

country, Firman joined the 34th division of the U.S. Naval Reserves in Green Bay in 1940 at the age of 17. He entered the Navy a few months later and was assigned to the USS *Maryland* in April of 1941. When the USS *Maryland* left for Pearl Harbor in July of 1941, Firman was aboard the vessel as a gunner's mate first-class at the time of the attacks.

The morning of December 7, 1941, Firman was preparing for Mass aboard the USS *Oklahoma* when he saw the first Japanese bombers flying overhead. The USS *Oklahoma* was next to the USS *Maryland* in the harbor when it suffered major damage and capsized. Firman bravely ran into the face of danger and took up arms as he defended the base with anti-aircraft guns. He later helped pull his deceased brothers in arms from the sunken ship. On that tragic day, 460 men perished on the USS *Oklahoma* and the USS *Maryland* lost five brave souls. The 4 days following the attacks, Firman and his fellow soldiers rescued 32 men from the hull of the USS *Oklahoma*.

Firman continued his brave service to the country for three years on the USS *Maryland* participating in Guadalcanal, the Battle of Tarawa, and the Battle of Kwajalein Atoll. After the war, Firman was assigned to the USS *Bayfield* APA 33 and was sent to the Marshall Islands for atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. On February 7, 1947 he was discharged from the Navy after six years and seven days on active duty.

Firman was one of more than 16 million ordinary people that did extraordinary things during World War II. His willingness to share his story in 2003 at the age of 80 allowed many across Wisconsin, including students throughout Northeast Wisconsin, to hear his account of that day. It was in 2003 that he first visited the Punch Bowl Cemetery in Hawaii and realized he wanted to be a voice to tell part of the story of those 2,335 servicemen and women who perished on that day of infamy. With each retelling of his story, Firman shared an important message: "Truly, man has got to learn to get along with each other." Firman's wise words still ring true today.

Mr. Balza was 95 when he passed away on Wednesday, October 10, 2018. He was born September 25, 1923, to Theophile and Mary Balza, the youngest of 11 sons. On April 23, 1949, he married Nathalie M. Larscheid. He was a true lover of the outdoors, he enjoyed camping with his family and hunting and fishing with his brother-in-law, Carlton Larscheid. He was very proud of becoming a licensed pilot at the age of 63.

Words cannot justly thank Mr. Balza for his many years of service to our country. A treasure for a community and nation, Mr. Balza cannot be replaced. May his service, dedication, and sacrifice be remembered by all.

#### REMEMBERING MR. DIEGO ZAMORA

#### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 23, 2018*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Diego Zamora, who lost his life after a long battle with cancer at the age of 60. Over the past three decades, Diego built a highly suc-

cessful law practice in Santa Fe and was a significant figure in New Mexico's legal community.

Diego was born in New Mexico to a family with a history of success in the legal field. His father, Matias, served as a district court judge in San Miguel, Mora, and Guadalupe counties. His sister, Monica, also served as a district court judge in Albuquerque and now serves on the state Court of Appeals. His brother, Geno, serves as a Santa Fe city attorney and was previously a general counsel for Governor Bill Richardson.

Following in his father's footsteps, Diego received his law degree from Georgetown University in 1984. For decades, he had a successful law practice with a focus on personal injury, wrongful death, employment, and civil rights cases. Fighting for the little guy was his passion, and he successfully took on powerful interests time and again in order to achieve justice for his clients. In addition to his intellect and passion, he was also known for his warm personality that allowed him to connect with juries.

Diego also devoted a great deal of time to the New Mexico Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program, an organization that helps members of the legal community dealing with substance abuse issues. He took countless lawyers under his wing during difficult times and was known as a compassionate mentor for many. He was a true fighter and each challenge he overcame made him stronger. His compassion and strength defined him, especially in the face of adversity.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere condolences to all of Diego's family and loved ones. I hope they are comforted by cherished memories of Diego, and by the fact that so many in our community mourn his loss and celebrate his life with them.

