

There was some pollutant entering my parent's home and garage from next door that caused me to cough. During this visit I didn't smell smoke, so it may have been a different chemical coming from next door.

I am very concerned about the health impacts of the second-hand smoke and chemicals I am being exposed to in my parent's home. I filed a complaint with the City of Huntington Beach code enforcement on April 8, 2018 following my Easter Sunday experience. Due to the symptoms my parents were experiencing, my mom contacted the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and filed multiple complaints about the smoke; however, SCAQMD inspection staff stated they cannot take action against a residence, even though the sober living home is a business. Typically, SCAQMD will issue a notice of violation for businesses causing air pollution and nuisance. My parents also filed complaints with the City of Huntington Beach code enforcement. In addition, they have been filing complaints with the operator of the home, [REDACTED]. The operator has made small changes, but my family is still significantly impacted by the smoke and/or chemicals (a sweet smell presumably vapes from e-cigarettes) nearly 24 hours a day, every day.

My parents are elderly, have medical conditions that are known to be exacerbated by smoke and chemicals (which are also covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act), and are constantly being exposed to indoor and outdoor air pollution from the smoke and chemicals originating from next door. I am worried about my parent's health and if the exposure from the sober living home will cause premature death. My niece and nephew are toddlers and I am concerned about their health when they come visit their grandparents. We smell the chemicals in the living room and kitchen where we spend most of our family time. We are unable to use bedrooms in the home because those rooms are filled with air contaminants and are now unsuitable for sleeping. The sober living home next door has caused significant stress and caused emotional toll for my family.

Second-hand smoke has proven health impacts and according to the Centers for Disease Control "There is no risk-free level of second hand smoke exposure; even brief exposure can be harmful to health." In addition, the California Air Resources Board has identified second hand smoke as a "Toxic Air Contaminant". Reports are now coming out about the health impacts of e-cigarettes.

In addition to having a sober living home next door to my parents, eight homes down the street is a detox home owned by [REDACTED]. The neighbor of this home is the child of another original family in the neighborhood. The current family has young children and has been negatively impacted by the detox home from smoking, bad language, and too many vehicles parking. In addition, the parents have found needles at the local park, so their children no longer visit the park.

In the last couple months, I have noticed groups of people standing on the curb in my condo complex smoking. In eighteen years of living at my residence, I have never seen this before and the general population smoking rates in California are decreasing. I would not be surprised if there is a detox or sober living home in my condo complex, but my homeowner association says they are "not allowed to ask." The property next to mine is currently on the market and I have decided if a detox or sober living home moves next door, I will sell my property and "cash out." I do not want to handle the stress of another detox or sober living home.

Yesterday, I was driving down [REDACTED]. (a major street in Huntington Beach). In a one mile stretch between [REDACTED], I saw three addiction treatment centers on one side of the road. Most likely each one of them has a network of detox and sober living homes nearby. Huntington Beach is now known on the Internet as the national "Rehab Rivera."

Huntington Beach property values are going to be drastically impacted. Realtor Magazine published an article on October 17, 2014, stating there is an eight to 17 percent

reduction in home values when homes are within one-eighth of a mile from a residential treatment center. When my parents attempt to sell their home and they disclose there is sober living home next door and a detox home eight homes down the street, it is common sense that the home will have a lower value. If they don't disclose the location of the homes, they can be sued by the buyer for non-disclosure. It is a lose-lose situation for the large number of families that have detox and sober living homes in their neighborhood.

When the health insurance runs out or a person is kicked out for breaking the house rules, they are left on the sidewalk. Many of these people become homeless since they don't have the money to pay for transportation home. In addition, when addicts relapse they can commit crimes to get money for the next fix. I have noticed a significant increase in number of homeless people in the city and heard reports from neighbors of an increase property crime. Huntington Beach used to pride itself as being one of the safest cities in America and that was a major reason my family chose to live in this community.

The sober living home next door to my parents has totally changed my family's quality of life. Detox and sober living homes should not be in residential areas. They should not be able to destroy other residents' health, quality of life, and property values. In addition, Huntington Beach should only have the necessary facilities to serve our local population.

PREETI GHUMAN,  
*Huntington Beach, California.*

I live next door to a home rented out to [REDACTED], a sober living business, in Huntington Beach, CA, for one year & seven months. The clients are brokered from all over the United States. The owner is making \$9,000 in monthly rent compared to the average of \$3500.

