

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF
ELIZABETH JANE KERLEY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Elizabeth (Betty) Jane Kerley, who died peacefully at her Rossmoor home on May 22, 2019. Betty was born on March 6, 1923 in Oakland to first-generation Welsh immigrants, Hugh and Anna Williams. Betty was the youngest of three children and was very proud of her Welsh stock. She was a lively and resilient child, qualities that she drew upon throughout her long life.

When Betty was ten, her mother died of pneumonia. Betty took charge of the house, helped by her father Hugh and their house-keeper Mrs. Benson.

Betty's father was a noted professional singer who was once Director of the famed Grace Cathedral Boys Choir. Believing that his daughter was a child prodigy, he encouraged her to pursue her unquestionable musical talents to become a concert pianist. Betty attended San Francisco State College to pursue a teaching degree, and in 1944, she married William Strehl, a Seabee who shipped out shortly after their marriage. Their first child Katherine was born in 1944 and their son Bill in 1954.

In 1959, Betty became a single mother raising two children on her own. She secured a position with the University of California's Office of the President, and worked at UC for 17 years. Betty met and married Robert F. Kerley (Bob) in 1975, and moved with him to Rossmoor in 1977. There they joined a vibrant community of UC retirees and enjoyed many years of retirement. Betty enjoyed art and gardening, and she and Bob worked tirelessly in her daughter's garden in Menlo Park, California. She started her own interior decorating company, but her real passion was painting . . . first with oils and later watercolors. She lived a long and happy life and was known for her loving smile, her loyalty to family and friends, her wit and laughter, the glint in her eye and for always being a classy lady. She was loved by many and will be dearly missed.

Betty is survived by her two children: Katherine (Bill Dempsey) Strehl of Menlo Park, California, Bill (Sue) Strehl of Eugene, Oregon and stepchildren, Kathleen James of Bend, Oregon, Maureen (Taylor) Douglas of Bend, Oregon, Barbara Neill of Austin, Texas and Bill (Jerri Townsend) of Austin, Texas; ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Her beloved husband of 31 years, Bob, died in 2006. She is also survived by her loving caregiver Atiola Raura, Ati's husband Emosi, and their family of seven children who brought love and joy to Betty in her last six years of life.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Elizabeth Jane Kerley, and in extending our most sincere condolences to her family and loved ones.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on September 12, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 529 and Roll Call 530. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Nay on Roll Call Vote 529 and No on Roll Call Vote 530.

CONGRATULATING ADAM GEE

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Adam Gee, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Adam first came to Encompass Health in December of 2018 after falling off a ladder at work and sustaining a spinal cord injury. He arrived on his first day in a wheelchair. Adam knew that he had a long road to recovery ahead of him, but he was determined to emerge victorious. Adam set goals and strived to meet them each session. He struggled to take his first few steps after the injury, barely walking three feet, but that did not deter him.

During his rehabilitation, Adam continued to work and live his life. He chose to modify his everyday tasks, rather than sit and wait for things to get better.

It is thrilling to hear all that Adam was able to accomplish with hard work and determination.

Congratulations once again to Adam on this recognition.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE HONORABLE JANET POSS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. DELAURA. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts but the greatest of memories that I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Janet Poss as family, friends, and colleagues gather to remember her invaluable contributions to the Guilford community. We lost Jan earlier this year and at the age of ninety-six she certainly lived a full life, but her presence will most certainly be missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known her.

Jan was one of the community giants on whose shoulders we all stand. She was incredibly generous with her time and energy, serving on a myriad of boards and commissions throughout her life. The Youth Services Board, the Guilford ABC program, the East Shore Adult Daycare Center, the Human Services Council of Guilford, Guilford Interfaith Housing, and the East Shore League of Women Voters are just some of the organizations she dedicated countless hours to over the years.

In addition to that, Jan also served in public life, having been elected as both a member of

the Guilford Board of Selectmen and as the State Representative for Connecticut's 98th District. She was best known for no-nonsense personality—she worked on behalf of the people she served and did not apologize for doing what she believed was right. Jan was also known as a voice of reason during the most heated of debates.

Jan was also a mentor to many in the community who followed her in public service. There are many who can tell you stories of her sitting down with those interested in seeking public office and working out a strategy to ensure an election night victory. I have the fondest of memories of Jan from when I first ran for office. She was an extraordinary sounding board and had a great sense of humor. I consider myself fortunate to have called her my friend.

It extend my deepest sympathies to Jan's family and hope that they know what a remarkable impact she had on all of those who knew her. Jan has left an indelible mark on the Guilford community and a legacy of service and dedication to which we all should strive.

HONORING LILLIAN STEWART

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Lillian Stewart and to extend my deepest condolences to her family upon her passing at the blessed age of 95. Ms. Stewart was a devoted mother, grandmother, and community activist. I am also privileged to have been able to call Ms. Stewart my friend.

Born in Mecklenberg County, North Carolina, in 1923, Ms. Stewart was born the middle of five children. She spent her formative years in Washington, D.C., where she attended Garrett-Patterson Junior High School and Cardozo High School.

After graduating from high school, Ms. Stewart went on to continue her education, completing a postgraduate course in Cosmetology at Madame CJ Walker's College of Beauty Culture; a foreign language course at the University of the District of Columbia; and medical secretary training by the District of Columbia Medical Society; and earning a Montgomery Ward Consumer Education "Art of Interior Decorating Home Fashion Forum" certificate.

