

HONORING THE LIFE OF GERI
LANGLOIS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 21, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a beloved Northeastern Connecticut public servant, Mr. Geri Langlois of Windham, Connecticut. Geri Langlois sadly passed at the all too young age of 68 on Sunday, September 18, 2022, after a valiant battle with myelodysplastic syndrome. Mr. Langlois was a leader who was instrumental in executing successful development projects in eastern Connecticut which will have a lasting legacy on the lives of residents throughout the region.

Born on April 16, 1954, in Putnam, Connecticut to Carol and Edrose Langlois, Geri grew up with his family only a few towns south of Windham in Canterbury. Geri graduated from Windham High School and continued to practice his devotion to learning at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Geri was a true jack of all trades, including, for example, the additional education he gained from MIT where he studied computer sciences, as well as his numerous other passions, from gardening to crafting custom guitars.

Upon his graduation from university, Geri's lifelong arc began to bend to its true form: public service. In applying his unique ability to master any new skill or challenge before him, Geri first started out as an organizer for the Connecticut Citizen Action Group, committing himself toward the mission of creating a just and sustainable Connecticut. Given his natural success at community organizing, Geri then ran for and was elected to the position of First Selectman of the Town of Thompson, yet another community in the northern reaches of the Second District of Connecticut. Among his countless skills, Geri was clearly most adept as an advocate for others, and his neighbors ultimately promoted him to the elected office of State Representative of the 51st District. Madam Speaker, I had the pleasure of serving in the Connecticut General Assembly in the 1980s and early 1990s as a colleague of Geri, and had a front row seat to watch him in action. I witnessed his intelligent, principled advocacy for the people of the 51st District which was highly successful. State Representative Langlois specifically facilitated many key economic development projects including the revitalization of Windham Mills, an iconic site in the Town of Windham as well as the enactment of a prescription drug plan for Connecticut seniors in 1987 which predated the U.S. Congress passage of Medicare Part D by 14 years. Geri was a great friend and an ally on many issues during our time together and his honorable service will be remembered for all time.

Geri Langlois' charisma extended far past the state officials he routinely worked with and came to be known as a "fighter of the people." After his terms as State Representative and First Selectman, Geri remained a stalwart champion of economic development through his tenure as Executive Director at the Northeast Connecticut Economic Alliance and President of the Windham Mills Development Corporation. At the Northeast Connecticut Economic Alliance, he helped struggling small

businesses obtain funding when they were locked out of obtaining funds from traditional lending sources, spurring economic activity throughout all of Windham County. As a member of the Windham Zoning Board of Appeals, he remained an active participant in community-based discussions, oriented toward economic development, through to his final days.

Geri's most defining trait was his love for his family. Despite Geri leading an immensely busy life and career, he always made certain to prioritize his wife of 27 years, Sherry, children, and grandchildren. In fact, the bond between Sherry and Geri was so well tuned that they even co-founded a business together, Rapid Framework, which was missioned toward supporting other businesses through website development services.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents as devoted to the prosperity of their community as Geri Langlois. Geri's storied career of public service is a shining beacon that has reflected onto countless others to inspire good citizenship. I am honored to have gained the opportunity to work with such a remarkable individual on behalf of eastern Connecticut. His memory will live on in the hearts of his family and throughout the communities and businesses which he helped grow. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Geri's life, so that his distinct work in service to the region may never be forgotten.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
KEITH SWARTZENTRUBER

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 21, 2022

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Keith Swartzentruber, the executive director of Snyder Village, who is retiring after 34 wonderful years of service across Central Illinois.

Keith Swartzentruber joined the staff as an administrator of Snyder Village when it opened its doors in 1988 and has held the position of executive director at Snyder Village for the last 17 years. Under his leadership, Snyder Village has grown from a modest organization offering a health center and six independent living cottages to the full-life plan community that it is today. Currently, over 400 residents call Snyder Village home, and roughly 240 staff members make up the Snyder Village team. Spanning over 48 acres, Snyder Village now encompasses a skilled nursing health center, assisted living, home care services, inpatient and outpatient therapy, and a retirement community with 40 apartments and 170 cottages.

As a true servant leader, Keith encourages and supports staff to embody the Snyder Village mission statement: to provide for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others in a loving, dignified, and Christian atmosphere. Keith exemplifies the high level of care and service which has made Snyder Village the remarkable place it is. He can often be found visiting with residents and staff members, ensuring they feel valued and cared for. His leadership and service have been recognized by his peers and the community through several awards, including the Life Services Network Leadership Recognition Award.

