

and reflects a lifetime of service towards the rights and well-being of fellow workers. None are more deserving of this honor than Stu Skauge, Tommy Spencer, and Shana Thornton. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated leaders. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Human Rights Council. Their exemplary efforts in defending and protecting human rights are worthy of commendation.

The American Human Rights Council (AHRC) was founded in 2014 as a non-profit organization committed to protecting, promoting, and defending human rights as defined by the U.S. Constitution and outlined in the United Nations' 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since its inception, the AHRC has worked tirelessly with community leaders and human rights advocacy organizations to intervene in situations where human rights are at risk. Through high-level legislative work, media outreach, and grassroots mobilization, the AHRC strives to protect individuals whose rights are being violated regardless of geographical or other boundaries.

The AHRC's Annual Community Forum and Dinner Reception exemplifies the council's continued commitment to protecting and uplifting human rights worldwide. The 2019 forum titled "Human Trafficking: Universal Challenge, Common Responsibility" will focus on the challenges of human trafficking and generate awareness of its prevalence on a local, national, and global scale. Human trafficking constitutes a serious human rights violation and must be handled with the upmost care and concern. Thus, the AHRC strives to use its platform to educate attendees further on the impacts of human trafficking and provide opportunities to learn about ways to combat this alarming human rights crisis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the American Human Rights Council. The AHRC's meaningful work plays a crucial role in protecting human rights worldwide, and we are grateful for the tremendous dedication to solving the world's toughest human rights challenges.

HONORING CALFIRE FIRE CAPTAIN
PAUL ROTONDARO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CalFire Fire Captain Paul Rotondaro. Mr. Rotondaro served the State of California during his distinguished career with CalFire, until he was tragically killed in a head-on collision while on-duty on October 2nd, 2019.

Mr. Rotondaro began his career in 2006 as a Firefighter 1 at the Ahwahnee Firestation in the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit of CAL FIRE. He was promoted to a Firefighter II in 2011 and in 2012 was promoted to Lieutenant Fire Apparatus Engineer in the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit then transferred to the Riverside Unit as a permanent Fire Apparatus Engineer in 2015. In 2016, Mr. Rotondaro was made a permanent Fire Captain in the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit. In 2018, he was selected as the Merced County Firefighter of the Year.

In both his personal and professional life, Mr. Rotondaro was a lover of the outdoors. He was an avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed camping, off-roading, boating, and many more outdoor activities.

Paul is survived by his loving wife Jennifer, his daughter Kiersten and his son Wyatt Dune. He is also survived by his father, Vincent Rotondaro, parents, Michael and Toni McMillin, his siblings, grandparents and many family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Fire Captain Paul Rotondaro. His sacrifice in service to our community will always be appreciated and remembered. I ask that you join me and his family in celebrating his great life.

HONORING THE WORK OF ELVIRA
RAMOS

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, there are people in every community who are the gears that make the entire engine run, and who make their homes better, stronger and more interconnected. On the precipice of her retirement, I wish to honor one of those people from my community, Elvira Ramos. For over a decade, Elvira served the Community Foundation of Boulder County in grantmaking, mentorship, and as co-director of the Leadership Fellows Program. We have been blessed by her service and commitment to all of us, and now it is our chance to honor her.

An experienced trainer and facilitator, one of Elvira's greatest gifts to the Colorado community is her willingness to mentor and further the leadership skills of others, focusing especially on those from communities that are too often overlooked. She has led workshops in board and leadership development, inclusive leadership, volunteer management and strategic planning. Elvira convenes thoughtful, thorough conversations that tackle critical subjects and empower others with knowledge and expertise which they can pay forward to create a more just and representative society.

Elvira has made inclusivity and diversity pillars of her work. As an activist and philanthropist, she has built beloved and vital local organizations, ensuring that these organizations were always reaching outwards and creating more space at the table. Elvira has worked to create permanent and positive change through civic engagement and has built a foundational legacy upon which new community leaders will stand. Each of us are truly fortunate to feel the effects of her life's work.

One of Elvira's favorite quotes comes from Lao Tzu: "A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves." Though for countless Coloradans Elvira has emulated this exact form of leadership, kindly and gently guiding so many of us on a righteous path, today I would like to shine a bright light on her myriad contributions and powerful influence for good. The Colorado community wishes Elvira happiness and relaxation in her retirement, and sends our endless gratitude for her many contributions.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER
AMBASSADOR TO UKRAINE, WIL-
LIAM GREEN MILLER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay respectful tribute to the gifted, compassionate, and persevering life of American diplomat William Green Miller, our nation's second Ambassador to Ukraine following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

A highly trusted advisor and valued friend to Members of Congress, and the diplomatic and intelligence communities, Ambassador Miller's distinguished service to our nation elevated the possibilities and promise of liberty to people living in nations that had never known freedom.

