

dollars and his constant focus on improving the lives of every resident of Tuolumne County.

Supervisor John Gray has truly been an asset to Tuolumne County in making it a more prosperous place for small businesses and a more desirable community for residents and visitors. It is my privilege to rise today in recognition of his distinguished public service.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR BRETT  
KUHR

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the tremendous work of Major Brett Kuhrt during his time as my office's legislative fellow. Major Kuhrt's leadership, work ethic, and commitment to public service have made him an integral part of our team.

In a year of unprecedented challenges, Brett has helped countless constituents in Michigan's First District with everything from navigating federal agencies to answering in-depth policy questions. He has shown a keen ability to tackle complex issues ranging from national security and defense to veterans and labor policy, crafting legislative policy and providing technical support to staff. Brett has also displayed a true willingness to serve in multiple capacities, always lending a hand when needed, no questions asked. He has set a high standard for future fellows and is an outstanding example of the best of the U.S. Air Force.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and my staff, I thank Major Kuhrt for his exceptional work on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE  
AND MEMORY OF CAPTAIN ROBERT  
"BOBBY" ROCHA

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy and tired heart to honor the life of fire Captain Robert Joseph "Bobby" Rocha. Captain Rocha was a beloved, giving, vibrant soul, who lost his life last week after battling a COVID-19 infection he caught in the line of duty. Captain Rocha gave twenty-nine years of honorable service to the Kansas City Fire Department, and while his life was cut short, we must ensure that his memory is never forgotten.

Captain Rocha began at the fire department back in 1991, the same year I was sworn in as Mayor of Kansas City. Since then, I have watched from afar as he rose to the rank of Captain while earning the respect and admiration of his fellow firefighters and the city he protected. When the coronavirus hit, Captain Rocha knew the fire department was in for a long haul. During this past year, firefighters around the country have been assisting EMTs

more and more with pandemic-related emergency calls. In Kansas City, more than 200 members of the fire department have tested positive and seventy-three are currently infected. Captain Rocha likely came into contact with ten to fifteen COVID-19 each and every day while in uniform.

And then, the worst happened. In early November, Captain Rocha went into quarantine and was eventually hospitalized. He fought the disease valiantly, with the same vigor and verve with which he fought fires and saved lives for nearly three decades. But as Captain Rocha no doubt taught the young firefighters he trained, not all battles can be won; and on November 21st, Captain Rocha made his way toward eternal peace. He was sixty years old.

Captain Rocha will be remembered in the community as a courageous public servant and a generous leader. We will never forget his selflessness, his humility, or the twenty-nine years he dedicated to our safety and peace of mind. His team will remember him as a mentor who trained and prepared them for the risks that they faced every day on the job. His family and friends remember him as loving man with a good sense of humor and an incredible ability to inspire those around him. They remember Captain Rocha as a man who would do anything for anybody. They say people looked up to him "like he was Hercules." And throughout his life, Captain Rocha always proved to be a decent, dependable man—a man who loved to ride his motorcycle, sing karaoke, and spend time with friends at the Outpost Bar and Grill.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many," scripture tells us. This has been a year of loss, a year of painful goodbyes, and a year of empty seats at the dinner table. But it also a year of heroes. The doctors, nurses, medical students, nursing students, EMTs, firefighters, and ordinary Americans who have placed their health in the hands of God to save others. Heroes who have come to serve the wellbeing of complete strangers. And, all too often, heroes who have given their lives as ransom for untold millions. Heroes like Captain Rocha.

Today, my prayers are with Captain's Rocha's family, his friends, and all his brothers and sisters at Station 18. Let it be preserved in this timeless Record that his loss leaves us with a grief that cannot be weighed and debt that cannot be paid. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched and saved. So, Madam Speaker, let us honor Captain Rocha. Let us remember the light he brought with him everywhere he went. And, whatever we do in Congress today, tomorrow, next week, next year let the story of Captain Rocha sit at my chair in this Chamber. Let the stories of his fallen brothers, Billy Birmingham and Scott Davidson, walk with me through these halls. Let those stories remind us all that we have a part to play. Let them remind us of our duty to serve.

In the coming days, flags across my state will fly at half-staff to honor Captain Rocha, dutiful Americans will wear masks and adhere to social distancing, and first responders will wake up again and again to walk into a weary nightmare that we have the power to make less dark. Captain Rocha gave his life to save others. We can never repay that debt. But it is our duty to try.