#### HONORING JOYCE OVERTON WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 23, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joyce Overton as a woman of the year. She has devoted a lifetime of service to the community of Clearlake. She has established herself as a strong public servant, advocate, and champion for the county's most vulnerable populations: youths, seniors, and the homeless. In her role as a City Council member, Ms. Overton has prioritized economic revitalization programs and advocates for sound fiscal policy, road improvements, and the reinvigoration of the Lakeshore Corridor. Ms. Overton has also been instrumental in leading the recovery efforts after the devastating fires and floods that have ravaged Lake County. She has selflessly contributed her time and resources supporting the community at the evacuation centers. Her passion for volunteerism in the community is also evident in her roles as founder and past Executive Director of Lake County Youth Services, a nonprofit youth services center devoted to providing a positive support system to young people in her Lake County. She is currently the Executive Director of Highland Senior Services Center,

an essential lifeline to Lake County's aging population ensuring the senior community has access to much needed resources and healthy meals. Joyce Overton has an extensive and impressive record of public service and embodies all of the qualities of a community leader and public servant.

#### CONGRATULATING THE PEKIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 23, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pekin Chamber of Commerce on its 125th Anniversary. The Chamber has joyfully served the Pekin community since 1893.

In October of 1893, what is now the Pekin Chamber of Commerce was formed by five businessmen who originally named their new organization the Citizen's Improvement Association of Pekin. The organization set out with the goal of "advancing the business interest and promoting the commercial growth of the City of Pekin." Although the organization went through several name changes, before settling on the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce, their mission remained the same. Today, the Pekin Chamber of Commerce continues to serve businesses and consumers in the region as they work to grow and strengthen the local economy. I commend them on their 125th Anniversary for all of the work they have done for the residents of Pekin and look forward to seeing their continued efforts.

It is because of groups such as the Pekin Chamber of Commerce that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Pekin Chamber of Commerce on its 125th Anniversary and thank them for their service to the community.

In October the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce will be finishing 125 years of leading Pekin businesses.

#### HONORING JACK VAN NORMAN

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 23, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jack Van Norman. Jack is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1264, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jack has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jack has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jack has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jack Van Norman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America

and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING MIKE MILLER  
ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 23, 2018*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Mike Miller, on his retirement as Executive Director of the Kentucky River Area Development District (KRADD) and for his long-time public service in Eastern Kentucky.

Under his direction, KRADD has been a dedicated service organization for local communities in the Kentucky River area, which serves Breathitt, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, Perry and Wolfe Counties. KRADD celebrated its 50th Anniversary earlier this year. I can't overstate the value of the partnerships and regional planning that have been cultivated by Mike and his leadership of this organization. The infrastructural footprint of KRADD includes 13 million linear feet of water lines and 1.5 million linear feet of sewer lines extended in its service area, as well as nine new water plants and eleven wastewater treatment plants. Those fundamental services have been critical for families and businesses alike. As the former Mayor of the City of Jackson, Kentucky, where he dedicated eleven years of service, Mike understands first-hand the economic challenges of local elected officials in our rural region. His experience as a chief city administrator undoubtedly drove his passion to help city and county leaders access grant opportunities and to work collectively as a regional hub for economic development.

Aside from his career in public service, Mike owned and operated a local insurance company for 35 years. Mike's work ethic and success have garnered the utmost respect of his colleagues and multiple organizations across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He served as President of the Kentucky League of Cities for one year and as a board member and officer of the Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts. He has also volunteered his experience and time to help countless local boards, including the Jackson Independent School System, the Kentucky River Authority, Kentucky River Community Care and many others.

Outside of boardrooms and office buildings, Mike has dedicated several years on the baseball diamond, coaching local Little League teams and spending time outdoors as Scout Master for Boy Scout Troop 91 for 12 years. Mike understands the importance of mentoring and investing in the lives of our future leaders.

I have enjoyed working with Mike over the years to improve our infrastructure and economic opportunities in Eastern Kentucky. I wish Mike and his wife, Paula, many peaceful and fun-filled years of retirement together with their family.

MEMORIAL PARK: 600 ACRES OF  
HISTORY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 23, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what's in a name? Shakespeare would have us believe that we should not assign so much meaning to a name. A rose by any other name would smell just as sweet, would it not? Well, for us southerners, a name is something we hold near and dear to our hearts—and our heritage. We name our children after mother's maiden names, double "first names" often include their daddy's or granddaddy's names. Heck, even our dogs' names have personal and historical significance.

