

Jared Lerch, Nathan Lerch, Courtney Cochran and Melissa Lerch, and finally his three cherished grandchildren. His vigilance on the lakes as well as his love for family and his State will be pronounced for years to come, both on and off the water.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I was not in attendance to vote on November 16, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219, and YEA on Roll Call No. 220.

MAYOR JON ARTHUR SIMMONS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize and honor Mayor Jon Arthur Simmons of Vienna, Illinois—a remarkable man who has humbly dedicated his life to service, both to Southern Illinois and our great nation.

Jon was born in Goreville Township, Illinois on June 15, 1941 to John and Veneta Simmons. He attended Vienna High School, graduating in 1959. Four years later, in 1963, Jon was drafted into the United States Army, serving in Vietnam until being honorably discharged in 1965. In 2019, Jon was honored with the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC as part of the Southern Illinois Honor Flight. Jon recalls the experience and the welcome home celebration as humbling, a drastic contrast to his experience coming home from Vietnam where the soldiers were not welcomed and treated unkindly.

Jon became an auctioneer in 1974 which has sent him all over Southern Illinois. His slogan states, "Auction means action, and we guarantee satisfaction". The people with whom he has interacted throughout the years would agree. Furthermore, Jon has demonstrated this motto in his local community, always being a reliable helping hand to whoever is in need. For the last 12 years, Jon has served as the Mayor of Vienna, Illinois and has spent his career working to progress the city he loves.

At the end of 2020, Jon will retire from auctioneering after 46 years and serving as Mayor of Vienna after 12 years. Diabetes, a heart attack, and cancer of the bladder has impacted Jon's health, a consequence of his exposure to agent orange while serving our country.

Madam Speaker, Jon Simmons has proven to be an asset to his family, community, and country. I want to thank Mayor Simmons for his service throughout the years and wish him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR MARION GRAYSON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary work of Belton, TX Mayor Marion Grayson. After seven years of extraordinary work to her beloved city, Mayor Grayson retired on November 10, 2020. Her commitment to public service represents Texas values at their best.

Not only was Marion the first female Mayor of Belton, but under her steady and forward-looking leadership, Belton has seen exponential changes that have improved the quality of life for all and put the city on the track for continued growth in the future. Mayor Grayson's work with Belton's parks and recreation including the Nolan Creek project and the restoration of beloved public infrastructure demonstrates that she is truly for the people and improving the lives of those around her. Not only did she enhance the roads of Belton, but she also worked to improve everything from water quality to performing arts education.

In her wake, Mayor Grayson leaves behind a city, civic organizations, and elected officials all better off due to her involvement. She has brought her tremendous work ethic and commitment to excellence to every challenge she has encountered. It is officials like her that make the City of Belton the welcoming, successful city that it is. I salute her leadership, congratulate her on her retirement, and wish Mayor Marion Grayson nothing but the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF CYNTHIA WILBANKS FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Cynthia Wilbanks as she celebrates her retirement. We are proud to recognize her many years of distinguished service with the University of Michigan and the profound impact she has left on our community.

In September 1998, Cynthia Wilbanks was appointed to Vice President of Government Relations at the University of Michigan. In this capacity, Wilbanks has directed U-M's government relation efforts at the local, state, and federal level and has been tirelessly advocate for the university's students, faculty, and staff. Wilbanks has also held other notable leadership positions at U-M. She has served on the Bentley Historical Library Executive Committee, the Bicentennial Planning Committee, the Ginsberg Center Board, the Honorary Degree Committee, the Michigan in Washington Program Faculty Advisory Committee, and the Residency Appeals Committee. In addition, she served as Interim Vice President for Communications in 2007 and Interim Vice President for Development from 2002 to 2003.

Cynthia Wilbanks has decades of public service experience. She previously served as district director and Washtenaw County field representative for U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell and also served as a staff assistant for U.S. Rep. Marvin Esch. Wilbanks's extensive knowledge of the legislative process augmented her effectiveness as VP of Government Relations and enabled U-M to better meet its legislative priorities. In addition, Wilbanks has been an active member of several community and civic organizations. Before joining U-M, Wilbanks was the president of Michigan's Children. In addition, she has served on the board of directors for Ann Arbor SPARK, the Riverside Arts Center Foundation, the Bank of Ann Arbor, and the Center for Michigan, and has been involved in leadership roles with the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and Glacier Hills Retirement Center. Wilbanks has been recognized for her remarkable accomplishments by a host of organizations. She was named one of the 100 most influential women in Metro Detroit by Crain's Detroit Business, has been a recipient of the Spirit Award, and received a Women of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council, to name only a few.

Throughout her career, Wilbanks has been recognized as a dedicated and compassionate leader who strives to effect lasting change. She has been a strong voice for the University of Michigan, expanding the breadth of the institution and the opportunities it can extend to students and surrounding communities. She used her knowledge, expertise, and authority to make a difference and positively impact the lives of countless Michiganders. Without a doubt, Wilbanks's impact will forever endure, and we are all grateful for the remarkable strides she made.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of Cynthia Wilbanks from the University of Michigan. I am proud to honor her work, accomplishments, and significant community impact. We thank her for her outstanding leadership and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JAMES JENSEN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and career of James D. Jensen—a lawyer, assistant U.S. attorney, and a judge who resided for nearly two decades in our court systems.

Born in Denver, OH, Judge Jensen built an educational career as well as a professional career out of Ohio institutions. Graduating from Buchtel High School he pursued his bachelors at Wittenberg University then his law degree at the University of Toledo, where he later taught as a professor of law inspiring a new generation of public servants.