MARTHA GRACE FIELDS, CONGRESSIONAL AWARD SILVER MEDALIST

**HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of Martha Grace Fields. Martha is an exceptional young woman who was recently announced as a Silver Medalist for the Congressional Award, one of the highest honors presented to America's youth. The Congressional Award Foundation was created to recognize initiative, service, and achievement in young people. Martha has demonstrated the core components of this award through her servant heart and unmatched work ethic. She gave back to her local community by completing over two-hundred hours of public service. Beyond her service to others, she put in hundreds of hours of personal development by competing on her high school swim team and enrolling in numerous leadership courses and seminars. Additionally, Martha was one of the first females to receive the highest honor in Boy Scouts, the rank of Eagle Scout. Simultaneously, she received the highest rank in the Sea Scouts, Quartermaster. Martha's continued hard work has not gone unnoticed, and I am proud to see her receive the recognition she deserves. I would like to congratulate Martha for her impressive achievements at such a young age and I look forward to seeing her continued success and leadership.

HONORING PRESIDENT JERRY  
RAWLINGS OF GHANA

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, today we honor the extraordinary life and career of Jerry Rawlings, the former President of Ghana.

He was born on June 22, 1947 in Accra, Ghana to his loving mother Victoria Agbotuni. He received his education from the Achimota Secondary School, graduating in 1966 with his general education certification. While in school he became well known for his love of Polo and his willingness to speak out about injustice.

In 1967 he enlisted in the Ghanaian Air Force and became a flight cadet. Shortly afterward, he was selected to attend the Ghana Military Academy and Training School. Upon completing his training in 1969 he was awarded the "Speed Bird Trophy" acknowledging his top ranking status in flying and airmanship. Nine years later he earned the rank Flight-Lieutenant.

During his career in the military, he began to observe how corruption, privilege, and injustice impact soldiers and the people they are sworn to protect.

His concerns about Ghana's future led him to become an outspoken critic of the corruption and mismanagement he saw from the country's military leaders and called for more attention to the plight of Ghana's poor.

Eventually, he led an effort to remove the existing military government and convened elections. When the subsequent government encountered challenges managing the economy, he intervened again, and ruled directly for the next eleven years. During his time as unelected leader, President Rawlings sought to introduce reforms that would place Ghana on a firm economic foundation and create shared prosperity.

In 1992, President Rawlings convened elections and presided over a gradual return to democracy and openness in Ghana. After two terms as elected leader, President Rawlings retired in 2001 and presided over the peaceful transfer of power to the opposition leader John Kufuor.

Following his presidency, he continued to be active in world affairs, particularly as the African Union special envoy to Somalia.

President Rawlings' commitment to justice and opportunity extended beyond Ghana and the African continent to African Americans and the African diaspora. In particular, President Rawlings worked actively, both in office and in retirement, to build bridges between Ghana and African Americans. In 2019, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus traveled to Ghana to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the beginning of the brutal institution of slavery in America. On that occasion, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus met with President Rawlings and his family, and he pledged to continue his effort to deepen bonds between Ghana and the African American community.

We offer sincerest condolences to his wife, his children, and the Ghanaian people. The United States Congress stands in solidarity with the people of Ghana as they commemorate President Rawlings' legacy, and continue their work to strengthen democratic institutions and inclusive prosperity in their country.

#### COMMEMORATING MS. KATHERINA DIMENSTEIN'S DEPARTURE

#### HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate my Chief of Staff, Ms. Katherina Dimenstein as she departs from my office. Katherina has devoted the past eight years of her life and career to the people of Arizona.

I want to thank Katherina for her dedication and service to Arizona's 6th District. She did an outstanding job for our office, especially her excellent work to promote strong trade relationships for Arizona and help modernize our tax code through the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. She is committed to being both a voice and a resource for the people.

Congress is an institution devoted to serving the people, and Katherina has exemplified this every day by not only meeting with Arizonans, veterans, and advocacy groups, but by managing all my Washington, D.C. office operations and legislative priorities on the Ways and Means Committee. We look to Katherina as an incredibly valued member of our team, and we will greatly miss her.

#### FAREWELL REMARKS EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE HONOR OF REPRESENTING MISSOURI'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#### HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my farewell remarks as a Member of the U.S. House.

And while I will be sad to leave this historic place, I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to serve Missouri's 1st Congressional District for two decades, and to have been blessed with the friendship of so many colleagues.