A second home just sold in August on my side of the street—three doors down and is also a so called sober living home.

Never know who is coming and going—more than 6 in the home—not counting the manager (who has a job and is not monitoring the group on a regular basis). Fourteen last summer.

One death in March—went unnoticed in the house for eight hours before authorities were notified. Two drug overdoses—last one in July called 911 himself.

Drug deals—at night  
Needles thrown in my backyard  
NOISE—any time—day & Night  
Loud music, talking, screaming, cursing  
Physical fights spilling onto street  
Cars/motorcycles—on the street (3-7 at any given time)  
Sex in cars  
Cigarettes butts thrown all around my property.

Cigarette smoke—cannot sit outside, front & back  
Trash overflowing from trash cans—maggots, flies, stench  
Gum-wads spitted on my driveway  
Trash in front of our house/street  
House across the street fell out of escrow twice after learning of SLH presence—Our property values going down

No longer live on a beautiful, peaceful, quiet street where my grandchildren can visit.

JEANNE KULPINSKI,  
*Huntington Beach, California.*

1) All of them involve sketchy loud and obnoxious yelling, or very loud talking.

2) They are up late hours.

3) Others have saws going at 7 am to cut gates in fences. They don't care about neighbors. Not invested in neighborhood since they're transients.

4) And the 3 are ALL together with the corporate office in one of them too. So, the other 2 are acting in their BEST BEHAVIOR so they're not bothering the boss and get kicked out!

5) Biz belong in commercial areas, not residential!

6) And they need Local control & regulation like ALL BIZ have to have! Why do they get special exception?

The law needs to be changed to fix the lack of supervision & abuses!

1) Require city code enforcement & PD to monitor and cite violations for abuses.

2) 3-Strikes & ur out of biz! SLHs would bring the hammer down on violating clients to avoid losing that free \$ gig.

3) Ban leaving those clients who run out of insurance \$, being kicked out on the curb. Use that obscene \$ to pick them up and transition them safely back to the real world. Sober transition houses.

4) Ban more than 1 SLH in a single-family tract home.

#NoBizInResidential!

BRUCE WAREH,  
*Huntington Beach, California.*

## RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. FIRMAN BALZA

### HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the life, legacy, and service of Green Bay native, Mr. Firman Balza.

Mr. Firman Balza was one of America's last surviving servicemen from the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor. Answering the call from his country, Firman signed up for 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. The USS *Maryland* would leave 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 when he saw the first Japanese bombers flying overhead. Mass that morning would have been aboard the USS *Oklahoma*. The USS *Oklahoma* was moored 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. Four hundred-sixty men perished on the *Oklahoma* that day, and the *Maryland* lost five.

During the four days following the attacks, Firman and his fellow soldiers rescued 32 men from the hull of the *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 who did extraordinary acts during World War II. His willingness to begin sharing his story in 2003 at the age of 80 allowed many across Wisconsin, including students across 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. If Firman left one message with all he spoke to, it was "Truly, man has got to learn to get along with each other."

Mr. Balza was 95 when he passed away on 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 a grateful nation and all who knew him.

**HONORING EMMA GREEN WITH  
CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emma Green as a woman of the year. She is passionately devoted to improving her community both through her career and volunteerism. While professionally Emma has had a stellar career at Charter Systems, Inc. the financial services company she owned which just celebrated its 30th Anniversary, she is more likely to be recognized by the underserved in our community for the countless hours of volunteer service providing and delivering meals. One of Emma's passions is feeding the needy by running the Community Meal Program at the Church of the Epiphany where she serves over 350 meals per week. Not only do they serve meals, but she coordinates with other service providers to bring medical, dental, and transportation services to those in need. Ms. Green's history of service also includes her time as President of Vaca Arts, serving on Boards of the Boys & Girls Club, performing vocational rehabilitation and job placement for the disabled, serving as a liaison to Travis Air Force Base Airmen, working with the Vacaville Community Outreach Program, and donating her time to many other service organizations where she is always the first to help. The significant positive impact Ms. Green has had on this community cannot be overstated, which makes her extremely worthy of this recognition.

**TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA AND  
LARRY FOLLMANN**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Patricia and Larry Follmann of Massena, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 22, 2018.

