

CONGRATULATIONS TO SERGEANT
MAJOR MICHAEL CLEMENS ON 30
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Major Michael Clemens of Republic, Missouri, as he retires after 30 years of service in the United States Army.

Sergeant Major Clemens began his career in high school with service in the Missouri Army National Guard, but soon transitioned to the U.S. Army as an active duty soldier. In his 30 years, he served in many different places, including in the Middle East and all throughout the U.S. While serving overseas, Sergeant Major Clemens took part in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Desert Storm and Intrinsic Action.

To add to his already long résumé, Sergeant Major Clemens worked diligently to complete every level of training in the Non-commissioned Officer Education System, leading to his graduation from the United States Sergeants Major Academy.

Sergeant Major Clemens exemplifies the sought-after traits of leadership, courage, responsibility and discipline. Throughout the course of his career he received numerous awards, including five Army Commendation Medals, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three stars, the Humanitarian Service Medal and a list of others. His commitment to his country exists not only on the large scale of his sacrifice, but also in participating in one of our most fundamental rights as American citizens that of voting, and his consistent voting record through his absentee voting in primary and general elections as he served abroad.

Sergeant Major Clemens has shown time and time again that he is worthy of the awards and recognition he has received throughout his time serving our great nation. I am honored to congratulate him on his successful career and I am confident that his strong character will lead him to continue to make positive impacts on the world around him.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDY
SCHNEIDER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I rely on Judy Schneider of the Congressional Research Service. A long-time Hill staffer with 42 years of Congressional experience, she is a valued source of guidance and trusted source of information. Tomorrow, Judy will receive the Congressional Management Foundation's first Staff Lifetime Achievement Democracy Award, and I can think of no one more deserving of that honor.

Judy literally wrote the book on Congressional procedures—The Congressional Deskbook—which she co-authored with Michael Koempel. In addition to giving us this written reference guide, Judy is always available to give personal guidance. Her knowledge and her creativity are both invaluable and legendary.

When I got to Congress, one of the first things I did was reach out to Judy to train my staff and me. She taught us how to use sometimes arcane rules and procedures to get things done. Whenever we had a question about committee or floor procedures or wanted to know about Congressional precedent, we called Judy Schneider. We still do today. Judy is always available to answer our questions—and to let us know the questions we should have been asking, then answer those as well.

Throughout her career, Judy has served to help all of us on the Hill and many off the Hill understand how Congress was designed to work, how it actually works and how we could make it work better. Her commitment to public service, her love of the institution and its people, and her willingness to share her gifts are evident. Judy is valued and a valuable resource, and she is also my friend.

I congratulate Judy on winning the Democracy Award, and thank her for all the help she's given me and so many others. I look forward to benefitting from her wisdom for years to come.

CONGRATULATING GAVIN WEATHERS
OF THE VIENNA EAGLES

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gavin Weathers of the Vienna Eagles for his first-place finish in the Discus Event at the 2018 Missouri Class 2 State Track and Field Championship.

Gavin and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Gavin Weathers for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING RICK GONZALES, SR.

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rick Gonzales, Sr. and his family for their selfless service to their community.

As a young child, Rick Gonzales, Sr. made it to the fifth grade before it became evident that he needed to work on the family farm to help provide for the family, but his desire to learn and have a good education never wavered. As a young adult, Rick Sr. was drafted and proudly served our country during the WWII Pacific campaign in Okinawa. Upon his honorable discharge he enrolled in barber school, where he met his wife, Angela. Together, they raised four sons, Laverne, Rick Jr., Garry and Jerry. Barber school would soon prove to be far more than a career decision; it was a move that would begin Rick's lifelong journey as an agent for change.

In 1953, Rick Sr. opened Rick's Top Hat barbershop, and the business soon became the central hub of information on political and

social issues. Soon after, Rick and Angela knew that women in the community would also be an important component, and Angela opened Velvet Touch Beauty Salon. Rick Sr. had a passion to make a difference. He wanted to give a voice to the voiceless and restore hope to those who couldn't. Rick and Angela relished in these "teaching moments," of listening, guiding and helping their community.

