

real estate and insurance. While at Texas Tech, he met the love of his life, Shirley Manon Hacker of Oklahoma, whom he married on December 22, 1962.

The Mohons moved to Orange, Texas in 1974 along with their two young sons, Monty and Marcus. They didn't have many material possessions upon arriving in Orange, but what they lacked in worldly goods they made up for in determination, loyalty, and love for one another.

Dan was a man who loved deeply and extravagantly, and that devotion sprang from his faith. His love of God was showered on his wife, sons, grandchildren, family, church, and community. He adored people and spent his life showing others what it meant to live joyfully.

As a leader of his community, Dan had the distinction of serving as mayor of two Texas cities—Orange and Pinehurst. In addition to his civic involvement, Dan also served as treasurer of First Baptist Church and as a board member of the Lutch Stark Theater for 25 years. He also served in various community organizations such as the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce, Lamar State College Foundation, American Red Cross, City of Orange Planning and Zoning Commission, Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission, Orange Rotary Club, and his favorite, the Orange Lions Club, where he served as president and carnival chairman. Dan was also the proud recipient of the Melvin Jones award, the highest form of recognition for a Lions Club member. A devoted advocate, Dan had perfect attendance at club meetings for more than 47 years.

Along with God, his family, community service, and his many friendships, two other real passions Dan enjoyed were golf and ice cream, both of which he often shared with others.

Dan is survived by his wife of 58 years, Manon; two sons, Monty and Marcus; and ten grandchildren: Joshua, Annabeth, Katharine, Joseph, Isabelle, Jack, Mason, Gray, Reed, and Bliss.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Dan Mohon for his unwavering dedication and service to his community. I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

#### HONORING BARBARA KAIMAN

#### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2020*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mrs. Barbara Kaiman for her outstanding leadership and positivity as she serves those in need in her local community and fights food insecurity in Mills County. Barbara has acted as the food bank director, as well as serving many other roles, for the Mills County Storehouse in Glenwood for more than 20 years—all on an entirely volunteer basis. I'm pleased to name Barbara our Iowan of the Week.

Over her years of service, Barbara has witnessed firsthand the need for assistance—but the past two have been especially hard on families in Mills County. Between the historic flooding across Southwest Iowa in the Spring

of 2019 and the current COVID-19 pandemic, she has seen the need for support and assistance increase. In February, the Mills County Storehouse served 185 families. In March, that number jumped up to 240. Barbara has said she is willing to scour the entire area for donations wherever she can get them, including driving for an hour to personally pick up hundreds of baked goods for distribution.

It is Barbara's belief, as she told my team, that the goodness of people always seems to come home. To anyone who has met Barbara, it is immediately apparent that she loves her community and strives to do what she can for those most in need.

Every week, she calls each of her families and reads them a list of what's available in the pantry. And with COVID-19, Barbara has ensured a safe working environment for all of her volunteers and patrons by adapting to the new standards they must meet. Her volunteers have diligently followed safety protocols with masks and gloves. Mills County Storehouse has begun home deliveries for the first time in Barbara's time with them. And they have continued to meet the needs of their community despite increased demand.

It is my distinct honor to name Barbara Kaiman as our Iowan of the Week, and thank her for her commitment to volunteering and ensuring food security for those families most in need. Although we do not know what the next months will bring, we know we can depend on those dedicated Iowans like Barbara to step up to the plate no matter what comes our way.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF WILSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER ALBERT GAMEZ

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2020*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilson County Commissioner (Pct. 1) Albert Gamez and his 19 years of service to his community.

Commissioner Gamez was known as a hands-on public servant that took an active interest in all the issues that he faced. He was an individual that was committed to getting the job done and in an efficient manner. There are numerous stories about him that attest to his work. For example, if a storm had passed through the community and caused any damage, he would be there immediately. If there was a fire in the area, he would be sure to show up and make sure that the local firefighters had everything that they needed. In addition to his active approach, he was known for fiscal responsibility and making sure that his county had the funds they needed to make infrastructure improvements.

For his efforts, Commissioner Gomez was honored with several awards and recognitions. He was awarded the Watershed Wise Award by the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), recognized by the Floresville Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years of service, and noted by the Floresville City Council for voicing his concerns regarding the building of a prison in the city. In addition, he was recognized for his work during the floods of 1998 and 2002.