Patricia and Larry's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

**CALLING FOR RECOGNITION OF  
MILITARY FUNERAL HONOR  
GUARDS**

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an important issue facing our service members and veterans.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, over 500,000 veterans are dying each year. Under a law passed in 2000, many of these men and women qualify for military honors at their funerals, including a two-person honor guard. These honor guards perform an impressive ceremony that includes folding and presenting the flag of the United States and playing Taps. This demonstration of our nation's unceasing appreciation is incredibly important to family, friends, and the entire veterans community.

The Indiana National Guard, like in other states, strives to provide funeral teams whenever possible. Unfortunately, with so many veterans passing each year, there are too few men and women prepared to render honors. Service members and veterans in my hometown of Indianapolis recognized this shortage and organized the Indy Metropolitan Military Honor Guard to meet the need, averaging 400 funerals per year and amassing over 9,600 man hours and 56,000 miles traveled.

Those who serve in our Armed Forces never do so for accolades or honors. Yet, we honor them with medals and ribbons to recognize their service and tell the story of their achievements. In Indiana, the National Guard decorates funeral team members and the Metro Military Honor Guard provides a ribbon to be worn by its participants. Yet, this is not the case across much of the country. Service members and veterans who serve on honor guards are providing a valuable service and should be decorated for their contribution.

Mr. Speaker, today I'm pleased to recognize all the service members and veterans who serve on honor guards across the country. I call on all states to follow Indiana's example and adopt a ribbon to recognize these dedicated individuals.

**RECOGNIZING ELGIN LOWE**

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dutiful work of my former colleague, Mr. Elgin Lowe, on the occasion of his receiving the South Alameda County NAACP 40th Annual Service Award.

Elgin joined the Alameda County District Attorney's Office in 1996 after receiving his Bachelor of Arts in History from UC Santa Barbara followed by his Juris Doctor from UC Hastings College of Law in San Francisco.

Elgin's accomplishments over the course of the last twenty-two years are innumerable. There are, however, a few achievements I will mention for the extraordinary impact they had on our community. In 2011, Elgin began prosecuting cases that resulted from gang violence on the south side of our county. His work resulted in the successful prosecution of several high-profile murders and brought resolutions and a restorative sense of justice to several victims and families whose cases were previously considered "unsolvable."

Elgin's deep understanding of criminal prosecutions is sought whenever the county is in

need of someone to train newer attorneys in the areas of case investigation, testimony, trial preparation, and the unique set of challenges that prosecutions of gang members bring to the courtroom.

Our community is only in debt to Elgin not only for the work he completes in and around the courtroom, but also for the countless hours he volunteers in the community at large. He has prioritized speaking to at-risk youth about the perils that await those who enter the criminal realm or affiliate with a gang. Elgin has also actively participated with our local Regional Occupation Program center and mentored first-year law students in Berkeley's Boalt Hall moot court program.

Elgin draws his support from his amazing family. His wife, Brigitte, also works at the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, and together they have two wonderful children, their son Kendall, and daughter Kori. It goes without saying that Elgin has made his mother Evelyn quite proud.

I want to thank Elgin Lowe for the contributions he has made to the 15th Congressional District and all of Alameda County. His work is consequential and appreciated.

**HONORING GAIL FEINBERG WITH  
CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gail Feinberg as a woman of the year. She is always finding ways to enrich the lives of those in Solano County. As a medical professional, Ms. Feinberg has a wealth of knowledge and skills to bring to bear on any issue. Having now served for two years as the Chair of Primary Care for Touro University, her continued excellence and tireless work to train medical students in providing care for our underserved populations has been indispensable to our community. Additionally, in spite of the demanding nature of her position, Ms. Feinberg is persistent in her willingness to go above and beyond, as demonstrated by her dedication to volunteering at a student-run free clinic. Here her valuable insight and tenacity became so integral to the mission of the clinic that she was quickly asked to take over as medical director. As a result, Ms. Feinberg provides much needed free medical services to those in need. She also manages to find the time to volunteer teaching nursing students and work with a diabetes research program. Ms. Feinberg is diligent in her work, generous with her time, and passionate about serving others. She is a dedicated community servant and truly worthy of this recognition.

**TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NASA'S  
KEPLER SPACE TELESCOPE**

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 2, 2018*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor NASA's Kepler Space Telescope on its retirement and to commend the many thousands of NASA personnel who designed and maintained Kepler and analyzed data received from it.

Launched in March, 2009, Kepler spent nine years in deep space collecting data that indicate our sky is filled with billions of hidden planets—even more planets than stars. Now