Our community has been fortunate to benefit from the service and leadership of Keith Swartzentruber. I extend my sincere congratulations to Keith on his 34 years of service at Snyder Village. I wish him much success as he continues to lead a life of service to the Metamora community and central Illinois.

HONORING THE WORK OF DR.
ROBERT FICKLIN

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 21, 2022

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Robert Ficklin, forestry professor at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, for receiving the Society of American Foresters (SAF) Fellows Award. The SAF Fellows Award is the highest recognition in the forestry profession. It is a testament to Dr. Ficklin's lifetime of service to the industry and the Society of American Foresters in particular. Dr. Ficklin is only the third forestry professor in the history of UAM to receive this esteemed honor.

Dr. Ficklin has made extraordinary contributions to the forestry industry at a local, state, and national level. His service and leadership over the last twenty years at UAM has left a lasting impact on his students. His former students now hold professional forestry and environmental management positions in state and federal agencies, as well as various academic positions. Dr. Ficklin was recognized for his impact in the UAM forestry program by being the first forestry faculty member to become a finalist in the Hornaday Outstanding Faculty Award.

In addition to his impact on students, Dr. Ficklin has been instrumental in research and innovation. His research on forest soils in the Ozark uplands, the Western Gulf Coastal Plain, and the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley have been presented nationally. His research has resulted in numerous publications, papers, reports, abstracts, and presentations that will be used for many years.

I am proud to recognize Dr. Ficklin today for his many accomplishments and to thank him for his commitment, dedication, and service to the forestry industry. Dr. Ficklin's contributions to the forestry sector will be felt for years to come. Arkansas is the gold standard when it comes to forestry, and that is in large part due to forestry leaders like Dr. Robert Ficklin.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL P.
STACHEL AND DAVID WINDHOLZ
FROM DOYLESTOWN, PA

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 21, 2022

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two outstanding constituents from my district, Michael P. Stachel and David Windholz. Since the 1960s, these gentlemen have given their time and financial resources to organize fishing derby events for children, disabled individuals, and seniors throughout our community. They sponsor and

run these events at no cost to any of the attendees. The families, children, and the seniors from the local nursing homes and the Veterans home in my district gather to spend the day fishing from a well stocked local pond.

They enjoy free food and refreshments; they are furnished with complimentary fishing gear so they can enjoy a day outdoors with their friends and families. Mike Stachel and David Windholz ask nothing for themselves and provide a joyous and wholesome experience that creates memories that last forever. They have been doing this selflessly for over four decades.

We commend them for their community spirit and their commitment to the families, the children, the disabled, and the seniors of my district. We are proud to salute their efforts to continue to provide these wonderful events for so many generations of my district's residents.

IN RECOGNITION OF THEATRE
WEST'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 21, 2022

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Theatre West in Los Angeles, California, upon its sixtieth anniversary.

Theatre West, a non-profit arts organization, is one of the oldest continually running theater companies in Los Angeles. Since its establishment in 1962 with a small group of actors, it has grown to include over one-hundred-sixty-five actors, producers, stage managers, directors and writers. With its mission to entertain, enlighten and educate, Theatre West has given artists the opportunity to develop their talents and skills by providing public performances and workshops, and to serve the community with their educational programs. Through these programs, the theater provides quality performances for younger audiences and presents upbeat and inspiring programs that meet California Visual and Performing Arts standards. The theater also hosts benefits for local schools and organizations, including Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. In addition, Storybook Theatre, a children's interactive theatrical experience, has been an integral part of Theatre West for nearly four decades.

Throughout the past sixty years, some of Theatre West's plays have transferred to Broadway: *Anthology*, *Spoon River* and *Aesop* in Central Park. Theatre West's productions have toured throughout the United States in Atlanta, New York City, San Francisco and Seattle, and also overseas in Dublin, Ireland and Edinburgh, Scotland.

Theatre West has been home to many of Hollywood's most creative artists, including Lee Meriwether, Richard Dreyfuss, Betty Garrett, Bridget Hanley, Beau Bridges, Harold Gould, Martin Landau, Carroll O'Connor and Philip Abbott.

Theatre West is a recipient of numerous prestigious honors such as the Obie Award, Tony Award, Valley Theatre Award, nine Los Angeles Drama Critics Awards, Ovation Award nominations, seven NAACP Image Awards and over one-hundred-thirty Drama-Logue Awards. The theater has also been recognized locally by the Hollywood Arts Council, and

internationally at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland.

