

LeRoy enjoyed tremendous success throughout his career, but his biggest accomplishments were in service to others. For the past several decades, he gave much to Habitat for Humanity, through which he formed a unique partnership with former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn. Through the Carter Work Project, they built or repaired 4,290 homes in 14 different countries, including 23 in Mishawaka just this past August. His hard work and dedication to Habitat's mission earned him high praise from our 39th President: "He's been a true inspiration to us."

A mark of the fruition of his skill and expertise, LeRoy led the Troyer Group's design and construction of the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. This 510-foot long, 85-foot wide, and 51-foot high, full-size replica of Noah's Ark as described in the Bible is the featured attraction at the biblical theme park. The craftsmanship of this grand structure, a project of great magnitude and meaning, demonstrates LeRoy's ability to bring an architectural dream to life.

LeRoy embodied the best of the Hoosier ethos. He was diligent, industrious, innovative, and generous. And above all, he was devoted to his family and loved his country. I will be forever grateful for his valuable wisdom and foresight when it came to creative building projects and things that would continue to promote growth in our community.

By the grace of God, he was surrounded by family in his last moments. I want to thank Phyllis for all she has done to honor his legacy and comfort their children during this difficult time. Our community will always remember LeRoy for his selflessness and for the passion that drove him to make a real difference in people's lives.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEGMANS FOOD MARKETS IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Wegmans Food Markets 50th anniversary operating in the Syracuse area. Wegmans is a staple throughout Central New York communities and has a long, successful history as a regional supermarket. Since its founding, Wegmans has grown to become an exceptional local business and spans across the Mid-Atlantic area.

Wegmans Food Markets was established in 1916 in Rochester, New York. The supermarket was founded by brothers Walter and John Wegman and was originally known as the Rochester Fruit and Vegetable Company. Initially, the store only sold fresh produce but expanded to include general groceries, baked goods, meats, and dairy products over the next decade and a half. Wegmans rapidly expanded and became a supermarket innovator throughout its early years, featuring new ideas such as larger storefronts, windowed refrigerator displays, and frozen foods.

By 1968, Wegmans was quickly growing throughout New York and the chain opened its first Syracuse area location. This was the first of what is now a 14 store presence in Central New York. Throughout the late 20th century, Wegmans continued to expand its business

lines to include pharmacies, florists, and seafood departments. The company opened larger locations and hired more employees to meet the heightened demand for Wegmans products.

As Wegmans became a stronger business, the company recognized its rising commitment to the communities in which it operated. The family-founded business has always been family-owned, and they strive to support their community through their business. Wegmans has supported several corporate responsibility initiatives since the 1970's, including food bank donations, an employee scholarship program, and contributions to a variety of programs for children in its service areas.

Today, Wegmans Food Markets continues to thrive. The company operates 98 stores in six states, employs 48,000 people, and is consistently listed as an elite company by various business journals. Additionally, Wegmans remains highly active in charitable causes, leading initiatives to reduce hunger, promote healthy diets, and strengthen neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating Wegmans Food Markets 50th anniversary in Syracuse. Wegmans is vital to the Central New York economy, serving as one of its largest employers, providing food to the region, and giving back to local communities. The company serves as a perfect model for an ideal public-private relationship and I wish them many more years of success in Central New York.

HONORING JENNIFER HALLOWELL

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Jennifer Hollowell, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

I've known Jen for more than two decades and during that time, she has become a close friend and trusted adviser. Since our time together at the Indiana State Republican Party, Jen has proven herself to be one of our state's top political minds. There's no doubt that I wouldn't be where I am today with Jen's counsel and help every step of the way.

On a personal note, Jen is a talented leader and loyal friend. She has already impacted our state in extraordinary ways. But, I am certain that her biggest impact is yet to come.

I want to thank Jen for her friendship and dedication to our work. I wish her and her husband, Kyle, continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE LOYD NEAL'S DEDICATION TO THE NATION AND HIS COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of a truly extraordinary individual that served his community through decades of commitment to the

people, bettering it through his efforts: Nueces County Judge Loyd Neal.