Ms. Stewart spent much of her professional career at Howard University Hospital, where she served in several support and junior management positions. She retired from the hospital as Hospital Utilization Review Coordinator. Upon retirement, Ms. Stewart dedicated her time to a range of community activities and small business ventures. She was active in the AARP Shepherd Park Chapter No. 2667, chair of the Southwest Advisory Council-Southwest Health Clinic and was a D.C. Public Notary. Ms. Stewart was also an outspoken activist. She actively protested the planned closure of DC General Hospital, located in a predominately African American neighborhood, in 2001.

As a mother, Ms. Stewart encouraged a pursuit of education in her children. She was

privileged to live to witness her three children's professional accomplishments in communications, medicine, and photography. She also leaves behind six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

On a personal note, I had the honor of spending private time with Ms. Stewart thanks to her loving son Dwight who has been a dear friend for decades. I loved being with her. She brought me joy and made me laugh. Her colorful descriptions and deep insights were remarkable. I attended mass with her on several occasions and she demonstrated in words and deeds her belief in God, who she knew was all merciful and loving. I will deeply miss Ms. Stewart, but her indomitable spirit will endure forever.

Today, I join Ms. Stewart's family in celebrating her life and enduring legacy. May she rest in power and in peace.

HONORING AMERICAN CLERGY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE NATIONAL PARENTS' DAY AWARDS LUNCHEON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize and honor this year's National Parents' Day Award Luncheon hosted by the American Clergy Leadership Conference in my district, New York 16.

In 1994, Congress unanimously passed "The Parents' Day Resolution"—which I co-sponsored—establishing the fourth Sunday of July as an annual holiday, like Mother's Day and Father's Day. National Parents' Day this year will actually be on Sunday, July 28.

The American Clergy Leadership conference is an interfaith and interracial coalition of faith leaders working together beyond denomination to strengthen marriages and families, renew communities and our nation. ACLC ministers share the vision that America should be an example to the world showing how all people can live together as one family.

To mark National Parents' Day, the ACLC is promoting family as a way to support the community by upholding and awarding people who have been role models in parenting their children and serving the broader community.

As Representative and a proud parent of three wonderful children, I applaud the work the ACLC is doing to recognize and celebrate all of the wonderful parents we have in this amazing district. I want to congratulate this year's ACLC Awards Luncheon honorees and thank them, along with our dear friends in ACLC, for all they do every day to better our community and create a strong foundation on which our children can learn and grow.

RECOGNIZING LUX BLOX FOR WINNING INNOVATION OF THE YEAR THROUGH THE TURNER CENTER SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lux Blox for winning the Innova-

tion of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

Lux Blox was founded by Michael and Heather Acerra of Galesburg, Illinois, who created a construction system designed to build things the same way nature builds itself. The blocks curve, bend and move without the limits of traditional building blocks. With the help of Daniel Wollin, a 15 year-old down the street from their home, and a 3-D printer, they developed these innovative building blocks. Their product aims to inspire future creativity and exploration. The blocks are manufactured near Galesburg, Illinois, and are packaged by the skilled hands of those with disabilities living their community.

It is because of community pioneers like Lux Blox that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Lux Blox for winning the Innovation of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

CONGRATULATING BREENEN YINGLING

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Breenen Yingling, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

This past summer, Breenen and his brother were diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia. This disease affects balance, coordination, mobility, and the heart. There is no treatment or cure, but that has not deterred the boys. Following their diagnosis, they started selling blue "Fight Ataxia" bracelets and donated all proceeds to research.

Since coming to Encompass Health, Breenen and his brother have always showed up with a fighting spirit and a positive attitude each session as they participate in aqua and land therapy to maintain muscle strength and mobility.

It is thrilling to hear that Breenen was also able to help others in his program to push a little harder once they saw his work ethic.

Congratulations once again to Breenen on the recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARISOL CHALAS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Marisol Chalas for her exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow in my office and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Lieutenant Colonel Chalas is transitioning from her current assignment to serve as the Legislative Assistant to the Vice Chief of Staff, Army.

Born in Bani, Dominican Republic, Lieutenant Colonel Chalas moved with her family to the United States at the age of nine. She began her military career as an enlisted Soldier in July 1990, and in 2001 she received her commission as Second Lieutenant in the Aviation branch from the Georgia Military Institute Officer Candidate School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering from Massachusetts Maritime Academy, a Master of Business Administration from Georgia State University and a Master of Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Lieutenant Colonel Chalas has served in a broad range of assignments during her extensive military career. These include two rotations as Company Commander, operational experience at multiple echelons with Army units and Joint Task forces, international duties with Dominican Republic Canadian Forces, and completion of the Army Congressional Fellowship program.

In 2017, as an Army Congressional Fellow, I had the privilege of working with Lieutenant Colonel Chalas in my office for a year and during her subsequent assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army. She worked tirelessly as Defense Fellow, assisted my office on a range of legislative issues, and coordinated with Members of Congress and their staffs to accurately articulate the Army's budget positions to the Appropriations Committees. Her professionalism, diligence, and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and her work both as a fellow and as a liaison very effectively represented the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense to the United States Congress.

Throughout her career, Lieutenant Colonel Chalas has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited from her extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion for the Army profession. I join my colleagues today in honoring her dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison.

Madam Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Lieutenant Colonel Chalas since the first session of the 115th Congress. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend Marisol for her service to our country and wish her all the best as she continues her service in the United States Army.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF HOPE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 250th anniversary of Hope Township, New Jersey. Hope Township is a community with rich history, located in my District, the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey.

Hope Township is one of the earliest planned communities in our nation. In 1769, German Moravians settled in what is now Hope Township. Prior to 1769, several families farmed on Jenny Jump Mountain and on John