

Friendly Sons' 104th annual celebration on March 17, 2018. He has been part of the Wilkes-Barre Fire Department since 1981 and has served as the city's fire chief for the past 13 years.

Chief Delaney is a longtime resident of Avoca, Pennsylvania and a graduate of St. John the Evangelist High School. He attended Luzerne County Community College to study Fire Science Technology. He has completed advanced course work at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland and at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama. He is also a certified paramedic.

In addition to his role as chief, Delaney serves as Wilkes-Barre's Emergency Management Coordinator. Under Chief Delaney's leadership, the Wilkes-Barre Fire Department's ISO Public Protection Classification was elevated to Class 2, which put Wilkes-Barre in the top 1 percent of fire departments in Pennsylvania. He has been responsible for securing a substantial amount of federal support and has made multiple upgrades to the city's emergency response operations and equipment.

Chief Delaney has earned appointments by Governor Ed Rendell to the Pennsylvania Game Commission Board of Commissioners and by Governor Tom Wolf to the Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation.

He resides in the Miners Mills section of Wilkes-Barre with his wife, the former Valerie Sakaduski. They have three children, Sarah, Jamie and Megan and seven grandchildren.

It is an honor to recognize Chief Delaney as he accepts the W. Franics Swingle Award. I am grateful to him for having spent his entire career in service to the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. His 37 years as a fire fighter is an outstanding contribution to the community. I wish him all the best this St. Patrick's Day.

ROWANCHAYSE CLEVELAND

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rowanchayse Cleveland for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Rowanchayse Cleveland is a student at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rowanchayse Cleveland is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rowanchayse Cleveland for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

AVERY HUDDLESTON

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Avery Huddleston, a first grader in my district from Mechanicsburg, Illinois.

Avery, along with his classmates at Tri-City Elementary School, collected more than twenty pounds of school supplies for students in Puerto Rico—where schools are still recovering after Hurricane Maria.

Avery was so excited to help students in Puerto Rico that he asked his friends to bring school supplies instead of gifts to his seventh birthday party. Soon, his whole class got in on the fun.

When Avery's mom learned that local Ameren crews were scheduled to go to Puerto Rico, she arranged for Ameren to take the box of donations with them. But when the crews dropped off the donations, they discovered that the school was still experiencing problems with electricity. Within thirty minutes, Ameren workers were able to restore the school's light and air conditioning after nearly six months without power.

Thanks to the kindness of a special seven year old and his classmates, students in Rio Grande not only have new school supplies, but now have their lights back on.

I'm very proud of Avery and inspired by his ambition to help others. He's a perfect example of the kindness we should show our neighbors every day.

Keep up the good work, Avery.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY GREEN, HOUSTON CITY COUNCILMAN AND A SPECIAL HUMAN BEING WITH AN UNSURPASSED EXUBERANCE AND PASSION FOR THE PEOPLE OF HOUSTON

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Houston City Councilmember Larry Green who passed away suddenly on March 6, 2018, at the age of 52.

I was shocked and saddened to learn of the death of my dear friend, Councilman Larry Green, and my heart goes out to his family and loved ones.

Although the years of his life were short, the life lived in those years by Councilman Larry Green was vibrant, dynamic, purposeful, and directed toward service to others.

Larry Green was an extraordinary human being with an unsurpassed exuberance and passion for our city, its neighborhoods, its future, and most of all, its people.

Councilman Larry Green was devoted to providing opportunities for his constituents, indeed all Houstonians, to realize their potential and their dreams.

Larry Green worked as my District Director, and in this role he helped me to serve the constituents of the 18th Congressional District.

I am proud to have served as one of his mentors.

In fact it was during this service to my office that I observed first hand his dedication to the community that claimed him, because he was one of Houston's own.

But as anyone who knew Larry Green can attest, you also learned a lot from him because he was so generous with his knowledge and expertise.

Larry Green was a lifelong Houstonian.

You often hear it said that greatness is measured by the magnitude of one's service.

By that measure there is no greater public servant than Larry Green, whom we lost entirely too soon.

Larry Green proudly served the citizens of District K on Houston's City Council for almost six years.

Larry Green was a native Houstonian; a graduate of Madison High School, the University of Houston, and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

It was in my office that Larry Green honed the skills for which he is well known for: hard work, long hours, attention to details regarding the lives of those he serves, getting the job done, and making sure that the needs and interests of the poor and vulnerable would never be forgotten.

As the shock and grief over his untimely death recedes, left in its place is our memory of his dedication as a public servant; his sense of humor when faced with a challenge; his tireless work for the people of District K, and omnipresence at community meetings was legendary.

In fact, it was at those community meetings where his love for his constituents shined brightest.

As members of the community attested after he passed: "Larry was everywhere—he's at the civic club meetings; the coalition meeting; he was like your friend. I'd call him all the time."

The loss of Larry Green's leaves is heart breaking.

I am reminded of the common refrain that "all death teaches us is that nothing is promised, but only that life was worth it."

Larry Green lived that wisdom and always sought to give back and live a life worth it.

Among his numerous contributions and accomplishments, it is Larry Green's dedication to his constituents that stand tallest, and will stand the test of time.

Larry Green knew the value of viewing neighborhoods and towns as communities—rather than districts—and sought to make the everyday lives of people better.

Larry Green educated people about how to become citizen activists so that they could improve the quality of their communities or their own lives.