Jensen's career found its beginning in private practice and soon transformed into a public endeavor as an assistant U.S. attorney in Toledo, and in this position was appointed to senior litigation counsel. He then served a year at the Department of Justice as the assistant director for the attorney general Advocacy Institute, teaching courses at the institute

and at the FBI. After signing onto a firm for a span of his career he was appointed to a Common Pleas Bench in 1995 which propelled him to his eventual election onto the Ohio 6th District Court of Appeals Bench in 2012 where he ended his career honorably.

His professional career was studded with honor and recognition of his valor and kind disposition. Just last month Judge Jensen was honored with the 2020 Thomas J. Moyer Award for Judicial Excellence, a high regard and an honor well deserved.

Judge Jensen exemplified passion in his legal tenure and is remembered by his peers as an authority on law like no other. He is remembered to have coined the phrase, "I'd rather be right than affirmed". These words, often delivered in passing, reflect his sharpened deliberate demeanor on the courts and in his life.

Jensen's humility and joy in life were manifested with every court ruling, peer interaction, and opportunity to advocate for justice. He was commended for his quiet and intentional command of the court room, in delivering justice with a temperament that was even, consistent, and memorable.

Judge Jensen is survived by a loving family that continues his legacy of kindness and determined intelligence. His children, Tracy, Tammy, Tim, Dean, and Tyler look forward having a path of educational and professional achievement paved by their father.

Judge James Jensen's impact on the Toledo community as well our legal system as whole is nothing less than immeasurable. His memory and his stature will be remembered all, and especially those lucky enough to call him friend.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JULIE PIERCE

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of an esteemed leader in Contra Costa County, Julie Pierce.

Julie began her career as a public servant in 1987 when she was appointed to the City of Clayton Planning Commission. In 1992, Julie was elected to the Clayton City Council, where she has served ever since, including in the roles of Mayor and Vice Mayor. During her tenure on the Council, Julie has worked to improve the lives of current and future residents of Clayton by protecting open spaces, advocating for residential and business planning and development, and fostering a sense of community.

In addition to her work on the Council, Julie has been an active member of regional organizations that support the larger Bay Area, in-

cluding the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), where has previously served as both President and Vice President. Julie's work has been instrumental in advancing initiatives that focus on the growth of the Bay Area, including closing the wage gap. She has also been a delegate of the California Council of Governments, Commissioner of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and Commissioner of the Transportation Partnership and Cooperation. Furthermore, Julie was an integral part of the Shaping Our Future initiative, which addressed housing, jobs, and transportation in Contra Costa County.

Julie Pierce is known by her colleagues as a dedicated and effective leader and I have enjoyed our many years of working together. Please join me in thanking Julie for her service to our County and wishing her the best in her retirement.

HONORING BISHOP ARTHUR JOSEPH SERRATELLI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli for his commitment to spread the word of God in the City of Paterson and beyond. May we all admire his relationship with God and remember his spiritual leadership as he retires from the Diocese of Paterson. Born in Newark, New Jersey on April 18, 1944, to Pio Serratelli and Eva Fasolino, Bishop Serratelli is a native son of our great State of New Jersey, and I am proud of his service to the people of the Ninth Congressional District.

A learned man with many accomplishments as an academic, Bishop Serratelli is the recipient of a undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University in 1965, a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Gregorian University in 1969, a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Biblical Institute in 1976, and a doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Gregorian University in 1977.

Ordained to the priesthood on December 20, 1968 in St. Peter's Basilica by Bishop Francis Reh, Bishop Serratelli would start his journey as a theologian serving one year as parochial vicar at St. Anthony Parish in Belleville. He would also expand further and teach Systematic Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary for two years before returning to Rome to complete his education.

Prior to his appointment on July 6, 2004 to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, Arthur Serratelli was Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, Regional Bishop for Essex County, and Vicar General for the Apostolates. Bishop Serratelli has also assumed various leadership roles throughout our community.

Most recently, Bishop Serratelli was Chairman of the International Committee on English in the Liturgy and co-chair of the Vatican's International Dialogue with the Baptist World Alliance. Additionally, Arthur was also a member of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments with the Vatican. Arthur is also currently on the Board of Directors for the Catholic Relief Services, Board of Trustees at Assumption College for Sisters and on the Board of Regents and Board of Trustees with Seton Hall University.

Bishop Serratelli has been with the City of Paterson for nearly sixteen years providing the people of my district with his exemplary religious service. Our churches are among the most important social institutions in our nation, offering spiritual guidance, solace and communal bonding to people across a wide spectrum of our land. An active church can be the glue that binds a community together, it can help to steer youth in the right direction, and it can offer hope where there is trouble. I am so grateful for Bishop Arthur Serratelli's stewardship and care for the Silk City.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli for his outstanding work, as we celebrate his years of distinguished service to the people of the Ninth Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT H. WASHBURN

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert H. Washburn of Huntingdon County for his service in the United States Army. Robert is an outstanding Pennsylvanian, and I am grateful for his service to our nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our community.

In Pennsylvania and across the country, our veterans have served and sacrificed for Americans' freedom and our values. They answered the call to serve and fight for us—at a great cost. Truly, our veterans are the best of America.

In Congress, it is my privilege—and my responsibility—to stand up for those who have served our country in uniform, as well as to recognize these brave Americans. As a nation, we are indebted to them. On behalf of the 13th Congressional District, I thank Robert for his service to our nation and our community.