In 1970, Rick became co-founder of the Mexican-American Concilio of Yolo County, which operated with five employees serving the Latino community. Rick Gonzales, Sr. has been recognized by his community for his outstanding accomplishments and activism. The Yolo County Department of Social Services has named their building the Rick Gonzales Building and in 2018, the city of Woodland honored him by naming their newest park after him.

Rick Gonzales, Sr. valued education and instilled the importance in his children as they were growing up. All four pursued and received higher education degrees with three receiving their Masters degrees. Continuing his father's legacy and under his mentorship until 2004, Rick Gonzales, Jr. joined the Concilio and currently serves as their President. In 1998, under his leadership, Rick Jr. created the Annual Concilio Recognition Dinner & Scholarship Fundraiser, which awarded two scholarships the first year. Rick has devoted the past twenty years raising awareness for the scholarship dinners and this year reached a milestone of raising \$400,000 for 1000 scholarships awarded. His passion and service to the community is admirable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rick Gonzales, Sr. and his family for their incredible dedication, selfless service and contributions to the Yolo County community.

IN THANKS FOR THE SERVICE OF
MY LONGTIME CHIEF OF STAFF,
OLIVER SCHWAB

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this week I bid farewell to my longtime Chief of Staff, Oliver Schwab, who served with great heart and commitment in this body for nearly a decade.

Since Oliver's announcement on Monday that he would be transitioning his role to pursue new opportunities, I have been moved by hundreds of people who have come up to me to share just how much Oliver's friendship has meant to them. As a mentor, Oliver has been devoted to helping others discover qualities and confidences that they did not always know they possessed. As a mentee, Oliver has sought guidance and perspective with the kind of dedication to lifelong learning that only the finest of others can bestow.

Oliver is the best that I have ever seen at helping others work through their needs. Anyone who knows Oliver can attest to his passion for history, love for our country, and work to restore civility to our politics.

Oliver began serving as my Chief of Staff in January 2011 after managing my successful 2010 election to the U.S. House of Representatives. Since that time, Oliver has guided an

inspired management approach, building one of the best teams on Capitol Hill. Just this year, the Congressional Management Foundation recognized Oliver's efforts by naming our office a finalist for the first-ever Democracy Award highlighting excellence in workplace culture. Oliver's academic focus on behavioral science, talent management, and decision theory has made him one of the most effective practitioners of leadership.

I will always be grateful for the manner in which Oliver directed strategy and operations to help me achieve two seats on the U.S. House Financial Services Committee followed by a seat on the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee. Additionally, Oliver masterfully directed a member services initiative that enabled me to secure a cardinal seat on the U.S. House Republican Steering Committee.

I thank Oliver for the talented hard work and devotion that he has given me, the people of Arizona, and the United States Congress. I am going to miss having him by my side, but I know there are great things in store for him next. Oliver and Ana will always have my support and friendship.

HONORING THE OPENING OF THE GREATER ELGIN FAMILY CARE CENTER

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Greater Elgin Family Care Center on the occasion of the Grand Opening of its Summit Health Center on July 12, 2018.

With the addition of the new Summit Health Center, the Greater Elgin Family Care Center now serves five counties with a total of nine health care facilities.

Since its establishment in 2001, the Center has made a great impact in Elgin and its surrounding communities. The Center employs more than 275 workers who, in 2017, provided assistance to more than 47,000 patients including 13,659 residents of the City of Elgin—14 percent of the City's population. Additionally, in 2017, Center professionals delivered 774 newborns. It provides care for patients regardless of their insurance status.

The Center is Elgin's largest not-for-profit organization (excluding the schools and hospital systems). In 2017, the Center was recognized as a Hypertension Control Champion by the Centers for Disease Control, the only community health center in Illinois to receive this honor.

For more than 17 years, the Greater Elgin Family Care Center has touched lives and provided exceptional care to residents in the Illinois 8th congressional district and beyond. I am grateful for its work, and I hope for its continued success.

I include in the RECORD this statement today to honor Greater Elgin Family Care Center in Elgin, Illinois on July 12th.

HONORING AL GERHARDT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the Honorable JARED HUFFMAN to honor Al Gerhardt for his lifetime commitment to Sonoma County agriculture and to recognize his unparalleled contributions to our farming community.