It is my pleasure to recognize Theatre West for six decades of outstanding theater and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Theatre West upon its sixtieth anniversary.

HONORING DEZIE WOODS-JONES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 21, 2022

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Ms. Dezie Woods-Jones on her 2022, "Spirit of Faithful Leadership" Fannie Lou Hamer Award. She is a Trail Blazer in the Central Valley and works selflessly to help others.

Dezie was born in Ruston, Louisiana and later moved to California. She was raised in Fresno and Oakland. At California State University, Hayward, Dezie earned her Bachelor of Arts degree. In her early years, Dezie was involved in groups such as the Black Conference Planning Committee and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to name a few. In 1968, Dezie worked at the Peralta Community College district until 2002. She held many positions and retired as Assistant Chancellor of External Affairs.

In 1991, Dezie served on the Oakland City Council, then as City Vice Mayor, and later became the first woman to run for Mayor for Oakland. Her influence in the community did not go unnoticed. Many well-known Civil Rights leaders acknowledged her leadership abilities. She has worked along side people such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Julian Bond, United States Representatives such as Maxine Waters, Dianne Watson, and Barbara Lee.

Former Governor Jerry Brown appointed Dezie to the California Commission on Crime Control & Violence Prevention, and Former Governor Gray Davis appointed her as a member of the California Postsecondary Education. She was a member of many organizations such as the Oakland Education Cabinet, and Executive Committee of East Bay Regional Board of Directors for the American Heart Association. Dezie's voice was heard on Bay Area radio and television, podcasts, South Korea, South America, West Africa, and Mexico.

One of her accomplishments in life has been her stance on advocacy in the community. Dezie is the founding member of Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA). For over 50 years, she has held her position as president in the state of California. This is the oldest organization in California and her leadership helps many. Dezie is also the president and CEO of DWJ & Associates consulting firm. They specialize in public affairs, leadership training, civic engagement, event planning, and governmental relations. Her firm has helped many organizations such as the National Black Caucus Foundation, Ramsay Group, Fresno Unified School District, and more.

The love of her life, Reverend Carl Jones who pastors the St. Paul Pixley AME Church has been by her side. They raised a beautiful son, Robert, who recently went home to Heaven, and have two grandchildren that they love and adore. The contributions and leadership

Dezie carries has reached many people all throughout her life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dezie Woods-Jones. The passion and love she has to stand up for others is evident from student sit-ins to national marches for the struggle for social justice and roles in leadership. May her joy to help others continue to impact more lives, and her story be a role model to many.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT
ASHTON CARUTHERS, JR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 21, 2022

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Robert Ashton Caruthers, Jr. in honor of his 60th birthday on November 3, 2022, and his service for the Bowling Green Fire Department.

Robert, or Robby, is a native of Hanover County, Virginia, but has lived in Caroline County, Virginia, since 2000.

Robby is a dedicated husband and father. He and his wife, Dr. Ada Caruthers, have two children, Katie and Ashton. He is a beloved member of his family and community, and they are grateful for his unwavering contributions and selfless service.

Robby is a diligent farmer who is the second largest sweet corn producer in Virginia. He farms 1,100 acres of grain and 400 acres of vegetables. He is on the Board of Directors for the Virginia Farm Bureau and the Agricultural Advisory Board for the Caroline County Agricultural Fair. And he donates to the Virginia State Fair and advocates for "Farm Use" license plates and non-insurable crops policies.

Robby is a leader of his community. He is an honorary member of the Bowling Green Fire Department because he helps raise \$60,000 annually for the department through the Sportsman's Dinner Auction. He avidly supports the Future Farmers of America and the Caroline County Little League. He helped start some food banks in Caroline County, and donated produce to local churches. He helped write the Virginia Bottle Bill to reduce litter on Virginia's roads, and he volunteers to clear snow off the roads during the winter.

Robby is also passionate about preserving local history. He is a lifelong contributor to the Port Royal Historical Society and is a Hanover Tavern Foundation Sponsor. Furthermore, he maintains two historic properties in Caroline County.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments and 60th birthday of Mr. Robert Ashton Caruthers, Jr. A U.S. flag has been flown over the U.S. Capitol in his honor. May God bless him and his family.

RECOGNIZING URBAN UPBOUND

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 21, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Urban