I have given my best because my constituents deserved nothing less. I learned that vital lesson about public service from my best advisor and my personal hero . . . my dad, former Congressman Bill Clay.

And the truth is none of my success would have been possible without my remarkable family.

I want to thank the rock of our family, my mother Carol; and my devoted and talented sisters, Vickie and Michelle.

I also want to thank my children, Carol and Will. No Member serves unto themselves. Families also sacrifice greatly. Carol and Will have made me extremely proud. They carry themselves with such dignity, poise, and character. There is no greater joy I have than being their Father. I thank them for being my greatest and best legacy.

To my wonderful wife Pat: I could not have selected a better partner to share in my post-Congressional career. Her love and optimism keep my life balanced and exhilarated. I so look forward to our days to come.

Of course, the best part of being a Member of Congress has been helping tens of thousands of constituents solve issues with the federal government.

None of that could have been possible without my dedicated and compassionate staff over the years—Patricia Green, Sheila Mileszko, Virginia Cook, Debra Miller, Michelle Bogdanovich, Sandra Houston, Ishmael-Lateef Ahmad, Jasmina Hadzic, Sean Weller, Craig Rasmussen, Percy Green, Adam Bordes, Marvin Steele, Richard Pecante, Frank "Les" Davis, Mark Odom, Lou Aboussie, Noelle Lindsey, Brian Williams, Michelle Mitchell, Britany Packnett, Josh Peters, Pauline Jamry, Perre Smalls, Samantha Williams, Sherry Faulkner, Tony Grandison, Bill Sibert, Frank Taylor, Erica Powell, Matt Alexis, Rico Doss, and my Communications Director Steven Engelhardt, and the late Allison Singfield and the late Dottie Ross.

I would like to extend a special thanks to educator Gwendolyn Reed, who also served as a staffer for both me and my father, Congressman Bill Clay, Sr.

I also want to thank an exceptional American who has devoted 48 years of public service to the U.S. House, my remarkable Constituent Services Director, Edwilla Massey.

I want to thank my devoted Executive Assistant and Scheduler, Karyn Long. Karyn is

family. She always went above and beyond for me and I am forever grateful.

I also want to especially thank all my Chiefs of Staff: Harriet Grigsby, Darryl Piggee and Yvette Cravins.

In the book of Matthew chapter 25, verses 36–40, the scriptures read, "When I was naked you clothed me. I was sick you visited me, when I was in prison you came to me. The righteous answered, Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, clothed you, or in prison visited?" And the King answered them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

These scriptures have been a guidepost for my career in public service. Over my ten terms, I have fearlessly advocated for the permanent interests of African Americans and other unheard voices.

I have had many legislative achievements in this body and I thank all of colleagues who assisted me in doing as the scriptures noted "caring for the least of these". In my remaining time, I would like to highlight a few victories.

For 14 years, I hosted the Career Fair at St. Louis' HBCU, Harris-Stowe State University, which connected thousands of job seekers with good paying jobs providing economic stability.

Creating jobs and economic development was a priority for me. We were able to build the new \$120 million National Archives Administration Center in North St. Louis County.

The greatest economic victory for North St. Louis was the bipartisan effort to build the headquarters of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. That \$1.7 billion project is the largest single federal investment in St. Louis history, of which I am extremely proud.

As Chair of the Financial Services Housing Subcommittee, I secured the renovation of over 200 units of housing at the old Homer G. Phillips hospital in North St. Louis and an additional 200 plus units in Wellston with the help of St. Louis County.

People in my district, particularly the elderly, deserve to live with dignity and security.

As Chair of the Oversight Census Subcommittee, I worked to ensure Census 2010 was successful and addressed the digital divide in vulnerable communities.

My focus on healthcare led to The Everson Walls and Ron Springs Gift of Life legislation, increasing grants to states and expanded organ and tissue registry for minorities.

I have been a champion for environmental justice, cleaning up waste sites often lingering in minority neighborhoods.

My environmental record includes \$5 million to clean up the former St. Louis Army Ammunition plant; \$30 million to clean up the former Carter Carburetor plant; and \$266 million to clean up West Lake Landfill which holds waste from the Manhattan Project.

Lastly, one of my signature achievements was the African-American Civil Rights Network Act. The National Park's program educates generations on the struggles of African Americans who demanded full civil rights in spite of violence and hate.

I am proud of my legacy and work for Missouri's first Congressional District.

May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.