

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MRS. ANN KEYES

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a great North Carolinian, public servant, loving wife and a friend to many; Ann Keyes. Mrs. Ann Keyes resides in Plymouth, North Carolina with her husband George Donnell Keyes.

Mrs. Keyes' passion and conviction have led her to serve in North Carolina's Washington County Government for more than 44 years. She currently serves as the Director of Planning and Safety in the Office of Washington County Emergency Management where she oversees the efforts of many local governments to implement comprehensive community plans that prioritize public safety.

Mrs. Keyes's strong commitment to public safety drove her to earn many professional certifications that include: Executive Level Certification in Emergency Management, State Certification for Floodplain Manager, Certification for Community Rating System Coordinator, and Certification for Chronic Diseases and Chronic Pain Self-Management Training Leader.

With the lifetime record of public service, Mrs. Keyes has been recognized for numerous achievements which include: 2003 Washington County Emergency Management Responder of the Year Award, North Carolina State Coordinator's Award for Floodplain Management, Colonel Phillip Nichols Waters Award, North Carolina Division of Emergency Management Regional Coordination Center's Award of Excellence, 97th North Carolina National Guard Civil Affairs Battalion's Outstanding Support Award, Washington County Employee of the Year, and North Carolina Community Emergency Response Team's Green Star Award.

In her nearly half a century of service to North Carolina, I applaud Mrs. Keyes for her years of dedication and commitment to emergency preparedness of our communities in North Carolina. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First District of North Carolina, I express appreciation to Mrs. Ann Keyes for 44 years of committed service to Washington County. I thank for her for her perseverance and willingness to go the extra mile to ensure public safety in North Carolina.

Mrs. Keyes has, without exception, earned the right to be honored. It is my hope that God will continue to bless and keep Mrs. Keyes and her family in the years to come.

HONORING TATE EIVINS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tate Eivins. Tate 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 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tate has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tate 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, Tate has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Tate built a large metal and wood picnic table for a historical site in Clay County, Missouri, and spent 144 hours planning, gathering materials, building, and teaching other scouts how to weld and build the table.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tate Eivins 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 EDWARD ANTHONY VACCARO, SR., PH.D.

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of longtime Concord resident, Edward Anthony Vaccaro, Sr., Ph.D.

Edward Vaccaro was born in Paterson, New Jersey, where he grew up spending time with his family at the Jersey Shore and developing a passion for the arts. Edward attended Fordham University before marrying his wife, Jeanne and starting a family. Ed and Jeanne moved to Concord, California where they raised their children.

Ed became involved in the local business community as the owner of Vaccaro's Florist. Ed went back to school and got his doctorate in 1987. Ed had a passion for the City of Concord and loved being a member of the community. The positivity with which Ed lived his life left an impression on everyone he met.

Edward Vaccaro was a cherished member of Concord and he will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY RICHARD WHITTEN

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Liberty County Sheriff's Deputy Richard Whitten, who succumbed to complications of a gunshot wound sustained on May 29, 2019, while responding to a crisis call in Cleveland, Texas.

On May 29, Deputy Whitten was off-duty and en route to a law enforcement training class, when "shots fired" was dispatched over the radio. Deputy Whitten did not hesitate to put himself in harm's way, he responded instantly, arriving just as the suspect was fleeing the scene after murdering two people at a Cleveland business. After a brief pursuit, Deputy Whitten was shot in the neck by the murder suspect—paralyzing him instantly. The perpetrator subsequently committed suicide.

Following this tragedy, Deputy Whitten remained hospitalized at TIRR Memorial Her-

man, a world-class rehabilitation hospital in the Houston Medical Center. On February 3, 2020, Deputy Whitten suffered a complication while undergoing physical therapy and tragically passed away.

In July 2019, Deputy Whitten, his wife, Kami, and I had a lengthy conversation about his passion for law enforcement as well as his recovery process. He personally told me that he would do it all over again to protect his community. He served with the Liberty County Sheriff's Office for four years and will be greatly missed.

Deputy Whitten selflessly paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of Liberty County. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Deputy Richard Whitten, for his faithful service and devotion to his community. My prayers remain with his family and friends at this time.

CONGRATULATING MISSOURI'S 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S FOOTBALL TEAMS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Webb City football team, who won their 15th State Title in Class 4 last year. "Go Cardinals". I would also like to commend the Carthage football team for winning the Class 5 State Championship and our Joplin High School football team who were runner's up in the Class 6 State Championship. They all performed admirably this season and demonstrated a determination and dedication to their team, school, supporters and communities.

Webb City football has a legacy of excellence and tradition that is evident in their record, which they only improved upon by claiming their fifteenth state title 48-0 against Platte County. The Cardinals, ranked 1st in their Class with a 13-1 record, had a hard road reaching the finals. They faced not only the 2nd best ranked team, but also the 3rd and 4th in the lead up to their championship win. Following their semifinal defeat in 2018 to the eventual champions, Webb City's program worked hard all season and succeeded in accomplishing their goal of "Chasing 15."

