

lives of every resident of Lancaster. I have always been impressed by his tenacity to ensure that the people and businesses he represents have their voices heard at the highest levels of government and the successes he has achieved over the course of his public service. Over the past ten years, Lancaster has undergone a period of unprecedented economic growth, and this is undoubtedly in no small part because of Mark's steady hand and dedication to his community. While it is Lancaster's loss to see Mark leave city government, I am confident that he has laid a foundation that will contribute to the city's success for years to come. As Mark begins this new chapter of his life, I wish him, his wife, Karen, and their family all the best.

HONORING DARLENE GUTHRIE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Elkhart Police Officer, Darlene Guthrie. Her acts of selflessness, sacrifice, and public service have distinguished her among her peers, and she is well-deserving of recognition.

For 20 years, Darlene served as a police officer with the Elkhart Police Department, displaying a dedication to public safety and commitment to service that have truly made northern Indiana a better place to live. Now Darlene is serving her fellow Hoosiers by joining the Indiana Guard Reserve.

Darlene has also spent countless hours rescuing animals, helping her neighbors get back on their feet, and volunteering in her community. She combined her experience in law enforcement with her passion for animals to become a nationally certified Animal Cruelty Investigator, eventually taking on the role of rewriting Elkhart County's Animal Ordinance and updating the Elkhart Police Department's animal law summary. And she served on the Elkhart County Humane Society's Board for four years and even became interim director.

She goes above and beyond in everything she does, and her drive to make a difference has not only shined light on the causes closest to her heart but has made her a local leader that organizations and institutions look to for guidance. Her distinguished leadership and love of family, community, and country are what brought her to her most recent accomplishment at the age of 52: graduating from the Indiana Guard Reserve Basic Training on December 15, 2018.

Darlene's determination to never give up no matter what life brings is an inspiration to us all and teaches a positive message of perseverance. We can all learn from someone who never shies away from a challenge and always strives to do what is right. It is a privilege to represent Hoosiers like Darlene who continue to strengthen our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Darlene Guthrie for her honorable service to the northern Indiana community, and congratulating her on her graduation to become a member of the Indiana Guard Reserve. Darlene is a role model, a leader, and a dedicated public servant who inspires us all.

STAND FIRM BRAVE IRANIAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year has been another important year in pushing back on the tyrannical Iranian regime. The passion and determination of the Iranian people in the face of a corrupt and despotic regime provides much needed inspiration to us all.

We are witnessing historic times in Iran. The Iranian people are still fighting for their rights in the streets. As much as the regime tries to hide it, or use violence to suppress it, change is coming to Iran. The world is more aware that the Supreme Leader and his thugs are not moderates that should be welcome among other responsible nations. Instead, through the bravery of the Iranian people, the world knows they are murderers and thieves.

There is a reason why Iran has earned the title of the world's number one state sponsor of terrorism. It sends millions of dollars to fuel wars in Syria and Yemen and enriches its proxies in Lebanon, Iraq, Bahrain and Gaza. A few weeks ago, the Coordinator for Counterterrorism Bureau at the State Department told my subcommittee that Iran spends \$1 billion dollars a year to support its terrorist proxies. It steals this money from the Iranian people and responds with brutality if they dare speak out. But they continue to speak out.

I have always been proud to stand with them. The cause of freedom in Iran is just and righteous, and it will never be silenced. Together we are having an impact. The people of Iran, including the MEK, have sacrificed so much for the cause of liberty. They have spoken the truth and have exposed this regime for the evil it is: a state run by terrorist thugs. Iranians have been imprisoned, tortured, and murdered fighting for the cause of freedom. Iranian dissidents have been forced to flee their homes, refugee camps in Iraq, and the wider region to escape the Mullahs reach. Fortunately, many Iranians have found safety in the West and we are working tirelessly to make sure Iran's evil intentions can no longer hurt them. Throughout all of it, these Iranians have stood firm with remarkable courage.

But the fight is not over, because the fight for freedom in Iran is not over. The regime continues to find ways to evade sanctions, and so we must continue to pursue them. With the help of the Iranian people, we will find how they cheat and expose them.

The Mullahs are relentless, so we must be too. In the end democracy and justice will prevail as it always has. The American people stand with the people of Iran, because we believe in freedom, liberty, and the American way. They must keep their heads high, and remember they are on the right side of history. The tide is turning. Iran will be free.

