

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TULSA'S LITTLE LIGHT HOUSE

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor a very special anniversary in my community.

In 1972, frustrated and overwhelmed by the lack of early childhood care options for their visually impaired daughters, Marcia Mitchell and Sheryl Poole decided to take a leap of faith and founded the Little Light House. In the 50 years since, their organization has proved invaluable to countless families in the Tulsa area.

Their mission is simple: serving the whole family by offering free, unparalleled services to help every child reach their unlimited potential by providing tools to assist them in communicating, walking, and learning, all while serving and glorifying God.

The Little Light House has grown into a major operation, currently serving 116 families in their Developmental Center and 126 families in their Early Intervention Program. In 2006, they opened their first affiliate location in Jackson, Mississippi, and continue to expand the reach of their community impact to this day.

Marcia & Sheryl's mission still burns brightly at the heart of the Little Light House today.

I'm honored to recognize them as they celebrate this milestone. Happy 50th Anniversary, Little Light House.

RECOGNIZING TEMPE SISTER CITIES ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Tempe Sister Cities on its 50th anniversary. For five decades, this organization has empowered students and teachers through diplomacy, cultural awareness, and education. It has enriched the lives of hundreds of local families who have hosted international exchange partners.

Tempe Sister Cities serves as an enduring bridge that connects our people to 11 cities and countries throughout the world, including nine communities where high school students participate in exchanges with fellow students. Many of these exchanges create lasting lifelong friendships that transcend borders and transform how people in our community see and connect to the world.

It is no secret that Tempe Sister Cities is one of the leading sister cities organizations in the world—distinguished by an unyielding commitment to make sure that each generation of Tempe students can learn and grow. So many lives have also been improved through its humanitarian programs, which range from medical support for individuals with disabilities to empowering women and children through resources that elevate their status.

I want to recognize and thank every person who has dedicated their time and talents to

make Tempe Sister Cities the tremendous change-maker that it is today. I join our community in celebration of 50 incredible years and wishes for many more.

HONORING RENEE LUCILLE SMOLEY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life of my dear friend Renee Lucille Smoley.

Renee Smoley grew up in Long Island, New York, graduating from Hunter College in 1943. Renee and her husband, Dr. Melvin Smoley, moved to my hometown of Weston, Florida in 1989 where Renee became the longtime President of the Tequesta Homeowners Association.

The City of Weston soon became Renee's love and passion. She chaired the Peace Mound Park Committee to restore the archeological and historical significance to the city. She served on the Committee for Weston's 4th of July parade, and in 1996, Renee was tapped to serve as the co-chair of the Steering Committee to determine the feasibility of Weston incorporating and becoming its own city. For her contributions to the city, Renee was fondly referred as the Mother of Weston. She served on the Board of the Weston Music Society, was a charter member of AAUW Weston and Chair of AW Foundation and was inducted to the Broward County Senior Hall of Fame.

Of all her accomplishments in Weston Renee was most proud of her assistance to 27 Kosovo refugees in 1999. She enlisted the help of Weston residents and businesses to provide them with housing and utilities for two years.

Renee may have been tiny, but her broad shoulders carried me throughout my career in public service. I am grateful to Renee for her encouragement, wisdom, and love. She was not just the Mother of Weston but a mother to many in so many ways.

My heart is with her family in mourning the loss of this kind, generous, and compassionate soul.

We were forever privileged to have shared this time with Renee. May her memory be a blessing.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FORMER INDIANA CONGRESSMAN MARK SOUDER

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, Mark Souder, 72, went to be with the Lord on Monday, September 26, 2022. He was born July 18, 1950 in Fort Wayne, Ind. to Edward and Irma (Fahling) Souder. Mark grew up in Grabill, the area where his great-great-grandfather settled in 1848. He graduated from Leo HS (1968), Indiana University at Fort Wayne (1972), and

the Graduate School of Business at Notre Dame (1974). He also received honorary doctorates from Tri-State University, the Indiana Institute of Technology and the University of St. Francis. Mark married Diane Zimmer of South Bend at the Bremen Apostolic Christian Church on July 28, 1974. Their first home was in Edina, Minn. where Mark had taken a job as the marketing manager for Gabberts Furniture. In 1976, he returned to his family business. Upon his return he was recruited by Dan Quayle and played a key role in his upset victory for Congress that year. In 1980, he assisted Dan Coats in succeeding Quayle in Congress. After Mark's father died in 1981 and the furniture store closed in 1983, the Souder family moved to Washington D.C. for him to serve as the Republican Staff Director on the House Committee on Children, Youth and Families. In 1988, Souder switched to the Senate with Coats, serving as his legislative director until mid-1993 when he moved back to Indiana. Souder was hired by Thom Blake as Vice-President of Manufacturing of Our Country Home of Grabill. Emmanuel Community Church has been their family church since 1993. In the fall of 1994, Souder was elected to Congress. He was elected to seven more terms, becoming the second-longest serving congressman in history representing the Fort Wayne region. Souder focused heavily on fighting for the core industrial jobs of the region as well as local interests such as saving the Veteran's Hospital and the Air Base. He served on three committees and seven subcommittees each term. He was the point person in the House on illegal narcotics, and co-founded the bi-partisan National Parks Caucus. A major accomplishment was introducing and passing the National Lighthouse Preservation Program, which had the National Park Service manage the transfer of hundreds of lighthouses from the Coast Guard to non-profit organizations to preserve access to the public. After Congress, he wrote regularly for *Howey Politics Indiana*, as well as in national books and publications on baseball and politics. His last book project was co-authoring *Television in Fort Wayne, 1953–2018*. Mark was passionate about his Lord, family, and country. He was a voracious reader of the Bible, history, politics, and sports. He adored his grandchildren and spent countless hours sharing experiences with them while teaching valuable life lessons. For being such a strong and courageous leader, he had a very kind and generous heart. When he crossed the state line, every time he would sing the song, "Back Home Again in Indiana". Souder is survived by his wife and best friend of 48 years, Diane; and children, Brooke (Jeff) Lyons of Fort Wayne, Nathan (Sarah) Souder of Grand Junction, Colo., and Zach Souder of Albuquerque, N.M.; as well as grandchildren, Grant Lyons, Reagan Lyons, Elias Souder and Ethan Souder.

RECOGNITION OF KOSTAS BAKOYANNIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mayor

Kostas Bakoyannis for his long career of public service to the citizens of the Hellenic Republic, notably, as the current Mayor of Athens. He previously served as the Governor of Central Greece, worked at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and held positions in the European Parliament in Brussels and the World Bank in Kosovo. He has served as the vice president of the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government. In his 2019 mayoral campaign, he visited 129 neighborhoods across Athens to become the capital's youngest mayor with the widest margin of victory ever. His commitment to his constituents is inspiring.

Born in Athens on 16 March 1978 to New Democracy politicians Dora, who was the first woman to serve as Mayor of Athens, and Pavlas Bakoyannis. He studied history and international relations at Brown University, graduated from Harvard University with a Master of Public Administration, and received his Ph.D. from St Antony's College, Oxford focusing on disruptions, identity politics, and foreign policy in post-Cold War Greece.

His love for his hometown of Karpenis inspired him to run for local office. His deep empathy aided him in the first mayoral election, winning overwhelmingly. He served as the mayor of his hometown for three years. His positive impact on Karpenis were critical to his subsequent elections as regional governor and Mayor of Athens. His dedication to his citizens continues to this day in solving the pressing issues facing Athenians.

As Mayor of Athens, the first thing he did early in the morning was go where the sanitation workers gathered and started their rounds to show the importance and the value they have on the community. As he described it, "Being in local government means having to work from the bottom up. At the end of the day, it's about solving the problem, not talking about or to the problem."

Mayor Bakoyannis is striving to make Athens greener and more sustainable by closing parts of city centers for cars to reclaim public spaces, creating more parks for the residents. In doing this, he is also protecting the archaeological sites of Athens, which makes up some of the richest cultural heritage of the Greek people and indeed humanity. To reduce emissions in the city, he initiated a project to narrow the car lanes in one of the largest avenues. He is dedicated to protecting Athenians from extreme heat and addressing the causes of climate change.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Kostas Bakoyannis for his dedication and service to the great people and especially the residents of Athens.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GLORIA "GLO" DONNELLY

HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and contributions of Gloria "Glo" Donnelly. Alongside her husband, Art, Glo was instrumental in the founding of the City of Santa Clarita in the 1980s. After a lifetime of activism and community involvement, Glo passed away this sum-

mer, but we continue to honor her legacy as one of Santa Clarita's founders.

A long-time resident of Santa Clarita before it was incorporated as a city, and a prominent Valencia realtor, Glo Donnelly played a crucial role in the formation of a city now home to more than 200,000 people. When the area that would become Santa Clarita grew from a farming community to a burgeoning suburb in the second half of the 20th century, Gloria was a leading voice among many like-minded community members who advocated for self-governance. Her and her husband Art, as co-chairs of the Santa Clarita Formation Committee, worked hard to win support for the formation of the city by spreading awareness and raising funds to make the dream of Santa Clarita come true. When Santa Clarita won cityhood and the first city council was elected, Glo and Art worked hand-in-hand with the newly elected city leaders to ensure that Santa Clarita got off to a smooth start.

Glo's community leadership and involvement did not end with Santa Clarita's incorporation as a city. She was also the spokeswoman for the Santa Clarita Valley Association of Realtors, as well as the Chair of the Whittaker-Bermite Citizens Advisory Group. In both roles she prioritized giving community members a voice and always put the interests of Santa Clarita first. In her retirement from real estate, she remained active in Santa Clarita civics and the charitable community.

Glo leaves behind a monumental legacy, and in many ways every single resident of Santa Clarita owes her a debt of gratitude for her tireless work to make Santa Clarita what it is today. We will continue to honor her service as one of Santa Clarita's founders, and we offer our condolences to her loved ones.

RECOGNIZING THE I'M JUST ME MOVEMENT'S MONTH OF OCTOBER AS I'M JUST ME BECAUSE MONTH

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the I'm Just Me Movement's month of October as, I'm Just Me Because Month.

Councilwoman Tina Stevens of Stephens City, Virginia began the I'm Just Me Movement in 2013 to assist and support a college opportunity for a young man whose family was going through hard times. This movement impacted their family and their community in unexpected ways. As their outreach of inclusion grew, the movement became a nation-wide non-profit organization in 2015, with a mission of spreading positive acceptance of others and breaking down stereotypes. The organization works to encourage a celebration of the rich scopes of diversity contained within each individual through acceptance and respect for one another.

As the I'm Just Me Movement expanded its efforts to spread understanding of others and healing, the organization began an initiative known as Live Life Forward with a goal of breaking down stereotypes.

Through the Live life forward initiative and related workshops, mentoring programs, and

presentations at schools and businesses, the I'm Just Me Movement speaks out to advocate for inclusion and diversity and to raise awareness about bullying and self-esteem issues in order to positively impact youth, families, and communities to guide, teach, train, and mentor them for a better future.

The movement works to remind everyone that the concept of diversity encompasses civility, acceptance, mutual respect, and understanding that each individual is unique.

Throughout the month of October, the I'm Just Me Because movement is focusing on promoting individual development, creating environments that break down stereotypes, and embracing individuality by recognizing the diversity around us and moving beyond simple tolerance to celebrating all of humanity.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the contributions of Ms. Tina Stevens and the I'm Just Me Movement has made in our community and the Nation.

CONGRATULATING RON HERRERA ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM TEAMSTERS LOCAL 396

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank Ron Herrera on his retirement earlier this summer from Teamsters Local 396 following nearly two decades leading his local union.

Ron Herrera grew up in a working-class neighborhood in Wilmington, CA as part of a proud union family. For generations, the Herrera family has fought to improve the lives of workers. Ron's grandfather was a veteran of the copper mines of Arizona, fighting the kinds of abuses and discrimination portrayed in the classic strike film *Salt of the Earth*. His father was a committed union man who worked the Ports of Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Oakland as a member of the Longshoremen's Union. He instilled in Ron a profound respect for worker rights, social justice, and the invaluable role the labor movement plays in advancing the interests of working people. Ron Herrera began his own union career in 1975 as a package car driver for United Parcel Service. At the time, he was one of a handful of Latino drivers employed by UPS. He first distinguished himself as a leader in the labor movement during the 1997 UPS Teamsters strike—the largest strike in U.S. history.

Teamsters champion freight drivers and warehouse workers but organize for numerous occupations. Teamsters Local 396 represents UPS and Sanitation workers in Southern California. The local union also serves members in other industries such as logistics, recycling, and feed delivery services. During his 24 years as a rank-and-file Teamster member, Ron Herrera represented his fellow members as a United Parcel Service Shop Steward. In 2000, he was hired as Business Representative for Teamsters Local 396 and in 2001 he became the President of his local union. In 2003, he was elected to the Local 396 Principal Officer position.

Ron Herrera has led many successful organizing campaigns and helped pass