

CEO of the year and even CEO of the century by Texas Monthly Magazine. He was well-known within the business and financial world and received awards such as the Bower Award for Business Leadership from the Franklin Institute. He is also remembered through scholarships named in his honor such as the Herbert D. Kelleher Servant Leader Scholarship. Mr. Kelleher also played a role on many boards such as the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, the National Air and Space Museum, and the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Mr. Kelleher, often referred to by his first name Herb, was also dearly loved by his family. He is survived by his wife, Joan Negley Kelleher, whom he met while attending school at Wesleyan University. They were married for sixty-four years and had four children. He is survived by three of his children, Michael Kelleher, David Kelleher and Ruth Agather. He is also lovingly remembered by nine grandchildren, who called him "Poppair".

#### HONORING TIMOTHY V. CHAMBERS

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 25, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant. Mr. Timothy V. Chambers. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Technology from Alcorn State University. He later pursued further studies in the education program at Jackson State University and received his standard teaching certificate. Mr. Chambers earned his Masters Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from Jackson State University.

He started his education career teaching in Canton, Mississippi where he spent seven years collectively between Canton Elementary School, Nichols Middle School and the Canton Career Center. Mr. Chambers served as assistant principal at Canton Elementary School, Nichols Middle School and principal at Canton Educational Services Center. From there, Mr. Chambers traveled to Leake County to serve as principal for Leake County High School. While at Leake County High School, he successfully improved the school's rating from a failing school to a successful status. He then journeyed back home where he served as principal at Canton High School and director at the Canton Career Center.

Mr. Chambers' educational experiences have afforded him the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse group of people to meet the common goal of increasing student achievement and well-being. His educational philosophy is based on his uncompromising belief that all students can learn, given a positive learning environment, strong and knowledgeable leadership, a committed and focused educational team, an encouraging community, and a supportive family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Timothy V. Chambers for his dedication to serving.

CONGRATULATING WILBUR BONTRAGER ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 47 YEARS AT JAYCO

##### HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 25, 2019*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wilbur Bontrager on his retirement from Jayco, Inc., after 47 years of dedicated and impressive service.

Wilbur was intimately involved with Jayco from its inception, having helped his parents Lloyd and Bertha set up the original facility on their family farm in Middlebury in 1968. He officially joined the Jayco team in the spring of 1971, utilizing his engineering and manufacturing skills to drive innovation and growth. He rose to the position of Executive Vice President in 1985, and then became CEO and Chairman of the Board in 1993. He later stepped down as CEO but remained Chairman until his retirement.

Wilbur made invaluable and far-reaching contributions not only to the company but also to the northern Indiana RV industry and our region's economy. Wilbur helped grow the small family business into a manufacturing powerhouse with nearly 4,000 employees. Over the last few decades, northern Indiana has grown into the RV capital of the world, and Hoosiers have dynamic companies like Jayco and excellent leaders like Wilbur to thank for that. Wilbur's remarkable vision and innovation have helped shape the landscape of made-in-America RVs, and the industry is sure to miss his leadership. He even received the industry's highest honor in 2008 when he was inducted into the RV Hall of Fame. I want to thank Wilbur for the vital role he has played in creating good jobs for Hoosiers, and for his unwavering commitment over the years to Jayco's hardworking employees.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Wilbur's accomplishments in nearly five decades at Jayco. He defines his approach as doing things the "Jayco Way," and for that we thank him. I am grateful for the legacy Wilbur is leaving behind, and I wish him all the best in the years to come.

#### HONORING MARIE ELAINE BEERY AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

##### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 25, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marie Elaine Beery, whom I have named the 2019 Woman of the Year in Lake County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Beery has been active in our wine and food community for over 30 years. From 1991 to 1999 she was the Chief Financial Officer for Steele Wines. Since 2001, she has been the proprietor of Saw Shop Gallery Bistro in Kelseyville. Ms. Beery is also the founder and

leader of a local wine group for businesswomen. Through this group, she aims to empower and develop future generations of female business leaders. She has been the president of the Kelseyville Business Association for three years and has sat on the Board of Directors of the Lake County Wine Alliance since 1998.