Larry Green sought to remedy blighted neighborhoods by attracting development; he helped neighbors set up civic clubs and taught them how to beautify their neighborhoods.

And as the rough waters of life have stilled his body, his soul lives on and his legacy will not be diminished.

Larry Green will be remembered always as a fearless advocate; a tireless champion; a true friend; a man whose passion for Houston was contagious.

Scripture teaches us that blessed are those that mourn, for they will be comforted.

To his entire family, who shared him with us for 52 years, on behalf of all Houstonians, we thank you.

To his brother, two nieces and a nephew, all of whom survive him, we pray that God will deliver you from the pain that his passing has visited on you.

To those he was honored to serve as a proud representative of District K: all of us in public life are inspired by his example and his fortitude and while we know he is looking down on us, we can only seek to honor his time on Earth by emulating his service.

In a time of wanting leadership, let those of us still on this Earth be inspired by Larry Green's example and his service and strive to be worthy of his legacy.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the beloved Larry Green, who as much as anyone reflected the heartbeat of Houston.

JORDAN CROSS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jordan Cross for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jordan Cross is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jordan Cross is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jordan Cross for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

VIRGINIA KINCH

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generosity of Virginia Kinch and her family in Longmont, Colorado.

Last year during the holiday season, Virginia and her daughters were preparing to deliver Thanksgiving meals to the homeless. They were shocked to hear about a family living in a broken down school bus behind a truck stop, so they went to deliver food to them. They discovered that this struggling family had three young daughters—a 5 year old, a 14-month old, and a 4-week old. After providing the family with a hot meal, Virginia wanted to do more to help. Fortunately, the Kinch's had just completed renovations on a house in Greeley that they planned to rent out or sell. Instead, Virginia went above and beyond and decided to invite the struggling family to move into that home rent-free.

The kindness and selflessness displayed by the Kinch family is truly remarkable. They fully

embody the Christmas spirit of giving, and are an inspiration to us all. For that, I am pleased to honor and recognize their outstanding act of kindness.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN OAKES FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY HUMANITARIAN AND RELIEF EFFORTS TO HURRICANE VICTIMS

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Christian Oakes of Walton County, for his success and remarkable relief efforts to reach those devastated by hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

Weathering through the storm to reach those previously deemed "unreachable," Christian Oakes defied all odds. His leadership and persistence represent what Northwest Florida is all about—helping those in times of need.

Christian and Cass Oakes were married on August 21, 2017. Four days later, they exchanged their honeymoon for a rescue mission. Without a second thought, they loaded up donated supplies that Christian miraculously accumulated by reaching out to business partners and clients, and headed to help Harvey victims in Texas.

Mr. Oakes' relentless spirit in helping the people of Texas is a spirit that I hope everyone can look to and admire. He proved nothing would stop him from doing everything he could to help, when he offered the very shoes off his feet. He traveled from truck to foot to boat and finally had to be airlifted by a Blackhawk—which he thought was pretty cool. Christian extended his hand to people he had never met before. He simply wanted to help.

When Hurricane Irma hit south Florida, Christian and Cass immediately began planning and executing. Using only their Excursion and U-Haul trailer, they delivered over 5,000 cubic feet of supplies in Collier County, Florida alone. Christian was so incredibly dedicated to this mission, he passed up an opportunity to meet the President so he could immediately begin preparation for the next relief effort.

Following the aftermath of Maria in Puerto Rico, Mr. Oakes' rose to overcome many challenges. One of those being the need to administer vaccines to those affected by the flu. After running into some issues, he contacted my office for assistance and throughout the night, together, through many phone calls and emails, we were able to successfully get those vaccines to the proper destination in time for most to be administered.

I am very proud of Christian, his wife Cass and their incredible team for the phenomenal aid for victims in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. This spirit of duty to help others during times of disaster should inspire and be emulated by every American.

Cass Oakes summed up their mission statement well as she stated, "I never want to buy anything for myself again, I just want to help others. Everything you work so hard for in life can just be taken away in an instance."

Christian and Cass Oakes continue to give of themselves on a daily basis to assist those in need. I look forward to partnering with them

in the future and I am honored to be their Congressman.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Christian and Cass Oakes for their extraordinary humanitarian and relief efforts across our state of Florida and around the United States of America.

RUBY EAMES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ruby Eames for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ruby Eames is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ruby Eames is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ruby Eames for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

REMEMBERING DANN SPEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dann Spear, a 40-year resident of Yuba County, who passed away unexpectedly on February 22, 2018.

Dann was born to William C. "Doc" and Margie Spear in Ventura, California in 1954. He grew up around horses and livestock, and worked at the family business at the Ojai Valley Inn Riding Stables and Matalija Ranch in his youth. He graduated from Nordhoff High School in 1972, and while attending Cal Poly S.L.O., he competed in college rodeo and went on to compete successfully in professional rodeo in the team roping event.

He married the love of his life, Roberta Eskew Spear, in 1974. After attending Cal Poly, they moved back to Ojai, where Dann began working in the construction industry. After two years, they realized their dream of owning a small ranch and moved to Marysville, California, where Dann continued to compete in professional rodeo and continued his construction career. Dann worked in the Public Works Department of Sutter County for 30 years, where he loved helping the people of Sutter County. Dann also had a strong faith and love for the Lord in a quiet way and always treated people like family.

Dann and Roberta had two sons, Carson and Brandon. They were involved in 4-H, little league, and high school rodeo, and they never