As we move forward, let us take the time to appreciate the work of public servants like

Commissioner Gamez and all the individuals who commit themselves to the public good. It is critical that we recognize those who took it upon themselves to improve their community. However, in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize the career and service of Wilson County Commissioner Albert Gamez.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER GERALD DAUGHERTY

#### HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2020*

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, today I express appreciation not only for myself but on behalf of so many of our neighbors for the valued service of Travis County Commissioner Gerald Daugherty, who is retiring after serving Precinct 3 honorably for 14 years.

Long before Commissioner Daugherty became an elected official, from the Pleasant Valley Sportsplex to Jack Allen's Kitchen, he made significant contributions to our entertainment and our waistlines as a business leader. We don't always agree. After all, Commissioner Daugherty is a Republican, but I salute him for his integrity and true commitment to public service. And he did get off to a good start long ago giving up the Boston Red Sox to become a fellow Longhorn. Especially during these divisive political times, when we need more bridges, not walls, public servants such as Commissioner Daugherty deserve our gratitude for attempting to bridge the political divide by seeking bipartisan solutions.

Commissioner Daugherty's thoughtful and respectful demeanor, with an eye to detail, benefitted the Travis County Commissioner's Court and Travis County taxpayers. He is respected as an advocate for our veterans and an active supporter of the Travis County Veterans Service office in its commitment to military veterans, service-members, and their families. Importantly, this year he early recognized the threat of this COVID-19 pandemic and offered strong leadership in protecting lives and livelihoods.

Many of us remember his last campaign in 2016 or at least we remember his wife, Charlyn. His ad, which went viral internationally, employed a humorous touch featuring Charlyn and friends listening to him endlessly talking about the obscure details of county policies, with Charlyn wondering what she would do with him were he not reelected and devoting himself to the County. At a time when negativity filled the airwaves, his message was a breath of much needed levity as well as depth. I trust that in addition to time with his great family, Commissioner Daugherty will find a hobby in his retirement, but I also know that he will remain engaged in the affairs of our community.

Commissioner Daugherty leaves office with the esteem of colleagues and departments with whom he worked. I thank him for his service to our community and I wish him well in all his future endeavors.

HONORING ELLEN DUNLAP

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2020*

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to rise today in recognition of Ellen Dunlap of West Boylston, Massachusetts, who is stepping down as President of the American Antiquarian Society after 28 extraordinary years in that position.

America's history, Madam Speaker, is our greatest natural resource. It speaks to us across the years and serves as a source of great inspiration and hope for people across this country. It is an acknowledgement of America's triumphs and our imperfections; a reminder of who we are and who we're called to be.

Ellen is the President of the American Antiquarian Society—a remarkable institution in Worcester, Massachusetts founded by Revolutionary War patriot and printer Isaiah Thomas in 1812 and dedicated to preserving our treasured history. The Society serves as an incomparable resource for scholars and historians and a preeminent and comprehensive depository of American history and culture that is unparalleled in size and scope.

As President—the first woman to hold that post, by the way—Ellen has spent her career not only preserving our past, but bringing it to life in a way that truly excites others. Ellen's work and leadership are extraordinary, she has the incredible talent and vision to clarify and animate history so that all of us can better understand and learn from our collective past. She has worked tirelessly to open up the Society's extraordinary archives to a wider audience, including teachers, scholars, artists, and writers. Under her leadership, the Society undertook a massive effort to digitizing their collections. Ellen also spearheaded the construction of a major expansion and renovation of the Society's home at Antiquarian Hall, and has sought to engage the Worcester community in new and exciting ways like free public programs and partnerships with cultural groups.

Ellen has chaired the board of the Worcester Cultural Coalition and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, and she has advised many prestigious institutions such as the Library of Congress and George Washington's Mount Vernon. Ellen's vision and leadership earned the American Antiquarian Society a National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama in 2013.

Madam Speaker, there is so much more I could say about how grateful I am that Ellen has devoted her life to preserving our American story and how lucky we are that the American Antiquarian Society calls Worcester home. But let me end on a personal note to say that Ellen is a treasured friend and a wonderful person, I'm grateful that I've had the privilege of getting to know and work with her, and I know she will continue to give back to our community in the years ahead.

