

president. Upon his graduation, Tom attended the University of Oregon on a football scholarship, where he was again elected student body president. He graduated in 1967 with a degree in political science and went on to receive a master's in education in 1973. He worked as an events manager at his alma mater until he accepted a full-time position as director of events for the NCAA.

Tom spent the next 38 years working for the NCAA, as a leader and passionate administrator. According to his colleagues and those who worked closely with Tom, he was known to make time for everyone. He was thoughtful, respectable, likeable, honest and a silent power. He is credited with turning the college basketball championship into what it is today, a massive event with fans all around the world and a multi-billion dollar television contract.

The City of Indianapolis benefited greatly from having a leader like Tom in the sports world. He was influential in moving the NCAA headquarters from Kansas City, Missouri to the City of Indianapolis in 1999. Tom not only assisted in making March Madness what it is, he was key in helping the City of Indianapolis host the Final Four. Indianapolis has hosted seven NCAA Men's Basketball Final Fours and three NCAA Women's Final Fours in its history and is scheduled to host the 2021 and 2026 men's finals as well. Tom was very friendly to the City of Indianapolis in many ways, generating events, promoting the city and, according to his friends, there was never a young person who was interested in a career in sports that Tom would not take under his wing.

Tom received numerous awards throughout his lifetime including being inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2017. He received the John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001 for his outstanding lifetime dedication to basketball, and the University of Oregon honored him with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. The National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame enshrined Tom as a contributor to the game, and in 2017, he was awarded Indiana's highest civilian honor, the Sagamore of the Wabash. Posthumously, Tom was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame this year.

Though it is obvious Tom had a huge impact on the world of sports, it is said that his greatest joys were in his personal life. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and true friend. In speaking with Tom's friends, there is one consistent theme that they all mention. Tom was a wonderful friend who would stop at nothing to help those he cared about. He loved playing golf and watching all sporting events with his family and friends. Though he loved all sports, he remained a loyal fan of his Oregon Ducks, rarely missing an event involving his university. Based on this long-term commitment, the University of Oregon has established the Tom Jernstedt Student Athlete Scholarship.

I am honored to stand today and memorialize Tom. He was a man of character and class, constantly putting the wants and needs of others before his own. I join his family and many friends as well as countless student-athletes in mourning the loss of Tom Jernstedt.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF VICTOR BIRD

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Victor Bird on his retirement after a remarkable 36-year career in public service to the state of Oklahoma.

Graduating with a bachelor's degree and juris doctorate from the University of Tulsa, Victor is a lifelong Oklahoman. After graduating, he started his career in law with the public sector. Victor's career in public service started in 1983 in the Oklahoma Attorney General's office. From there he served at Oklahoma State University, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and again the Attorney General's office under two different attorney generals. It was through this impressive path that led him to the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission as the Director in 2002. With no previous aviation experience, Victor recognized the importance of the aviation industry for Oklahoma and immediately put his knowledge of the state to work.

After 18 years at the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, few have left such a legacy. As the longest serving director in the state's history, his advocacy and implementations have left a distinctive mark on Oklahoma's role in aviation and aerospace. Under his leadership, the Commission has invested \$71 million in state funds and directed \$189 million in federal funds into airport infrastructure statewide. Victor's pro aviation mindset has led to the growth of the annual economic impact to \$44 billion, which has directly resulted in tens of thousands of jobs. Victor Bird played a key role in shaping aviation to become one of the state's largest industries and top employers.

Victor's career has largely gone unnoticed. He is the first and only Oklahoman to serve as chairman of the National Association of State Aviation Officials in its 90-year history. He is also the first and only non-elected public official to receive the Joseph B. "Doc" Hartranft Jr. Award from the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association. In 2006, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma Association for Career and Technical Education for his contributions to career and technology education in Oklahoma. In 2009, Bird was the recipient of the prestigious General Thomas P. Stafford Award, which recognizes those who have made substantial contributions to the Oklahoma aerospace industry and who reflect the revolutionary spirit of Gen. Stafford. Additionally, in 2017, Bird received the Kenneth A. Rowe Ambassador of Aviation Award from NASAO in honor of his national accomplishments. Most recently, in 2020, Victor received the President's Award from the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association for his significant work in Oklahoma aviation.

For four decades, Victor Bird's dedication to Oklahoma has continued to help our state make enormous strides in terms of economic growth and innovation. As we reflect on the 36-year career of Victor Bird, let us look at his tireless work to inspire us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Victor Bird on an extraordinary career and wish him all the best in his much-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MS. JEAN D. THOMPSON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy and work of Louisiana Freedom Rider, Ms. Jean D. Thompson. Ms. Thompson made history by participating in the Freedom Rides that helped illuminate persistence segregation in the South despite Morgan v. Virginia and Boynton v. Virginia.

Born in Lake Providence, Louisiana on January 13, 1942, Ms. Thompson was an active member of the NAACP and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Throughout her life, Ms. Thompson participated in a number of sit-ins, was active in Louisiana and Mississippi Freedom Summers, and contributed to anti-war and feminist efforts in San Francisco and Berkeley, California. Starting at the age of 19, her passion and determination made her one of the youngest trailblazers for racial equity.

In response to the federal government's unwillingness to enforce the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions outlawing segregated interstate travel, the Freedom Riders rode integrated buses across state lines in the South to bring awareness to local laws that still required blacks and whites to use separate seating. These intentional actions played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement.