Judge Neal was elected Nueces County Judge in November 2006, taking office January 2, 2007, as the first Republican elected to this office in over 140 years. In November 2010, Judge Neal was re-elected to his second term starting January 2011.

Loyd Neal was born in Henderson, Texas and graduated from Paris High School in 1955. He received his BBA in Marketing from Texas A&M University College Station in 1959 and his MBA from Texas A&M in 1973. While attending A&M, Neal served as a member of the Corps of Cadet.

Neal is married to the former Thetis Ann King and they have two children. The first is Loyd Neal III, a 1984 graduate of Texas A&M University College Station and St. Mary's University Law School who is currently practicing law in Houston, Texas. The second, daughter Ann Margaret, a 1986 graduate of Texas A&M University College Station who earned a master's degree from Southwest Texas University. She is currently teaching school in Boerne, Texas.

In 1989, Neal retired as a Colonel from the Army Reserve, after serving more than thirty years in the active Army and Army Reserve. During this time, he commanded several units in South Texas, including the U.S. Army Reserve Battalion, Corpus Christi; U.S. Army Reserve Support Group in San Marcos; with his terminal assignment as Chief of Staff, 377th Theater Army Area Command, New Orleans, Louisiana. While on active duty, Judge Neal attended both Airborne and Ranger School, graduating from both the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. In 1992, Loyd was named a Distinguished Alumnus by Texas A&M University for his service to his City, his State, and his Country.

He served as Chairman of the South Texas Military Facilities Task Force, was appointed by Governor George W. Bush to the Texas Strategic Military Planning Commission in 1997 and was re-appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Texas Military Preparedness Commission in 2005. Judge Neal has also served in numerous volunteer leadership positions in the Corpus Christi area including serving as the Chairman for the Corpus Christi Economic Development Corp, the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, the Art Museum of South Texas, South Texas Homeport Committee, the Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni, and President of the Corpus Christi Navy League, to name a few.

It is with the utmost honor and respect that I wish Judge Neal, and his family, a very joyful retirement and thank him for his service. I urge my fellow members of Congress to applaud him for his dedication to serving our communities and for his commitment to ensuring a better life for all.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICE OF SHELLIE BRESSLER

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee staff, Shellie Bressler, who is marking 28 years of Federal Government

Service. Over her career, Shellie has served in the majority and minority, the House, Senate personal offices, three Committee staffs, as well as for a member of Senate leadership. I first met Shellie when she worked for a fellow member of the House Banking Committee.

Although she has worked on issues ranging from the creation of the 50 States Quarters program to the passage of tax incentives for donations to food banks, Shellie is best known for her work on global health issues. She was a lead staffer establishing the framework for the PEPFAR program. This legislation helped move HIV from a death sentence to a manageable disease. Shellie authored a report addressing management issues at the multilateral Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Her recommendations were adopted by the Global Fund Board and the institution is currently in good financial shape.

In working on the oversight and investigations team on my staff, Shellie has not only covered global health, but all foreign assistance programs. She has stressed the need for stronger management and evaluation criterion. By asking thorough questions, the State Department and USAID realize that the Committee is paying attention to how government funds are spent, as we demand accountability.

Shellie has been a great mentor to junior Committee staff. I know she is not finished making a difference in the world. I wish Shellie much success as she moves to the next chapter of her life.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BARBARA
SHANNON-BANISTER

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of my dear friend, Dr. Barbara Shannon-Banister. She will retire from her position as the Chief of the Community Relations Division for the City of Aurora on December 31, 2018.

Dr. Shannon-Banister is a truly dedicated civil servant whose work over the length of her career has significantly benefitted my hometown of Aurora, Colorado, and the greater Denver Metropolitan area. In 1989, Dr. Shannon-Banister co-founded the Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN), which is the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides primary care and other health-related services for the medically underserved not only in the City of Aurora but also for areas outside of Aurora.

As a fierce advocate for civil rights, Dr. Shannon-Banister also worked to bring the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to Aurora, where she was instrumental in starting a new NAACP chapter in 1991. Her efforts gave the residents of Aurora, Colorado's third largest and most diverse city, an organization that fully understood the need to protect and advance the cause of civil rights.