Mr. Gerhardt was born in 1938 and grew up in Sebastopol, California and attended Green Valley School. He graduated from Analy High School and was a member of the school's chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA). Mr. Gerhardt was married to Pat Jesse from 1963 until she passed away. They had four children, Kathe, Gerry, Diana and the late Anna Marie. In 2000, he married Jan Smith and they moved to the family ranch near Occidental, California.

Mr. Gerhardt served on the Sonoma County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for sixteen years. While on the Board, he was on many committees, including agriculture education, membership and water. Mr. Gerhardt was known for his attention to detail and dedication to the Farm Bureau. He read the monthly Board packets cover to cover to ensure he was ready to discuss the issues facing Sonoma County farmers and ranchers and rarely missed a meeting.

Agriculture was a passion and community involvement was a lifestyle for Mr. Gerhardt. His dedication to our farming community is a main reason agriculture is still vital to Sonoma County's identity. Mr. Gerhardt was a supporter of FFA and 4-H and loved to support and encourage young farmers. He was a founder and director of the North Coast Livestock Protective Association and was a Commissioner on the County of Sonoma's Fish and Wildlife Commission. He was also a member of the Sonoma County Taxpayers Association and the Sonoma County Trailblazers. Mr. Gerhardt was an active member of St. Philip's Catholic Church in Occidental, California and was a committed volunteer for the Rural Food Program of St. Philip and St. Teresa Parish.

Mr. Speaker, Al Gerhardt was always willing to lend a hand and help our community flourish. He was a devoted steward of the land and was dedicated to preserving Sonoma County's agricultural integrity and history. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF HOMER E. (BILLY) BREWER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of former high school and college head football coach Homer E. (Billy) Brewer, who died on May 12, 2018, in Memphis, Tennessee. Coach Brewer served as head football coach throughout his long and distinguished career, leading young men to excel on the football field for 34 years.

He was a true leader both on and off the field, earning the respect and admiration of many.

Coach Brewer, a native of Columbus, Mississippi, played football for Lee High School. Upon graduation from high school, he attended the University of Mississippi, where he played defensive back for the Ole Miss Rebels. Following graduation from the University of Mississippi, Coach Brewer began coaching football at Lee High School. He coached ten successful seasons which included multiple Big Eight Conference championships.

It was during his time as head coach for Lee High School that Coach Brewer chose Robert Youngblood to be an assistant coach for the football team. Mr. Youngblood assisted Coach Brewer on the field in the years to follow at Southeastern Louisiana University, Louisiana Tech University, and the University of Mississippi. Mr. Youngblood said the two became close friends and were loyal to each other. "He would let you coach," Mr. Youngblood said. "He was a good person to work for and to work with. We became more than acquaintances. We became friends."

It was important to Coach Brewer to build and maintain relationships with his players which enhanced their performance on the football field. "One of his strong suits was Coach Brewer's ability to identify, motivate, and be a player's coach," Mr. Youngblood said. "The players respected him and played hard for him." While serving as head coach for the Ole Miss Rebels, the team had 67 wins which placed him as the second most winningest coach in school history. Current Ole Miss Head Coach Matt Luke issued a statement to the Associated Press following Coach Brewer's passing. "He was greatly admired by his players and his teammates," Coach Luke said. "He will forever be engrained in the history of Rebel Football."

Brett Brewer, Coach Brewer's son, said his father's accomplishments were more than his record. "He taught life lessons to the young men he coached," Brewer said. "His legacy is within them—not just the wins and the losses." Brewer said his dad loved coaching, but above all, he loved people.

Coach Brewer was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Kay Gunter Brewer; and his two brothers, Bobby Brewer and Richard Brewer. He is survived by his sons, Brett Brewer and Gunter Brewer; and his five grandchildren, Keaton, Blaine, Lauren, Bailey, and Brogan Brewer.

Coach Brewer served as an inspiration to many people from all walks of life. He will always be remembered as a man who possessed a determined spirit to achieve excellence.

IN HONOR OF VELMA BULVIN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Velma Bulvin on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

I join her friends and family in extending my best to her on this occasion and in celebrating her life and contributions to our great state