And that's just the way it is.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO MRS. ELSIE MAYER

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend the happiest of birthday wishes to Mrs. Elsie Mayer, a resident of the Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York, and a centenarian, who will be celebrating her 107th birthday on December 23, 2018.

Elsie was born in Poland on December 23, 1911. It was a world much different from today. From an early age, she learned to endure famine, poverty and the human cost of war. Elsie's life is characterized as one of a survivor and a woman with great strengths and unyielding selflessness.

She came to America at the age of 10 with her family who first settled in Manhattan, and later moved to Williamsburg, Brooklyn. It is in Williamsburg years later that she meets her future husband Joseph. Together they raised three children, their sons Martin and Stuart and daughter Marsha. Elsie worked hard, enjoying sewing and baking, especially apple pies for her family.

Over the course of 107 years, Elsie has experienced countless remarkable events in New York and our country. Elsie symbolizing decades of longevity and hard work, this occasion reflects an important milestone in a growing segment of American life: the Centenarian. Over the years, special individuals like Elsie have contributed to our nation and witnessed remarkable changes and extraordinary progress. She has lived through some of the most exciting times in our nation's history.

Today, Elsie enjoys the company of her surviving and beloved children, grand-children and community. She has many friends at the Independence Neighborhood Senior Center. As we celebrate her birthday, we celebrate her faith, her optimism, her health and the innumerable lives she has touched throughout her life. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Elsie Mayer on this special occasion of her 107th year birthday.

TRIBUTE TO KAYLA ANN RILLO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ms. Kayla Ann Rillo for her service to my office and the people of California's Twenty First Congressional District.

Ms. Rillo was born on September 19, 1994 in Paterson, New Jersey to Diane and Anthony Rillo. Growing up in Totowa, New Jersey with her three sisters, Alyssa, Reanna, and Tia, Ms. Rillo always had immense love and pride for her family. Coming from a large family, Ms. Rillo has a natural competitive drive, a strong sense of self-awareness, and the ability to distinguish herself from others. Through that, Ms. Rillo succeeded academically with ease as she competed in varsity track, basketball, and softball at Passaic Valley High School in Little Falls, New Jersey.

After graduating from Passaic Valley Regional High School in 2012, Ms. Rillo went on

to attend Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey where she was able to pursue her love for helping others and giving back to the community by joining Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority. During her time at Seton Hall University, Ms. Rillo developed a strong interest in law and politics, gaining firsthand experience as an intern for the Honorable Judge Dennis Cavanaugh while he served the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey's Third Circuit. Given Ms. Rillo's competitive nature, she graduated early with her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Kayla joined my team as a Legislative Correspondent in my Washington, DC office in July 2016. In this role, Ms. Rillo was instrumental to my team through composing constituent correspondence that was critical to building relationships with the citizens of California's Twenty First Congressional District. In February 2018, Kayla was promoted to the position of Legislative Assistant, where she worked on critical pieces of legislation, especially the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill. As a member of my team, Ms. Rillo was greatly respected by her peers for her professionalism, loyalty, and dedication to her work.

Outside of work, Kayla participates in a local softball league, enjoys exploring DC with friends, travelling to new places, and spending time with her family. Most recently, Ms. Rillo became a proud aunt to her new nephew, Cesar Ricardo Correa, IV.

Ms. Rillo's time with my office will come to an end on January 3, 2019 when I leave my office as the 116th Congress begins. I have no doubt that she will continue to be successful and grow professionally in her future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Ms. Kayla Rillo for her public service to the people of California's Central Valley and wishing her well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, due to flight scheduling, I was unable to vote on December 19, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Nos. 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, and 446.

RECOGNIZING MR. PARKER GREENE

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, one of South Georgia's most influential and storied residents, Mr. Parker Greene, passed away. I, like many, was saddened to hear the news of his passing and offer my continued prayers to his wife Lucy, as well as his family and community, during this time.

In 1970, Parker and Dr. Lucy Greene moved to Valdosta, Georgia and quickly be-

came integral members of the local community. Shortly after coming to town, Parker signed up to serve on the Chamber of Commerce military affairs board where he worked to maintain a strong relationship between the community and Moody Air Force Base, which calls the surrounding Lowndes County and South Georgia region home. Over the years, Parker and Lucy continued in various roles to strengthen the partnership between Moody, Lowndes County and Valdosta. They worked with military officials and local, state and federal leaders to prevent the base from being closed or realigned with other missions.