On behalf of the United States Congress, the people of Massachusetts' Second Congressional District, and all the people who will benefit from her incredible work for generations to come, it is my great honor and privilege to recognize Ellen Dunlap and to thank

her for her remarkable service to our community, our commonwealth, and our country.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2020*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I regretably missed a roll call vote as indicated below. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 240.

HONORING NILS BACKSTROM AS  
IOWAN OF THE WEEK**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2020*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing an Iowan who embodies the value of a strong work ethic and the dedication it takes to learn a trade. Earlier this month we celebrated National Apprenticeship Week to highlight the impact and value of apprenticeship programs across the United States. To continue that celebration, I am proud to name Nils Backstrom, a union carpenter in Iowa with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, as our Iowan of the Week for the week of November 20th.

Leaders in the Carpenters Training Program have described Nils as a pillar of what it means to be an active apprentice in their program. He's always the first to volunteer for projects and has been a member of the Apprenticeship Committee since its inception. From the day Nils arrived at training, he has pushed both himself and the instructional team to be the very best at what they do.

The benefits of apprenticeship programs cannot be overstated. They supply Iowa businesses with well-trained employees to get tough jobs done well and on time, and folks like Nils are the backbone of these programs. These professionals are instilled with both the technical skills required of the job and leadership capacity that is so highly sought after. Apprentices complete 7,000 hours of on-the-job training and more than 640 hours of classroom learning.

Supplying a pipeline of highly skilled employees for the future is a critical role apprenticeship programs play in not just Iowa but nationally as well. Ensuring vital industries like information technology, healthcare, building trades, and advanced manufacturing are filled with the right people is crucial for building our future. What's more, the work is rewarding and Iowans in these positions make a good living for their families. The Department of Labor has shown that Registered Apprenticeships have a 94 percent job placement rate at the conclusion of the program—with a highly competitive salary.

The importance of protecting and enhancing our workforce by supporting these apprenticeship programs should be an issue we can all get behind. Nils Backstrom is one of many hundreds of thousands of skilled apprentices

across the nation. His spirit and drive, and that of his colleagues, are needed to build towards a better future for all individuals.

I'm grateful to Nils and his fellow apprentices for their dedication to their trade and their contributions to growing our state. We need more individuals like him to join the trade and fill highly in-demand, skilled positions available right here in Iowa. I ask the House to join me in honoring Nils Backstrom as Iowan of the Week.

SUPPORTING H. RES. 823—CON-  
DEMNING OF IRAN'S STATE-  
SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF  
ITS BAHAI MINORITY**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2020*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I'm elated to announce that earlier this week my colleagues and I were able to unanimously pass H. Res. 823, which condemns Iran's state-sponsored religious persecution of its Baha'i minority. Iran has gone too long depriving its citizens the most fundamental of human rights, and I'm proud that we were able to call out Iran and hold them accountable for their atrocities against their own people.

I firmly believe that it is our duty in Congress to stand up to this tyrannical regime, and I have been committed to that cause since I first came to the House of Representatives. One of my first ever bills in Congress, the Iran Human Rights Act of 2007, focused on improving the respect for fundamental human rights of the people of Iran. It specifically recognized the plight and suffering of the Baha'i minority and that they face significant discrimination, including imprisonment, harassment, and intimidation.

The Iranian state's treatment of the Baha'i people is deplorable, and the fact it is motivated simply because of their faith is wholly unacceptable. Religious freedom is an issue that personally touches me, as I have had family and friends who have been victims of religious persecution. This makes me especially conscious of the incredible importance of ensuring that religious freedom is respected around the globe. Religious freedom is a fundamental human right outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all people deserve a government that will respect their rights.

Our darkest moments as a human race have come during times when those who knew better stood silently, making excuses for passivity and allowing injustice and persecution to reign. While I celebrate the passage of H. Res. 823, I recognize there is more we can do. As Co-Chair of the International Religious Freedom Caucus and member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Executive Committee, I stand with the Baha'i people against the injustices wrought against them by the Iranian government, and I call upon the United States and the international community to continue pressuring Iran to cease the persecution of its religious minorities and its violations of basic human rights. The Baha'i people deserve no less.