He dedicated his life at liberty's edge with great humility. His steady, unselfish, and tenacious nature allowed him to tackle infinitely complex situations— Iran, the Soviet Union, Ukraine—and advise ways forward. He never really retired and remained engaged and insightful during his golden years.

A renaissance man, Ambassador Miller's career spanned assignment in Iran, staff director of the Senate Intelligence Committee, senior Administrator and professor at Tufts University, chairman of the board of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation, and president of the American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations. Upon leaving Congress, the U.S. Senate recognized his leadership by passing a special resolution commending him for "contributions and for his dedication, loyalty, integrity, and service."

Simply, he was exceptional.

It is with deepest condolences that I offer sympathy to his beautiful wife Suzanne, their two sons, and extended family at this difficult time.

May the life he has lived continue to inspire a new generation of Americans to embrace his calling to scholarship, service, and patriotic commitment to liberty's cause at home and abroad.

[From the Kyiv Post Sept. 24, 2019]

WILLIAM GREEN MILLER, SECOND US AMBASSADOR TO INDEPENDENT UKRAINE, DIES AT AGE 88

William Green Miller, who served as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in the 1990s as the euphoria of national independence gave way to the misery of economic destitution for many Ukrainians, died in his home in northern Virginia on Sept. 23, according to friends. He was 88. He served as America's second ambassador in Kyiv, from 1993-1998, and is the first of nine American ambassadors to independent Ukraine to have died.

His death was confirmed by friends, including Marta Farion, a Ukrainian-American in Chicago who worked with Miller on the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America, raising money to support the university with 5,000 students in Kyiv. Farion spoke to Miller's wife, Suzanne Lisle Miller, and said that the ambassador died in his home "one minute before noon" on Sept. 23, in the company of their two sons, William and Christopher, and grandchildren. "He was surrounded by his leather-bound books, in front of the beautiful garden that he and Suzanne cultivated and loved all their lives, with the blooming flowers and many butterflies that bid him farewell," Farion told the Kyiv Post.

Miller's tenure as ambassador coincided with momentous events under Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk, who served from 1991-1994, and then Leonid Kuchma, who ruled from 1994-2005. During Millers era, Ukraine adopted a Constitution, launched the national currency, the hryvnia, and signed the Budapest Memorandum in which Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States offered security assurances to Ukraine for surrendering its Soviet-era nuclear arsenal.

The agreement now is derided by many in Ukraine as a worthless piece of paper, considering Russia's dismemberment of Ukraine—including seizing Crimea and parts of the eastern Donbas—as the Kremlin prosecutes a war in its sixth year that has killed 13,000 people. His term also witnessed Ukrainian lawlessness and the rise of the oligarchy, which still plagues the nation today.

But his friends say that Miller always found the beauty in Ukraine, despite its hardships. Farion described Miller as "a writer and poet, a Renaissance man in every respect and Suzanne was his muse, his adviser, and his protector to the very end. They loved Ukraine since the days when he was ambassador there. To the end, he wanted to know what is taking place in Ukraine." She said that "Bill and Suzanne were responsible for the establishment and renovation of the historic building in the Podil neighborhood that became the residence of the American ambassador, and they paid special attention to the garden, restoring the original plants, trees, and flowers that were cultivated there when the building was first built. They paid attention to the historical artifacts that were recovered while rebuilding the residence, and they hosted many Ukrainian artists, historians, musicians, and writers there."

Said Farion: "Bill embraced his role as chairman of the board of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation with all his vigor and believed in the power of education and the role of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in building Ukraine as a democratic country, where rule of law and human rights were priorities. He was honored by Kyiv-Mohyla Academy with an honorary doctorate and spoke on the stage of the university to students on many occasions. He inspired me to push forward, to never give up, to stand up for the truth. He was my mentor in many respects and taught me not to be afraid. He loved the principles upon which the United States was established and he truly believed in those principles. He was an admirer of Thomas Jefferson. He was a scholar. He left a book of poetry and many writings. I will miss him and his guidance."

Monica Eppinger served as the second secretary to Miller in the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and recalled her work with him as "the best time." To the end, she said "he wanted to be a good friend of Ukraine." "I was part of that small early team during Ambassador Millers tenure in Ukraine. He had headed the Washington side of a late Soviet human rights organization, and

through it was thoroughly acquainted with the cases of the major human rights heroes of the last decade of the U.S.S.R. When he got to Ukraine, he already had made common cause with some—Mustafa Dzhemilev, Vyacheslav Chornovil, Semen Gluzman. Anyone who'd done Soviet prison time for advocating human rights was a part of his 'team.' He was a fervent Jeffersonian democrat. He also worked very closely with Voldoymyr Horbulin (former secretary of the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council), especially on denuclearization, and to the best of my knowledge respected him and appreciated him as a pragmatic strategic thinker who cared about Ukrainian independence."