A true icon of our community, she is also President and chief executive officer of the non-profit foundation, Grand Design Inc., that works to preserve African American culture through community outreach, hosting concerts, and visual arts performances.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Barbara Shannon-Banister represents the very best in public service that the State of Colorado and our nation has to offer. I thank her and commend her for her decades of tireless and inspirational leadership on behalf of all of us in our community, our state, and our nation. I wish her all the best of luck and a wonderful and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING JACKSON PUBLIC
SCHOOLS JROTC PROGRAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in Jackson Public Schools which has been developed over seven decades.

The first JROTC program in Jackson Public Schools was started in Central High School in 1936 and transferred to Lanier High School in 1971 after the program at Central High School was phased out. Today the Army JROTC Program is alive and well in all of Jackson Public Schools. Since the JROTC program began, thousands of students have been exposed to the ideals of leadership, character development, and citizenship training provided by JROTC.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson Public Schools JROTC program.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE H.W. BUSH,
HEROIC NAVAL AVIATOR, DIPLOMAT,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS,
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE,
VICE-PRESIDENT, LOVING HUSBAND
AND FATHER, BRIGHTEST OF A THOUSAND
POINTS OF LIGHT, AND 41ST PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an American hero, George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st President of the United States, who last Friday, November 30, 2018, slipped the surly bonds of earth, reached out his hand, and touched the face of God.

His was a life of love: for God, for Country, and for family. George H.W. Bush, whom we lost at the age of 94, was a giant among men. He served our nation for most of the last seven decades, in so many of the institutions and sectors that make our country great.

We were all very lucky to have him as long as we did. As the second youngest naval aviator, he was shot down during one of countless flights in the Pacific theater of World War II, leaving him stranded in the ocean for many hours—his life in danger and with rescue uncertain. Fortunately for him and the hundreds of millions of people across the globe who were touched by his leadership and mourn

him today, he would be found alive and brought home. That night in September 1944 would prove fateful to this man, and the country he would serve and that we all love. When he returned home, he married the woman who would be by his side for 73 years and serve as our nation's First Lady, Barbara Pierce Bush. There was a bond so strong that it is perhaps no coincidence that they left us within mere months of one another. Together, they created a prolific and legendary American political dynasty dedicated to public service, including: a son who would serve as governor of Texas and later become the 43rd President, George W. Bush; and Jeb Bush, who would serve two terms as governor of Florida.

President George H.W. Bush's life was one marked by service to country: in the military, as a member of the United States House of Representatives from Texas, as part of our nation's diplomatic corps, as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and as Vice President of the United States, before he would be elected the 41st President of the United States. His tenure as our nation's Chief Executive is one for which we should all be grateful, as he presided over a remarkable period of geopolitical transition and progress, including the end of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the successful administration of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and a commitment to denuclearization as a means to achieve diplomatic ends.

And, he did not let electoral defeat diminish him or his commitment to public service. When they were both former presidents, George H.W. Bush and his successor—the man who would deny him reelection—Bill Clinton, joined together to help victims following the devastating tsunami in Indonesia in 2004, and to help hurricane victims in New Orleans following Katrina. Throughout his long time in public life, he demonstrated unwavering fidelity to country, and it manifested itself in several ways, but is best articulated by President Bush himself, during his 1989 inaugural address: 'I've spoken of a thousand points of light, of all the community organizations, that are spread like stars throughout the nation doing good. I will go to the people and the programs that are the brighter points of light and I will ask every member of my government to become involved. The old ideas are new again because they are not old, they are timeless: duty, sacrifice, commitment, and a patriotism that finds its expression in taking part and pitching in.'

I know that today, people across the land and indeed the world are remembering this giant of American life. Of course, those of us in Houston also mourn and celebrate a neighbor, whom we loved, whose life we remember, and whose presence in our community is something we will forever cherish. Though he has departed, we are grateful for the time we shared with him and for his service to our nation. I mourn the passing of this statesman, but also celebrate his life. In this time, I extend my deepest sympathies to the entire Bush Family and hold them close in my heart. May God bless President George H.W. Bush, the entire Bush Family, and may he rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the 41st President of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush.