

WENEFRETT WATSON'S
CENTENARIAN BIRTHDAY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Wenefrett Watson on her 100th birthday, and honor her decades of service in our East Bay community.

Mrs. Watson was born in Marshall, Texas on October 29, 1921, to Dr. Oliver Wendell Phillips and Mayme Cecelia Adam Phillips. She completed two bachelor's degrees during her undergraduate studies, one in English Literature from Bishop College and one in Library Sciences from the University of Southern California. She worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., where she met her husband, Dr. James A. Watson. The Watsons relocated to Oakland, California in the 1950s, where Mrs. Watson became active in the Oakland public schools.

Mrs. Watson has been an important civic leader in our Oakland community. She was involved in many local organizations, including the Oakland Museum Commission, the Oakland Symphony Board, and the Oakland Anti-Poverty Board. Mrs. Watson's civil involvement is also notable, including her work with the PTA in the Oakland schools, and later with membership of the Oakland Bay Area Links, a volunteer service organization of women committed to ensuring the economic and cultural livelihoods of African Americans. She was also passionate about civil rights, and became active with the NAACP, the Urban League, and eventually ran for City Council.

Mrs. Watson is a trailblazer in the Oakland business community, as a business owner and entrepreneur. She created and managed WenTravel and Cruise travel agency in the 1980s, holding contracts with the City of Oakland, County of Alameda, and the State of California. Mrs. Watson's work was exceptionally impactful as she offered young African American business owners' opportunities to follow in her footsteps. When she retired, she sought inspired and passionate young African American entrepreneurs who would carry on her business and her work in our Oakland community. Mrs. Watson remained active after retirement, inspiring other community leaders through her work in helping to start the Black Film Makers Hall of Fame. In 1997, she was honored by the Black Business Listings for her outreach and leadership.

Today, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I commend Mrs. Wenefrett Watson for her lifelong work as a leader, activist, and entrepreneur, and warmly wish her a happy 100th birthday.

EASTERSEALS WORK CENTER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness." These words are not to be taken lightly, and they are certainly not exclusive to one class. That is the beauty of our nation—that all individuals

are afforded the opportunity to better themselves and their place in society. Easterseals is an organization that adheres to that principle: independence. Easterseals, for generations, has given the most vulnerable and overlooked community a chance at independence through employment. The Easterseals organization has been an advocate for those with disabilities. It offers them the opportunity for success in areas of employment and in education. In a similar vein, Easterseals continues helping those individuals and families dealing with disabilities, helping them secure the same independence and freedom to pursue "Life, liberty and Happiness." God Bless, Easterseals, and all those who participate in the program, and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING HOSPITAL CORPSMAN THIRD CLASS RAYMOND RICHARDSON, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the timehonored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Raymond Richardson of McKinney, Texas.

In 1965, at the age of 17, Raymond Richardson joined the United States Navy where he was assigned to a Medivac Unit for the 1st Marine Air Wing in DaNang.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Raymond Richardson was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal for his service.

In his civilian life, Mr. Richardson has been staunch advocate for our veterans within our community. During his tenure as McKinney VFW Commander, Raymond led several unique service initiatives benefiting both veterans and the citizens of Collin County. Impressively, he completed over 130 community service projects including raising relief for veterans healthcare and arranging hotel accommodations for stranded veterans. One special initiative includes his annual organization of a Christmas Party for the children of the Samaritan Inn where families are invited to the VFW to share a meal with Santa and Mrs. Clause prior to receiving gifts. Mr. Richardson also spearheads efforts to prepare and distribute care packages for military members overseas and local veterans in need in conjunction with the students of McKinney Christian Academy.

As a longtime and valued member of the VFW National Legislative Committee, Mr.

Richardson has advocated on a variety of veterans issues. He has served in a multitude of roles within the VFW earning numerous accolades including the Recruiter Award, Early Bird Award, the Kansas City Spree Award, and Past State Commanders Leadership Award.

Richardson is the proud father to three daughters and grandfather to eight. We commend him for his tireless efforts on behalf of our veterans and the citizens of Collin County.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Corpsman Richardson for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

KATHY PLOMER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathy Plomer, an Adams 12 Board of Education member on years of service to the Adams 12 School District.

Kathy has been a Board Member of Adams 12 since 2013, and during her tenure, she served as Board President. She has a 16-year history of volunteerism and service to the in Adams 12 community. She was a classroom volunteer, PTO President, School Improvement Team member at four schools, District School Improvement Team leader, and a founding member of the Adams 12 Community Action Network (Adams 12 CAN).

Kathy's dedication to the Adams 12 community follows a history of service to her community. She has a Master's in Public Health from the University of Michigan and has worked in the field of public health for more than 25 years. She worked for Tri-County Health Department and runs her own consulting company. In addition to her service to the community, she is a loving wife and devoted parent to three children.

I wish Kathy Plomer all the best in her future endeavors, and I extend my gratitude for her service to the Adams 12 community and the great State of Colorado.

MARK FAVERZANI—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last month, I had the pleasure of presenting Mark Faverzani his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Mark is a recent graduate of St Augustine Prep, and is now attending Villanova University. This past year, Mark earned the Congressional Gold Award for his distinguished achievements and contributions to the South Jersey community. Mark's Eagle project consisted of creating an outdoor rehearsal space for the Ocean City Theatre Company during the Covid-19 Pandemic, allowing them to have rehearsals and activities outdoors.

This young man should be proud of his accomplishments and it was my honor to have

the opportunity to recognize him for his service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Mark and God Bless America.

REMEMBERING HERMAN ZERGER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Herman “Zerg” Zerger, Jr., of Woodsfield, Ohio. Herman Zerger passed away on Friday, October 22, 2021 at the Arbors of Woodsfield, Ohio.

He was born at Woodsfield, Ohio on January 5, 1924, a son of the late Herman and Sylvia Mowder Zerger. Herman was a 1942 graduate of Woodsfield High School, Woodsfield, Ohio and was also a retired owner and operator of Zerger’s Quarry for over 50 years. He served 10 years as a Special Duty Sheriff in Monroe County and was elected five consecutive terms as Center Township Trustee. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Woodsfield, Ohio. During WWII in 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a Platoon Sergeant with Rifle Co. I-141st Infantry, 36th Infantry Division. He fought 300 days on the front line in 31 battles in both Italy and France. He cast his first vote (for Franklin Delano Roosevelt) from a foxhole facing the Germans before being taken as a prisoner on February 3, 1945 by the SS troops.

He was one of the founding charter members of the V.F.W. Post 5303, Woodsfield, Ohio where he served as a trustee for 40 years and the 40 & 8 Grand Voiture of Ohio No. 363 where he served as Chaplain. He is a life member in Ohio Chapter No. 1 American Ex-Prisoner of War; Life Member of American Legion Post No. 87, Woodsfield, Ohio; former member of the Monroe County Democratic Central and Executive Committee where he served as the Monroe County Democratic Chairman for 45 years, being the longest serving county chair in Ohio; life-long Trustee of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 8; charter member of the 141st Infantry Regiment 36th Division; life member of Veterans Battle of the Bulge, Buckeye Ohio Chapter No. 1; life member of the Combat Infantryman’s Association; Ohio Combat Infantryman’s Association; Akron Chapter C.I.B.; life member of the Texas 36th Infantryman’s Association; life member of Midwest Chapter 36th Division Association 141st Regiment Co. I; American Order of the French Croix de Guerre, Inc.; 5th Army Association; life member of American Ex-Prisoners of War No. 9114; life member of the Ohio Chapter No. 1 American Ex-Prisoners of War; charter member and former vice commander of Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter 15 Ex-Prisoners of War; charter member Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter No. 743 of the Purple Heart; recipient of the Bronze Star for action at Riquewihir, France; Diploma from the French Government National Association of the Cross of War, T.O.E. and Military Valor-Paris Citation ordered by the Army; and the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Doris Williams and Ruth Roth; a stepson, Gary Russell and a step-daughter, Chris Russell Schenerlein.

Surviving are his companion, Clair Thompson of Stafford, Ohio; a niece, Dee (Mike)

Vargo of Woodsfield, Ohio; a nephew, Stephen (Erlene) Williams of Chickasha, Oklahoma; a step-daughter, Connie (Hank) Kaufman of Johnstown, Ohio; a great-niece, Alexis Vargo; three great-nephews, Christian Vargo, Brian Williams and Jeff Williams; a special cousin, Rick (Kitty) Zerger of Caldwell, Ohio; several step-grandchildren; special friends including, Joe (Robin) Bishop of Woodsfield, Ohio, John Marshall of Columbus, Ohio and Mark (Lorie) Easton of South Carolina.

I was blessed to have the friendship of an icon of military service and the state Democratic Party. I pray for peace for his family during this troubling time.

HONORING 2021 CALIFORNIA
TEACHER OF THE YEAR JIM
KLIPFEL

HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor California’s 2021 Representative for Teacher of the Year, Mr. Jim Klipfel. A U.S. History teacher and Athletics coach from my alma mater of Saugus High School, Mr. Klipfel is the embodiment of academic passion, humility, and service to others. While his family, friends, and students would be the first to say that Mr. Klipfel is not one to embrace the spotlight, there is not a shadow of a doubt as to whether he truly deserves the honorific title of “Teacher of the Year”.

At Saugus High School, Mr. Klipfel has served as an athletic and academic mentor to generations of students, going above and beyond what is normally expected of an educator to impart the leaders of tomorrow with invaluable lessons and qualities to help them succeed and make the world a better place. He has always challenged students to think for themselves, reject the status quo, and “pull back the curtain” to expose the faults of existing systems in the hopes of improving them. He has poured his heart and soul into his profession and the success of those whose education he has been entrusted with. It is not a responsibility that he takes lightly. His friends, colleagues, and most of all his students bear witness every day to how much Mr. Klipfel gives of himself to ensure the success of his students. He does so with unbridled intelligence, kindness, and above all else, passion.

Recognizing the unique challenges that American high schoolers face today, Mr. Klipfel has prioritized students’ well-being and mental health while also pushing them to go beyond their comfort zone and realize their full potential. He achieves this by putting in the work to make himself available to any student who needs help and by walking them through mistakes in order to learn from them. He routinely holds after-hours study sessions to help students better prepare for tests, and never shies from lending a helping hand to those who may be in difficult situations outside the classroom. He always strives to teach his students lessons that will help them beyond academics, such as the value of charity, making the best out of difficult situations, and the importance of civic engagement.

In the face of numerous challenges over the past two years, Mr. Klipfel has proven to be a

resilient figure in the CA-25 community. After a school shooting in November of 2019, he helped his school rebuild and become stronger in the aftermath of tragedy. As the world transitioned to online learning and Zoom classes, Mr. Klipfel worked to keep students engaged and active in the classroom to ensure their continued academic success despite the odds facing them.

I am proud that such an exemplary teacher was selected to represent California’s 25th District and California at large on the national stage and honored for his service and accomplishments. Mr. Klipfel no doubt represents the best of what teachers can be, and the promise of the future when we invest ourselves into helping young people realize their full potential inside and outside of the classroom. California’s 25th district, our state, and our country are grateful for all Mr. Klipfel has given our community as he continues to inspire and educate the leaders of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN BLANK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Steve Blank, an entrepreneur who has inspired thousands of innovators to solve some of the world’s most pressing problems.

Steve Blank was born in New York City to immigrant parents and attended the University of Michigan for one semester. He then served his country for four years in the U.S. Air Force, repairing fighter planes in Thailand.

Steve Blank was fortunate to return to Silicon Valley in the exciting 1970s. He worked for 21 years in high tech, and founded many companies, including Zilog, MIPS Computers, Convergent Technologies, E.piphany (now Epiphany) and retired in 1999. In the mid-1990s, he created the Customer Development model that focused on distinguishing between companies that execute business models as opposed to startups that search for them, thus launching the LeanStartup movement.

In 2011, Mr. Blank created the LeanLaunchPad experiential entrepreneurship class at Stanford University, Columbia Business School, and UC Berkeley. The LeanLaunchPad changed the way entrepreneurship is taught by giving students hands-on experience in what it takes to start a company instead of having them write business plans. Also in 2011, the National Science Foundation adopted Mr. Blank’s LeanLaunchPad curriculum for its Innovation Corps (I-Corps), in order to help the nation’s leading scientists and engineers learn how to take their tech ideas from the lab to the marketplace. The NSF I-Corps is now the standard for how scientific research is commercialized in the U.S. It has been adopted by other federal research agencies (including NIH, DOE, HHS, and NSA), and has trained 1,900 teams, and launched over 1,000 startups.

In 2016, Mr. Blank, Joe Felter, and Pete Newell created Hacking for Defense (H4D) at Stanford University—the first in a series of mission-driven entrepreneurship courses to provide a new platform for national service and change the way critical national security problems are solved. H4D is supported by