During Miller's ambassadorial tenure, Eppinger said, he took a keen interest in people working on human rights and advocating freedom of speech, religion and the press.

"He was just really interested in the project of independent Ukraine and really interested in Ukrainians," said Eppinger, a professor at St. Louis University School of Law and director of its Center for International and Comparative Law. He'd meet with anybody practically who wanted to meet with him." She said Miller was also interested in archaeology and remembers him stopping frequently to visit the excavation site of what is now the rebuilt Mikhailovsky Cathedral in Kyiv. "All the archaeologists at the site knew him," she said.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller delivers remarks at the observance of the 60th anniversary of the Voice of America's Ukrainian Service on Dec. 11, 2009, at VOA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Farion said that she traveled with him and a team of archaeology students "to the magnificent Chersonesus in Crimea. He promoted the site to be protected by UNESCO. The occupation of Crimea by Russia stung him personally, not only because of the loss of the strategic territory but because he realized that Russian authorities would raid the archaeological site. He was deeply concerned for the fate of the Crimean Tatars after Russia's invasion and occupation."

Eppinger called him a big fan of ballet, especially Swan Lake. "He also loved the Philharmonic and actively supported the rehabilitation of the Philharmonic building near the Friendship Arch" on the right bank of the Dnipro River in central Kyiv. She said he even vacationed in Ukraine, taking driving tours to explore ancient wooden churches of the Carpathian Mountains in western Ukraine. "He just loved Ukraine and his interest in Ukraine and support for Ukraine knew no bounds," she said. Eppinger recalled his experiment in taking up the Ukrainian tradition of beekeeping. He installed beehives in the backyard of the ambassador's residence. At a traditional Fourth of July reception, she recalled that a colleague with the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs "got stung right on the nose" by a bee.

Miller joined the Foreign Service in 1959 and served a five-year assignment in Iran, where he immersed himself in Persian culture. Farion said he never lost interest in Iran. "He was instrumental in many informal talks between the US and Iran, trying to find peace," she said.

After his Iran assignment, Eppinger said he returned to Washington, D.C., and quit the Foreign Service over the Vietnam War and got a job as a staff director of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee.

"He was part of the team that put together the hearings on the U.S. intelligence services attempted assassinations in the post-World War II/Cold War era," Eppinger said. "It was thanks to those hearings and the report that resulted that we got a revision to the execu-

tive order that sets the parameters to the intelligence community . . . that resulted in the ban on assassinations by the U.S. intelligence committee. He was sometimes criticized as a romantic or idealist, but—as I think the intelligence committee work shows—he also had a caniness to thinking about where a threat to democracy could come from, and how to thwart it. I think there was a hard practical streak in there that often got overlooked."

According to a Eurasia Foundation biography, Miller was educated at Williams College, Oxford, and Harvard. After leaving his Iran assignment in 1964, he returned to Washington, D.C., as a line officer for U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk. Miller then went to work in the U.S. Senate in 1967, where he served as foreign policy and defense adviser to U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper, a Republican who served Kentucky. In 1981 the U.S. Senate passed a special resolution commending Miller "for exceptional contributions and for his dedication, loyalty, integrity, and service." Miller was associate dean and professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Massachusetts from 1981 to 1983.

In 1986, Miller returned to Washington as president of the American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations, traveling frequently to the U.S.S.R. and living in Moscow from 1988 to 1993.

In retirement years, Miller was a senior policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Institute of Strategic Studies and the Middle East Institute. He was also co-chairman of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America and a director of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation as well as a consultant for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Farion said a memorial service is being planned at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 12 or 13, but that arrangements are still being finalized.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARAB AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arab American Civil Rights League. Their meaningful work throughout Michigan is worthy of commendation.

Founded in 2011, the Arab American Civil Rights League (ACRL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights and liberties of the Arab-American community. Through education and advocacy, the Dearborn-based organization is committed to building inter-community coalitions that promote cooperation, broaden the understanding of the Arab-American community, and dispel negative stereotypes associated with Arab-Americans. With a mission to protect the civil rights of all ethnic minorities, the ACRL aspires to be a driving force that will propel America forward, effecting meaningful and lasting change throughout the entire nation.

The ACRL's 8th Annual Fight for Justice Gala exemplifies the organization's continued commitment to supporting the Michigan Arab-American community. Every year, the gala brings countless elected officials, civil rights