I say this, because I want to talk about a particular place that is near and dear to me and many Houstonians, but its namesake has lost its rightful place in our history. Each day, over 10,000 people use Memorial Park. The park is Houston's largest public space; almost double the size of New York's Central Park and larger than Chicago's Lincoln Park, and London's Hyde Park. It is Texas, so naturally it's bigger. The park's 600-acre urban wilderness is one of the largest centrally located urban forests in the country.

But long before it was packed with Lululemon clad joggers, it was Camp Logan, one of sixteen military training camps during World War I. The 7,600 acres of forested land on Buffalo Bayou housed and trained nearly 30,000 soldiers. Its massive size equaled over half the size of Manhattan with over 1,300 buildings. Nearly 1,000 Camp Logan soldiers lost their lives during the war and over 6,200 were wounded.

The Camp's place in history is also marked by the Houston Riots of 1917, which broke out after a series of troubling events between Houston police and African-American soldiers, leaving 20 dead. It was the site of one of only two African-American training camps. Of those soldiers trained at Camp Logan, over 75 were awarded France's Croix de Guerre.

As early as the 1820's, the "pinery" of Memorial Park appeared in our history books, when Jane Long, the "Mother of Texas" recounts camping there after fleeing Fort Las Casas on her way to San Antonio after her husband, Capt. James Long's death in his quest to conquer Spanish Texas. In 1912, Mayor Horace Rice Baldwin, another significant "name" in Houston's history, pursued the idea of acquiring a large park along Buffalo Bayou "that will for all time be of sufficient magnitude for our people."

When the United States entered the War to End All Wars, the War Department leased 7,600 acres of land on Buffalo Bayou to establish a training base named Camp Logan. In 1923, when the camp is deserted, local resident, Catherine Mary Emmott wrote to the Houston Chronicle suggesting that "the city buy some of the land and turn it into a park in memory of the boys." Enter another notable "name" in Houston history, the Hogg Family.

In 1924, Will and Mike Hogg, with minority owner Henry Stude, bought two tracts of former Camp Logan land and sold the acreage to the city at cost. In May of that year, the City of Houston officially established Memorial Park in memory of the soldiers who trained there.

The Hogg's sister, Miss Ima Hogg, assumed the role of guardian of the Park, safeguarding it from numerous encroachments over the years. Under her guidance, landscape architects were hired to develop a long-term vision plan for the park which included an 18-hole golf course, scenic drives, trails for hikers and "nature students," bridle paths, and an amphitheater.

Over the next 30 years, the park became home to architect John Bredemus' "greatest golf course ever," added a popular archery range and set the stage for the arrival in the 1950's of the trail riders on the Salt Grass Trail as they make their way into the Houston Livestock and Rodeo—still a favorite tradition to this day.

In the 1970's, Houstonian Seymour Leiber, dubbed the "Father of Jogging," started coaching runners for area high-school cross country meets, spearheading the popularity of jogging in the park. When I was judge in Houston, I took to these same trails every day, as later did my kids. I can't tell you how many miles I've run in Memorial Park. Running was so much a part of my life, Runner's World magazine even featured me in the 1980's.

The park has seen its fair share of challenges, including the devastating drought in 2011 that claimed nearly 80 percent of its trees. But just like Miss Ima Hogg's good stewardship of the past, another benefactor stepped forward to ensure future generations of Houstonians can enjoy Memorial Park and preserve the namesake of those that served in the Great World War.

Houston's Kinder Foundation granted \$70 million to underscore the need to fast-track Memorial Park's Master Plan to create the best urban park in America. As a result, this energized the park's public and private partners to invest up to \$205 million more.

These efforts will take the Master Plan from proposal to reality in just 10 years and enhance and protect Memorial Park for countless years to come. These efforts have set new standards in green space planning and public-private funding partnerships. Kinder Foundation's inspiring public-private partnerships have changed Houston's color palette from gray to green.

I hope that as you run the three-mile loop or drive down Memorial Drive from downtown to the Galleria, that you take a minute to appreciate not just the beauty and the short escape from the city, but really appreciate the history of Memorial Park, those that gave their lives for our freedom, and those who have made it a priority to preserve it.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING PROFESSOR HOLLY  
COOPER WITH CALIFORNIA'S  
THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE  
YEAR AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 23, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Professor Holly Cooper as a woman of the year. She is a professor at the UC Davis School of Law and a steadfast advocate for the legal rights of immigrants. As co-director of the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic