

His awards and decorations include Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, and Combat Action Badge. While we will miss him in California, I am confident that he will bring the same passion, enthusiasm, and success to Fort Hood as he assumes command of the 1st Cavalry Division.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF EMALEE FLATNESS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and talent of Emalee Flatness.

Emalee, a graduate of Willard High School in southwest, Missouri, recently competed in the Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge. The challenge is a national contest, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, that allows high school students to submit songs they have written that could one day be in a Broadway show. Out of 500 submissions, six were chosen, and Emalee was one of those six.

Emalee's journey started when she was just 14 years old. It was then that she started writing lyrics dedicated to her great-great-great-grandfather, Arnoldus Zweerink, who was drafted by the Union Army in the Civil War and died nine days before General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse. She has continued working on the song, finally submitting to this year's contest. She named her song "Bring Him Back to Carolina." The song chronicles not only the feelings of Arnoldus but also his wife Elizabeth, who was unaware of his death at the time of the surrender.

Emalee is now working with two New York City-based musical theater artists to put the finishing touches on the song before the final recording. She is also preparing to attend Missouri State University, in Springfield, to study history, and continue her passion for songwriting.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Emalee is an immensely talented woman with a strong passion for music and history. It is with great honor that I rise to recognize her award-winning song, and wish her luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING DEBORAH BRIN PRUITT'S
30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY
SERVICE

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Deborah Brin Pruitt's 30 years of service to the families and children of the Pomona Valley as Director of the Temple Beth Israel Preschool and Daycare.

Since her leadership of the school began in 1989, Deborah has helped shape the lives of children from well over one thousand families, providing a caring, creative, and safe learning

environment that fosters emotional and intellectual growth and development for her young students.

Through Deborah's management, the preschool has been an important asset to the synagogue community, both culturally and financially. Under her direction, the school has proudly opened its doors to children of all faiths and cultures, helping promote integration of the synagogue within the overall general community as she managed the business of the school to support the financial life of Temple Beth Israel.

During her tenure as Director, Deborah has provided leadership and mentorship to dozens of early childhood education professionals. Supporting the professional growth of her staff at the temple, as well as sharing her knowledge for nearly a decade teaching child development courses at Chaffey Community College and American Nanny College.

Deborah has been recognized as the "Jewish Professional of the Year" by the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, and she is an important member of the professional team that makes Temple Beth Israel a shining light in the Jewish community and the entire community of the Pomona Valley.

For her leadership over these past 30 years, we honor Deborah Brin Pruitt on this day and thank her for her dedication and service that will continue to benefit Temple Beth Israel and the Pomona Valley community for generations to come.

HONORING ROBERT SCATTINI

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Robert Scattini, a public servant of San Benito County, California. Mr. Scattini lived a long life, filled with family and friends. His service to San Benito County, the state of California, and United States of America and love for all people will be missed. Throughout Robert's decades of dedicated public service, he left an indelible mark on the citizens of San Benito County that will be felt for generations to come.

Mr. Scattini was born on February 21, 1939 in San Jose, California. He grew up alongside four brothers and four sisters in Castroville, Salinas, and San Juan Bautista. He graduated from San Benito High School in 1958 and soon joined the U.S. Army. Upon returning home, he began his distinguished career in law enforcement and continued his service as a San Benito County Sheriff's Deputy. Following four years with the local sheriff's department, he entered the California Highway Patrol Academy and eventually joined the Gilroy CHP office, overseeing San Benito County.

As a law enforcement professional, Robert was frequently heroic. On one such occasion in the mid-1970s while he was with the CHP, a man had a heart attack and stopped breathing. Robbie administered CPR and revived him, earning him recognition from then-President Gerald Ford. From that point on, for many years, the survivor's family brought food to the Scattini home during the holidays. It

was just one example of appreciation, among many, which locals showed Robert for his compassion and endearing nature. He was with the CHP from 1966 to 1983 and became the sheriff in 1983. As a County Constable, City Councilman, Gavilan College criminology instructor, San Benito County Planning Commissioner, board member for the San Benito Health Foundation, and member of numerous local nonprofit organizations, Mr. Scattini was a tremendous model of civic leadership in our community.

Robert Scattini loved everything about San Benito County, and his devotion to the people on the central coast of California reflects the genuine nature of a man who deeply cared for his community, family and the United States of America. As we look back on the life of Robert Scattini, we know that his spirit, love, and dedication to public service provide us with the motivation to continue his great on the Central Coast. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Robert Scattini.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
NANCY PARKER BOYD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the life of Nancy Parker Boyd.

Nancy was born in Opelika, Alabama, on July 27, 1966 to Bill and Patsy Parker. She graduated from Opelika High School and was the first African American Miss OHS. Nancy also graduated with honors from the University of Alabama College of Communications Information Sciences with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism in 1988.

Nancy was a five-time Emmy Award winning journalist, received five Edward R. Murrow awards and numerous Associated Press awards for her reporting and documentary work.

She began her interest in journalism in high school where she wrote for the Mainstreet Gazette and was an anchor on the WJHO radio station. She spent time working in the late Congressman Bill Nichols' press office and then started her first job in television in 1989. She worked for WTVM in Columbus, Georgia, WSFA in Montgomery, Alabama, and spent over 20 years at WVUE in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Nancy was married to Glynn Boyd and had three children: Parker, Piper and Pierce.

Madam Speaker, please join me in remembering the life of Nancy Parker Boyd.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CALIFORNIAN
STATE SENATOR WADIE P.
DEDDEH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am sorry to learn of the passing of former California State Senator Wadie P. Deddeh.

Wadie was the first Iraqi-born American ever elected to public office in the United States. He served in the state legislature for 27 years—first in the Assembly, then in the Senate.

He was known as the “Father of CalTrans” because he introduced and guided the legislation that created California’s Department of Transportation.

During the dedication of a new CalTrans Building in Old Town in San Diego—a building that was being named after him—Wadie recalled the first time he ran for office in 1966. He was told Wadie Deddeh was a funny name and he might want to change it. He acknowledged it was a funny name but he would not be changing it. “People can vote for Wadie P. Deddeh or they don’t have to vote for me,” he said.

He was deeply proud of his Iraqi Chaldean heritage. And he was deeply proud to be an American.

In 1979, during the height of the hostage crisis in Iran when 52 Americans were held 444 days, the United States sought to re-establish diplomatic relations with Iraq. President Jimmy Carter asked Wadie if he would go to Iraq and meet with Iraq’s Foreign Minister in this effort. He said he would of course return to his homeland on behalf of America.

While that initial effort to restore diplomacy was not successful, it showed the status he had not only in our state but the nation.

Born in Baghdad, Wadie emigrated to America in 1947. His story is a shining example of the positive impact immigration has—and continues to have—on the United States. Wadie epitomized public service—an example that lives on in his son Peter, a Superior Court Judge.

I worked with Wadie on numerous efforts and experienced firsthand the highly respected judgment associated with him.

My deepest condolences go out to his family. They can take pride in knowing that an Iraqi immigrant, inspired by the words of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, left a legacy in California that lives on to this day.

As Wadie was known to say, “Only in America.”

IN APPRECIATION OF JANE
WITTMAYER AND HER SERVICE
TO IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane Wittmeyer for her incredible service she has given to the great state of Idaho as she retires from Wittmeyer and Associates.

One of the greatest aspects of being a public servant is meeting people like Jane. Over the years, my staff and I have relied on Jane for her guidance and expertise in several areas, particularly related to our forests, natural resources and agriculture. Jane can bring people together by building coalitions to solve issues by finding creative solutions with minimal impact. This is a skillset that few people possess, and our society certainly needs more problem-solvers like Jane.

Jane’s resume is also extremely impressive, from her exceptional academic education receiving her MBA in International Business and PhD in Public Administration, to her incredible work ethic running her own company, to her athletic achievements in cross country and Tae Kwon Do. Simply put, there is very little that Jane can’t and hasn’t accomplished.

There is a personal side to Jane as well. Whenever you see her, she greets you with a warm smile, asks about your work and family and is happy to share stories of her own children and husband. She is a dedicated mother, wife and a fiercely loyal friend.

I consider Jane a good friend, so it is hard to imagine Idaho Agriculture Industry without her at the table. Congratulations Jane, enjoy retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
RAMIAH ELIZABETH LEONARD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention to recognize the life of Ramiah Elizabeth Leonard.

Ramiah was born on February 16, 2009 to Eugene and Rasheda Leonard in Jacksonville, Alabama. They chose a very special name for their special delivery who was born on her mother’s birthday. Her godparents, Sherman and Latoya Young, Jr., were named at her birth.

Princess Ramiah was a sassy toddler and grew into an active child. She loved music, singing and dancing. She could always be found adorned in the latest fashions including glitter lip gloss.

She attended DeArmanville Elementary School and Oxford Elementary School. She was in fifth grade at C.E. Hanna Elementary School and a proud member of the Jacket Singing Sensations. She also attended the TLC Camp Life Enrichment After School program.

Ramiah accepted Christ at the age of eight under the leadership of her father. She loved Jesus Christ and was an active member of The Life Center Church.

On August 30, 2019 at 8:08 am, Ramiah passed away exchanging her princess crown for a set of wings. Her legacy will live on through her parents.

Madam Speaker, please join me in remembering the life of Ramiah Elizabeth.

CONGRATULATING BRADLEY
COUNTY 4-H

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I extend my deepest congratulations to Bradley County’s 4-H Forestry Team on their exceptional representation of Arkansas at the 40th Annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational.

Braden Harrod, Gregory Hilliard, David McGhee, and Madison McGhee from Hermitage, Arkansas were named National Cham-

pions at the 4-H Forestry Invitational, leading Coach Joe Don Greenwood and Bradley County to their third championship title since 2016. In addition to this honor, Braden Harrod won the high point individual award at the competition.

The national event featured skills testing in various areas such as tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, insect and disease identification, topographic map use, forest evaluation, the forestry bowl, and a written forestry exam.

Coach Greenwood and these students exhibited exemplary work ethic and superior skill in preparation for the championship. As a fellow forester, it is encouraging to see young Fourth District Arkansans nurture a knowledge of good resource management and stewardship. I look forward to witnessing the further success of these students as they continue to represent our district and state on a national level.

HONORING DR. WALTER S. MCAFEE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, as a result of legislation I introduced (H.R. 3655) which was signed into law (P.L. 115–151), more than 200 people gathered outside the U.S. Post Office located on Main Street in Belmar, NJ at a ceremony to rename the building in honor of Dr. Walter S. McAfee—an extraordinary scientist, educator, and innovator.

Attending the event were many family members, friends and coworkers of Dr. McAfee’s, including his sister, Velma McAfee-Williams, who turned 90 last week, and his daughters Marsha McAfee Bera-Morris and Diane Mercedes McAfee.

Also present to pay tribute to Dr. McAfee was: Belmar Mayor Mark Walsifer; USPS South Jersey District Manager James Drummer; Belmar Postmaster John Mutchler, III; Mike Ruane, the CEO of InfoAge Science & History Center; and elected officials from Monmouth County, neighboring Lake Como and Wall Township.

Dr. McAfee was a brilliant scientist. His breakthrough research and mathematical theories led to bouncing radio signals off the moon’s surface. His unique work served as the forerunner for satellite communications, entry into the space age, moonshots and moonwalks.

Dr. McAfee is also known for his many innovations and successful projects including sensors he pioneered to assist the military in keeping tabs on aggressive actors—tools that saved the lives of many Americans and our allies.

And we remembered and honored Dr. McAfee for his lifelong commitment to learning—including his tenure as a professor at Monmouth College and service as Chairman of the Board at Brookdale Community College.

As an African-American, Dr. McAfee overcame adversity and prejudice with courage, tenacity and faith. His amazing life inspires. He challenges us to strive for excellence. He is truly a role model.