Ms. Beery devotes much of her time, energy and resources to charitable organizations and the betterment of our community. She is the Treasurer of Habitat for Humanity Lake County and hosts their annual dinner at her restaurant. She also works year-round to organize the Lake County Wine Alliance Wine Auction. For this event, she collects donations, solicits sponsors and selects beneficiaries. Ms. Beery generously supports local non-profits, which positively impact our community. Some of the organizations she works with include the Hunger Task Force, the Imagination Library, Lake County Land Trust, Kelseyville Senior Center and Kelseyville Food Pantry.

Ms. Beery grew up on a farm in Warsaw, Indiana. She graduated from Pierceton High School and studied at Ball State University and the Marysville campus of Yuba College. She has a daughter who was a longtime teacher who now owns her own business like her mother.

Madam Speaker, Marie Elaine Beery is an incredible member of our community whose tireless work throughout her career has benefited the women throughout Lake County and California. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIA ANTONIA OJEDA

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 25, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Maria Antonia Ojeda who passed away in Buffalo, New York surrounded by her loved ones on March 10, 2019 at the age of 82.

Born in Puerto Rico, Maria, lovingly referred to as Tonia, enjoyed expressing her creativity through her cooking, entertaining, and gardening. She was well known for opening the doors to her home to help those in need and was well-respected in the communities in which she lived and served. Her greatest pride was her family, whom she loved dearly, and her happiest moments were always when she was surrounded by them. No amount of words could wholly describe her, but she was best known and revered for her determination, perseverance, beauty, charity, wisdom and courage.

Her beautiful life will forever be cherished by her husband of over 55 years, Francisco Ojeda, as well as by her eight children: Conception, David, Jose Antonio, James, Eva, William, Christine, and Margie. She will also be remembered well by her sisters Maria Isabel, Abigail, Ramona, Margie, Clara, and Rosa, and her brothers Gilberto, Luis, and Ramon, as well as her 20 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and her many loved nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

Madam Speaker, I honor the life of Maria Antonia Ojeda, and I ask my colleagues to join

me in extending our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF  
CURTIS HAVEN KINCAID

**HON. MICHAEL CLOUD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 25, 2019*

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Curtis Haven Kincaid, a Victoria resident and World War II Army veteran.

Curtis Haven Kincaid, born on November 6, 1921, in Hudson, Michigan, passed away on January 29, 2019, at the age of 97.

In December 1939, Mr. Kincaid enlisted in the U.S. Army. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Kincaid was assigned to the 38th Division 150th Infantry Force, also known as the "Cyclone Division." His unit was the first U.S. Army combat forces deployed overseas after December 7.

Mr. Kincaid was deployed to Europe in June 1944 and fought courageously in the Combat Infantry through France, Belgium, and into Germany, where he remained until Nazi Germany's defeat. He was honorably discharged in December 1945 with the rank of Sergeant.

After his Army service, Mr. Kincaid left for Texas and served as the Victoria representative for the Snap-On Tool Corporation from 1954 to 1998. He received recognition for setting national sales records during his 44 years of hard work with Snap-On.

I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the Kincaid family and express appreciation for his service to our community and sacrifices for our country.

ROSIE THE RIVETER—MARINA  
METEVALIS

**HON. KEVIN HERN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 25, 2019*

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a constituent who truly has left a lasting legacy on our state and our country.

Marina Metevalis was just 16 years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941. This traumatic event galvanized many Americans to join the army or do whatever they could to serve their country in our time of need. Marina was inspired to apply for a job at the Wichita aircraft plant, putting together the planes that would defend our country.

Just a high schooler, Marina took up the mantle of Rosie the Riveter, stepping up to do what was at the time considered "men's work" while our troops were fighting the Axis Powers abroad.

Marina juggled school work with her job at the aircraft plant, coming home after the night shift to work on homework before getting up in the morning to start all over again.

In the years since, Marina has gone on to be an educator, a mother, and an inspiration to many, but recalls her time as a Rosie the Riveter as one of her proudest moments. Marina turns 95 years old today and remains just as full of life and service-minded as she has been her entire life.

Congress is pending legislation to award Marina and the many other inspirational women who joined the workforce during World War II, taking on the mantle of "Rosie the Riveter", with a Congressional Gold Medal. I look forward to voting for her and our many Rosie the Riveters to be awarded with this honor.

She is an example of true patriotism, selflessness, and American spirit. I thank her for her service to our country and the legacy she has left on our community.

HONORING MRS. VERNICE BLACK-  
AVANT

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 25, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Vernice Black-Avant.