Carthage football's Class 5 Championship win was tough fought, including a nail-biting third quarter with an impressive long completion that secured their 27-21 win against second-ranked Jackson Indians. Their Coach, Jon Guidie, said the team "just . . . [wouldn't] die and they just won't quit." This win was the first state title for the 5th ranked Carthage team who finished their season 12-2. The Carthage team has fought back against the difficulties of their season, which is a credit to their determination and grit.

Joplin High School football team, ranked 3rd, lost to the 1st ranked De Smet in the Class 6 Championship game. The game was a hard-fought loss for Joplin High, with the Eagles unfortunately unable to hold a third quarter lead that would have secured a victory. The Eagles ended their season 13-1, having beaten Ft. Zumwalt West and Marquette in the semi-finals and quarterfinals respectively.

All of our great Missouri football teams have persevered through difficult seasons and have

become better players, better members of their communities, and better students in their journey to the State Title. I am honored to recognize their achievements, and I thank each team for making Missouri's 7th District proud.

HONORING CALEB JONES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Caleb Jones. Caleb 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 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Caleb has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Caleb 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, Caleb has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Caleb set up a school supply drive and raised money to rebuild non-working bathrooms at a school in the country of Kosovo, while also installing playground equipment at the school when he visited in 2019.

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

HONORING GEORGE L. ORTIZ

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative JARED HUFFMAN, to remember George L. Ortiz for decades of exceptional public service to Northern California and to honor him for his commitment to our Latino community.

Mr. Ortiz was born in East Los Angeles in 1934 to migrant farmworker parents. From an early age, Mr. Ortiz followed in his parents' footsteps by working in the fields of Southern California. He then served in the U.S. Army in Germany in 1957 and 1958. After his time in the military, he received a track scholarship at Fresno State College, where he became the first member of his family to attend college.

Mr. Ortiz moved to Northern California in the 1960s and became a social worker, first for Sonoma County and then for California Rural Legal Assistance. For nearly 60 years, he was at the forefront of efforts to organize and bring equal opportunity and treatment to Mexican Americans living in the North Bay and beyond. In 1967, Mr. Ortiz co-founded California Human Development, a leading human services organization, and the Latinos Unidos scholarship program.

In 1999, The Press Democrat named George Ortiz as one of 50 people most responsible for shaping Sonoma County through

the 20th Century. In 2017, the North Bay Business Journal bestowed on him the Latino Business Leadership Award. In 2018, Sonoma State University awarded Mr. Ortiz the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters and that same year, the Mexican government presented him one of its highest honors, the Ohtli Award, for his efforts on behalf of Mexican nationals in the United States.

Mr. Ortiz leaves behind a loving and devoted family; his wife Carol and their children, Robert and Diane and two granddaughters.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. Ortiz for his unrelenting commitment to uplift Latinos in Northern California. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor his service and remember the life of George L. Ortiz here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the first vote due to a scheduled district meeting that went longer than expected.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 35 (H.R. 4044—Protect and Restore Americas Estuaries Act).

HONORING JOSHUA KNOWLES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Knowles. Joshua 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 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua 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, Joshua has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Joshua collected materials and sewing hygiene kits for Days for Girls, which distributes the kits to young women in impoverished countries so they can stay in school when they get to the age of menstruation.

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

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Orange

County Business Council (OCBC) on the celebration of its 25th Anniversary.

The Orange County Business Council was established in 1995 to promote business development and strategic resource allocation to improve the lives of all Orange County residents. As the Orange County business community has emerged from the shadow of Los Angeles, OCBC has developed a distinct identity for our perfectly situated region to thrive. OCBC has placed a strategic focus on the future of the economy while working to preserve a high quality of life for residents and workers.

I ask all Members to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work and contributions of the Orange County Business Council and their efforts to enhance Orange County's economic development and prosperity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regretfully missed votes on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. I had intended to vote "yes" on roll call vote 35, "yes" on vote 36, and "yes" on vote 37.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SOPHIE YAZZIE

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sophie Yazzie, Arizona's longest living veteran.

She passed away last weekend at the age of 105.

A member of the Navajo Nation, Sophie was born in Canyon De Chelly, Arizona.

At age 28, she enlisted in the Women's Army Air Corps, and served until she was honorably discharged.

Known for her kindness and compassion, Sophie lived a full life following her service to our country, working at Wingate Boarding School.

She is survived by her four children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Arizona and the Navajo Nation have lost an incredible community member and role model to many.

Pat and I are keeping Sophie's family and friends, and the entire Navajo Nation community in our prayers as we mourn her passing,

HONORING CARTER MCKAY LESKI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

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