Ms. Thompson is a daughter of New Orleans, and without her desegregation efforts, persistence against injustice, and fearlessness, many of us would not be where we are today. It is critically important that we give Ms. Thompson her flowers while she is still here with us so we can celebrate the strides she took to improve racial equality. May we always lift up her name and honor her legacy by continuing to advance equal rights and justice for African Americans and those of African descent all around the world.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and work of Ms. Jean D. Thompson.

CONGRATULATING THE VIENNA EAGLES SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2020 MISSOURI CLASS I STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Vienna Eagles softball team for winning the 2020 Missouri Class I State Softball Championship.

This is Vienna High School's third state championship win in the history of their softball program. They should be commended for their hard work and dedication throughout this past year.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Vienna Eagles for a job well done.

HONORING THOMAS J. MANN, IV

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas J. Mann, IV. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 215, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Thomas has served his troop as Patrol Leader and earned the rank of Runner in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Thomas has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Thomas built bat houses for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas J. Mann, IV for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAMUEL FIGUEROA

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Samuel Figueroa of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Samuel Figueroa was an outstanding employee who worked at the Creekside Health and Rehabilitation Center in Indianapolis. Having worked at the center since its opening in September 2017, Mr. Figueroa was a dishwasher. We are only aware of his role as dishwasher and are unaware of work in road and building construction. Those who had the opportunity to witness Mr. Figueroa work witnessed a man who took great pride in his job. While on the clock, Mr. Figueroa routinely made others smile and laugh. He was also careful to ensure that the facility was as clean as possible. On many occasions, fellow employees witnessed Samuel scanning the parking lot for trash to dispose of.

By all accounts, Mr. Figueroa was the model employee. Always on time with a smile on his face and willing to go the extra mile, he desired to serve those in need. Mr. Figueroa will be remembered for the wonderful impression he made on his peers, residents and all those who interacted with him on the campus.

The story of Mr. Figueroa is one that is uniquely American. This record is a testament to those ideals he embodied of service and sacrifice, which are inherent to the American spirit. Though Samuel is no longer with us, his spirit of good will and generosity in the halls of Creekside and in the hearts of those whose lives he touched endures.

THANKS BLAKE

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a great man and citizen of the Show Me state, Mr. Blake Hurst, as he celebrates his upcoming retirement. Since being elected the President of the Missouri Farm Bureau on December 7, 2010, Blake has helped strengthen the Bureau financially and grow its influence in Washington, D.C.

The Missouri Farm Bureau was founded as the first state Farm Bureau in the United States in 1915, and over the years, it has grown to include over 130,000 members. During his tenure, Blake was a strong advocate for Missouri's farmers. He will be leaving the Missouri Farm Bureau in a stronger position than when he came into office and has ensured the long-term success and influence of the organization.

Blake has been an active member of the Missouri Farm Bureau for much of his life, serving on the Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee before becoming the statewide chairman and eventually serving on the state board of directors. For eight years, Hurst served as a district board member for the state of Missouri and seven years as the Vice President of the Bureau. Blake has earned a national reputation as a leader in agriculture policy. Over the years, Blake has written numerous pieces which have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, The American, Weekly Standard, Wilson's Quarterly, Reader's Digest, Today's Farmer, and the Show Me magazine of Missouri Farm Bureau. Hurst continues to be an active member of his community, running a wholesale greenhouse business with his wife, Julie, daughter, Lee, and sons-in-law, Ryan Harms and Matt Schlueter.

I wish Blake the very best as he embarks on this new chapter of life, and I am grateful for his service to his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on November 16th and November 17th due to not being present in Washington, D.C. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

YES on Roll Call No. 219; YES on Roll Call No. 220; and NO on Roll Call No. 221.

HONORING JERALD MUTCHLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jerald Mutchler. Jerald is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jerald has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jerald has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jerald has earned the rank of Hardway Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Jerald has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jerald helped in with Our Lady of Mercy Country Home Bench Rebuild.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jerald Mutchler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN POTTS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Potts, a member of the professional staff of the House Appropriations Committee, who has retired after 25 years of service in the Federal Government.

Brian earned his bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1994, where he played football and studied accounting. Upon graduation, Brian began his career as part of the Department of the Navy Financial Management Trainee Program. During this time, he worked as an auditor for the Naval Audit Service and as a budget analyst for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller). Brian excelled in the program, and he was awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence.

After completion of this program, in 1997, Brian joined the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction as a professional staff member. After leaving the Hill briefly to work as an auditor for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Brian returned to the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Military Construction. In 2004, Brian moved to the Senate Subcommittee on Defense where he would stay until 2014, at which time he became Minority Staff Director for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

When the Senate switched control in 2015, Brian was hired to be the Majority Staff Director for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, a position responsible for a portfolio exceeding \$500 billion in annual spending. In 2019, I asked Brian to become my National Security Advisor on my House Appropriations Committee staff, and he proved to be a trusted advisor. Brian could always be counted on to give great insight into the issues that face our men and women in uniform.

Brian is known for his love of sports, and I know he is enjoying retirement with his son, Owen, and attending his baseball and basketball games. We wish Brian the best in his new adventure and thank him for everything he has done for our nation's security.