Vernice Black-Avant was born November 18, 1949 in Como, Mississippi to the late Albert and Della Mae Black. She was the fifth born of thirteen children. She was diagnosed at the age of ten with a childhood spinal illness. She and her parents and friends spent many months at LeBonheur Children's Hospital for surgeries, treatments and follow up visits. She was blessed with praying parents and grandparents: Effie Dodson Washington and Armetha Walton Black, who both saw to it that she had a Christian upbringing. She grew up in a rural community just west of Como, Mississippi. Vernice attended Caruthers and Melrose Elementary and Como Junior High School. In 1968, she and her family moved to Longtown, MS. This move came after her family was told to move over night or be burned in that house because her parents had encouraged her to attend a predominantly all-white high school during her senior year in high school.

After moving to Longtown, she met the man of her dreams, Robert Allen Avant, Sr. in 1968 and married six months later after graduating from North Panola High School. Following her wedding on July thirteenth they relocated to Chicago, Illinois for eighteen months. There she enjoyed cooking with her mother-in-law, Dorothy Jean Bishop-Avant and sitting in the window on Halsted Street watching the many Cadillac Eldorados go by as she waited for her husband to come home from work. After a couple years her aunt became sick, (her mother-in-law's sister) and they moved back to Longtown. After her Aunt passed, they moved to live with her mother-in-law in Memphis for a few months. Then in 1972, she began her career as an elementary school secretary at Crenshaw Elementary School where she worked for thirty-one years. While there, she served as lunchroom bookkeeper, doctor, counselor, negotiator, nurse, mediator, accountant, police/protector and friend.

In 1973, Vernice and Robert were blessed with their first son, Robert Allen Avant, Jr. Issac Lanier was born five years later. In 1981, they were blessed with their third son, Albert Hosia Jerriod Avant. A year later, they moved into their first newly built home. Vernice and Robert enrolled and attended evening/night classes at Coahoma Community College at the Crenshaw Interested Community Builders Campus in Crenshaw, Mississippi

and both graduated in 1986 with Honors, merit Scholarships, and with an Associate Arts Degree. From 1987 to August 4, 2008, Robert Allen Avant, Sr. served as Panola County's District Two Supervisor with Vernice by his side in full support. After retiring for a short while, she went to work for a private corporation as secretary and bookkeeper for ten years. In August of 2008, following Robert's untimely death due to a very rare lung cancer, Vernice was sworn in as Supervisor of Panola County's 2nd District.

Currently, Vernice is serving her district and Panola County as vice-President of North Delta Planning and Development District, secretary for the Crenshaw P-16 Council for Crenshaw Elementary School and is an active member of McIvor Creek Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as President of the Mother Board. She is a Mississippi Association of Supervisors Education Committee member, former Mississippi Association of Supervisors Insurance Trust Board member, an active member of the NAACP and is an active member of Keep America Beautiful/Panola County. In her quest to be a servant to the people of Panola County, she made time to care for her brothers-in-law, Micheal Avant and Willie Avant, both of which lost battles to oral and throat cancers in 2009 and 2018 respectively. Vernice lost her eldest son, Robert Jr., to a long battle with diabetes and later colon and lung cancer in January, 2017. Vernice continues to serve with God as her focus point. She was recently nominated and awarded the "Women of Excellence Award" by the National Foundation for Women Legislators. All of Vernice and Robert's children have earned bachelor degrees. Lanier earned his Juris Doctor degree from Howard University in 2007 and Jerriod is working on his PhD in English at The University of Rhode Island. Thanks for the opportunity to serve such great people.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Vernice Black-Avant for her dedication in serving her community.

HONORING DEPUTY RILEY  
MICHELE JARECKI

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 25, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Riley Michele Jarecki, whom I have named a Public Safety Hero of the Year in Napa County, California.

Ms. Jarecki was born in Napa, California and has a family history of public service. She is a third generation Napa County law enforcement officer, following the footsteps of her father, a Sergeant with the Napa County Sheriff's Office, and her grandfather, who was a Police Captain with the City of Napa Police Department.

On February 17, 2019, Ms. Jarecki displayed her dedication to public safety. Around 11:00 pm, Ms. Jarecki was performing a vehicle check on a rural road in Napa County. After speaking with the driver from the passenger side window, Ms. Jarecki moved to the driver side window and asked the driver to roll down the window. After rolling down the window, the driver presented a firearm and fired