In 2005, Parker was named by then-Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue to the Georgia Military Affairs Committee, where he advocated for all Georgia military installations and facilitated communication between the Governor's office and Pentagon and Air Force officials. Parker also served on the first Air Combat Command's civilian advisory council, where he acted as a liaison between the Air Combat Command and local community leaders.

For this stalwart service to our nation and South Georgia, Parker was awarded the Loyce W. Turner Award for Public Service given by Valdosta State University Public Administration Advisory Council and the Air Force Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest honor the Air Force bestows on a civilian. Greene was also awarded the first ever Chief of Staff of the Air Force Award for Exceptional Public Service by Gen. T. Michael Moseley, the 18th Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force.

In his passing, countless U.S. Air Force leaders, including Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, have offered their condolences and thanks for nearly 50 years of civilian service to our nation's Airmen.

Earlier this year, the South Georgia region was named a "Great American Defense Community" by the Association of Defense Communities and USAA. This honor is a testament to the years long, tireless work of local leaders in South Georgia, including Mr. Greene and his wife Lucy.

While we mourn the loss of Mr. Greene, we also celebrate his life well lived and his invaluable contributions to South Georgia which will be remembered for decades to come.

Goodspeed, Parker Greene.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JEAN FULLER

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize California State Senator Jean L. Fuller, who retires this year from the California State Senate following an exemplary career of public service. Over her career, Jean served two terms in the State Senate and two terms in the State Assembly representing portions of Kern, Tulare, Inyo, and San Bernardino counties.

Born and raised in Shafter, California, Jean began her long career of public service as an educator, teaching elementary school in Lemoore, California. Later, Jean moved to Los Angeles County where she served in a variety of roles in the Keppel Union School District,

culminating in her service as the District Superintendent from 1990 to 1999. Over her career in education, Jean gained firsthand knowledge of the issues impacting students and their teachers, building a passion that pushed her to dedicate her life to public service. From 1999 to 2006, Jean returned home to Kern County to serve as Superintendent of the Bakersfield City School District (BCSD), the largest elementary school district in the State of California. During her time with BCSD, Jean managed the district's 3,500 staff members to foster a safe and constructive learning environment for the 28,000 students the district served.

In 2006, Jean brought her years of knowledge and experience in education to Sacramento, representing the 32nd State Assembly District for four years. By 2010, Jean was successfully elected to represent the 18th and later 16th Senate Districts, where she became known as a consensus-builder among her colleagues. Jean was elected by her colleagues to serve as the Republican Leader of the California State Senate in 2015, becoming the first woman to hold this important top leadership post. During her tenure in the State Legislature, Jean achieved significant legislative success despite Republican minorities in both legislative chambers. Among her achievements, Jean secured tens of millions of dollars in funding to benefit public schools near military bases when her bill, SB 111, was signed into law with broad bipartisan supply. Additionally, Jean advanced significant legislation to fight Valley Fever, a rare but potentially life-threatening disease that is endemic to our community. Through her efforts, Jean secured \$3 million for Valley Fever research for use at the Valley Fever Institute at Kern Medical Center in Bakersfield. Jean's success in the fight against this disease is a significant step forward in finding a cure for an ailment that impacts so many in California's Central Valley.

Anyone wishing to serve the public would do well in emulating Jean's tireless work ethic, can-do attitude, and sagacious command of the issues impacting our communities and our state. Jean is unquestionably one of California's most beloved legislators and has paved a career exemplifying the best of public service. Her commitment to fight for her principles with civility, and her constant search for consensus and solutions among her Senate colleagues reflects the deep and enduring respect and admiration she has across the political spectrum. But perhaps one of the most honorable traits of a public servant is one that Jean is universally known for: keeping her word. From hard-fought policy battles on the Senate Floor to her annual travel commitment to her friends with the Camp Fire Girls of America, Jean could always be counted on, and her presence will be sorely missed in and around our community and in the California State Legislature. Jean's transition to a private life is a loss to our community, though I know she will spend her well-deserved retirement to focus on the things she loves most: her family and friends, and traveling and flying with her beloved husband, Russell. As Jean begins this new chapter of her life, on behalf of a most grateful community, state, and nation, I would like to express my profound appreciation to her and to wish her and her family all the best.