey resident, Mr. Kenneth William Thompson on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Ken was born on February 9, 1917, to William and Eleanor Thompson in Virginia, Minnesota. The third of four boys, he spent his childhood in nearby Duluth, where the Thompson family survived the many challenges of the Great Depression. In 1940, the family moved west to California.

In 1942, at the outbreak of World War II, Ken was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served as a Radar Technician (T5). Two of his brothers also served in World War II, in the U.S. Navy. During his tour of duty from 1942 to 1945, Ken served overseas in France, Belgium, and Germany. He fought in five major battles, including the Battle of the Bulge and at Bastogne. When the war in Europe ended, he was one of four in his unit who was scheduled to go to Japan because of his radar training, but the war ended before he shipped out.

After the war ended, Ken returned to California, where he met Vivian Laura Oden of St. Paul, Minnesota. They were married in 1948, and settled in Downey, California, where they raised their three beautiful daughters: Joan, Kathy, and Mary.

Ken was employed by Maytag for 35 years, where he worked in many positions until he retired in 1982. His loving wife, Vivian, died on February 19, 2000. Today, their family includes nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Ken has made his home in Downey for 67 years, and has been very active in the community schools, for which he was awarded the Honorary Service Award. He has also been

actively involved with the Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton and the Trinity Baptist Church in Downey.

According to people who know Ken, and that is quite a large group, his life is built on love for faith, family, friends, a good wit, laughter, service to others, hard work, and a deep and abiding passion for his country.

Ken became 100 years old on February 9, 2017, and is celebrating this significant milestone on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at the Trinity Baptist Church.

I am honored to join with local leaders, and with Mr. Thompson's family and friends, in wishing him a very happy 100th birthday.

# WORKING TO INTEGRATE NETWORKS GUARANTEEING MEMBER ACCESS NOW ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 13, 2017*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 512, the Working to Integrate Networks Guaranteeing Member Access Now Act, ("Wingman Ace"), which amends title 38, United States Code, to provide certain employees of Members of Congress and certain employees of State or local governmental agencies with access to case-tracking information of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 512 directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide an accredited, permanent congressional employee with read-only remote access to the electronic Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) claims records system of a represented veteran, regardless of whether the employee is acting under a power of attorney executed by the veteran.

The DVA shall ensure that success does not allow the employee to modify system data.

Each Member of Congress who elects to have an employee participate in the system shall bear the certification cost which shall be paid from the Member's representation allowance.

The amended version would also require the DVA to implement the bill using appropriated funds, and allow as much as \$10 million to be used from fiscal 2017 through 2020 for that purpose. No funds could be used to train congressional staffers.

An accredited, "permanent congressional employee" is an employee of a Member of Congress who assists constituents with issues regarding federal departments or agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 512 and urge all members to join me in voting for its passage. For that reason I support this bill.

# RECOGNIZING ED AND MARY GEORGE POSS

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ed and Mary George Poss, who will be celebrating 71 happy years of marriage on March 20th of this year.

The couple met one another in third grade, but didn't have the chance to go on their first date until Ed asked Mary George out seven years later. Ed was a typical class clown, and Mary George was a Grade A student who was admired for being dedicated to her studies. The two didn't want much to do with each other during elementary and junior high school, but Ed continuously admired Mary George's beautiful character.

After the two graduated high school, they decided to get married and begin a life together. As the two entered their freshman year of college as an engaged couple, it became clear that Mary George's father wasn't quite ready to let his little girl go. He tried to offer her gifts to postpone the wedding, but she insisted that Ed was the one for her and married him only 10 days after her eighteenth birthday.

Since then, Mr. and Mrs. Poss have maintained their commitment over many years and long distances. Mary George stayed close to home to attend the University of Georgia while Ed played football at Auburn University. Ed later enlisted in the United States Navy, and moved from Virginia to San Diego, California to carry out his duties. Throughout the seasons spent in various homes from coast to coast, they have raised two children, both of whom live in Rabun County.

Together, Ed and Mary George have presented their children and our community of northeast Georgia with an enduring example of commitment and trust. May we all look to Mr. and Mrs. Poss for an example of the joy that comes from a life of love and service to another.

# IN TRIBUTE TO AL JARREAU

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alwin Lopez Jarreau, also known as Al Jarreau. He was a vocalist, musician, songwriter, and father. Al was born on March 12, 1940 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and passed away at the age of 76, on February 12, 2017.

He was born into a musical family; his father was a pastor with a fine voice and his mother, the church's pianist. Al began singing at the age of 4, harmonizing with his 5 siblings. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1958 where his love of music and singing deepened. He earned a bachelor's degree from Ripon College in Wisconsin in 1962, and a master's degree from the University of Iowa. He worked as a rehabilitation counselor for people with disabilities. Al Jarreau's full-time musical career began when he was nearly 30 and he could no longer resist the pull of jazz.

Al Jarreau was a versatile vocalist who recorded 21 albums, won seven Grammys and remains the only vocalist in Grammy history to win in the jazz, pop, and R&B categories. He was proud that his mix of styles prevented him from being easily categorized. Al Jarreau had a vocal style that was appealing and highly unusual. He could produce an array of vocalizations and was nicknamed the acrobat of scat because of this talent. Al reached a national audience with his second album *We Got By*, released in 1975. In 1965, he recorded his first album entitled "1965" belatedly released

in 1982 which is esteemed by jazz connoisseurs today. In 1981 he had his biggest hit with the song "We're in This Love Together." He won his first Grammy in 1978, for his album "Look to the Rainbow" and his last in 2007, for best traditional R&B vocal performance. He shared the award with George Benson and Jill Scott for their collaborative performance, "God Bless the Child." Among Mr. Jarreau's best-known recordings was the theme song for the television series, "Moonlighting."

Al Jarreau was proud of his hometown and at the beginning of most performances announced that he was from Milwaukee. The Wisconsin Foundation for School Music honored Jarreau with a Lifetime Achievement Award in October 2016, and established an endowment in his name for Milwaukee Public School music programs. He was concerned that children in Milwaukee and across the country would not have exposure to music and the arts. In fact, Al Jarreau's parting request to mourners was that contributions be made to children from his hometown in lieu of flowers and gifts.

He leaves behind many friends, admirers and family members to mourn his passing including his wife, Susan, his son Ryan and two brothers, Marshall and Appie; and a sister, Rose Marie Freeman. Al Jarreau made a positive impact on Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the world and I am proud that he hails from Milwaukee. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I rise to pay tribute to a man whose legacy will continue to benefit the Fourth Congressional District.

# RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) JOSEPH A. RAHAIM

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Army Sergeant (SGT) Joseph Andrew "Drew" Rahaim who gave his life while in service to our great nation February 16, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SGT Rahaim lost his life when a roadway collapsed and his vehicle rolled into a canal at Forward Operation Base Iskandariyah, Iraq. SGT Timothy R. Osbey was also killed in the accident. SGT Rahaim was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized), Mississippi Army National Guard, McComb, MS.

Major General (MG) Harold Cross, Adjutant General of Mississippi, posthumously presented SGT Rahaim the Bronze Star Medal and the Mississippi Medal of Valor. During the funeral for the 22-year-old Magnolia, MS native, MG Cross described the medals as two of the nation's highest awards.

SGT Rahaim was remembered by many as a great storyteller. Soldiers from his unit said their guardian angel will probably be listening to his tall tales in heaven. Rev. Phil McMinn of the Brookwood Baptist Church in Lawrenceville delivered his eulogy. He said SGT Rahaim was destined to be a soldier from childhood, and that when Drew was a young boy, he kept his GI Joe toy close by.