

colleagues paid tribute to his judgement and dedication. His impact, behind the scenes, was immense. He was a mentor not only to Members, but to other people who staffed the floor, particularly the many Pages who have come and gone over the years.

Ron was born a year after Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1942, and died on November 14, 2022. His classmate, Congressman Jim Kolbe, died days later on December 3rd. Donn Anderson died July 30, 2020. I am personally grateful for the service of these three men of the House.

Madam Speaker, I include in the Record a statement from the Honorable Robert E. Bauman, one of Ron's colleagues on the staff here who later represented the First District of Maryland in the House.

IN MEMORIAM—RONALD W. LASCH

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. BAUMAN, FIRST DISTRICT, MARYLAND (1973–1981)

Owen Lovejoy, a member of the House from Illinois (1857–1864), was close to President Abraham Lincoln, who called him “my most generous friend.” On an obelisk in Princeton, Illinois, in his honor are the words of Lincoln: “Let him have his marble monument along with the well assured and more enduring one in the hearts of all those who love Liberty unselfishly and for all.”

Indeed, Lincoln was correct; true friendship is a matter of the heart. Ron Lasch was my friend, and a respected friend to many on Capitol Hill during the 37 years he served on the House Republican floor staff.

He started his 42-year House career as a Page in 1958, sponsored by Representative William B. Widnall of New Jersey. In 1963, he was named as telephone clerk in the House Republican Cloakroom. Ron joined me there where I was also a phone clerk.

On November 22, 1963, a Friday, the House had adjourned when news of President Kennedy's death in Dallas came over the news tickers in the House Lobby. Ron and I were flooded with anxious calls to the cloakroom.

It is no exaggeration to say that Ron Lasch made possible my elective career to the Maryland State Senate and to Congress. He did so by working the cloakroom phones countless late days, allowing me to go to night school and obtain degrees from Georgetown University foreign service and law schools.

As manager of the Republican Cloakroom, he knew intimately party positions and floor developments and became a trusted source of information for Members and their staffs. He mentored many Pages over the years and was a graduate of the Capitol Page School in the Library of Congress.

In 1968, after I resigned and returned to my home on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Lasch became manager of the Republican Cloakroom, the official floor source of information for Republican Members.

As a private space for Member interaction, the cloakroom was ideally suited for Lasch to answer questions about pending legislation. He was a friend and protector of the gracious lady who for decades ran the cloakroom lunch counter, the late Helen Jones Winfield Sewell. When Ron retired in 2000, many House Members joined in paying him tributes.

Ron was trusted because of his vast knowledge of House parliamentary procedure and traditions. He understood the personal side of lawmaking, forging relationships with Members from both sides of the aisle. He was careful to respect House Members, remembering his staff role. But while he was a quiet, reserved presence, in private he had his own sardonic estimate of those he served.

Ron's role as Republican floor staffer expanded over the years, culminating in his

work as Floor Assistant to Speaker Newt Gingrich in 1995. In my opinion, Gingrich could have avoided many of his subsequent troubles had he taken Ron's advice about House rules.

My own daughter, Genie Eardley, a House Page (CPS Class of 1983), knew him well and called Ron “irreplaceable.” As Lincoln suggested, Ron's monument endures in the hearts of those who knew and respected “the gentleman from New Jersey.”

ESTEBAN E. TORRES POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7832 to rename the post office located at 396 South California Avenue in West Covina, California after the late Congressman Esteban E. Torres, a long-time San Gabriel Valley legislator and beloved community leader.

A proud son of immigrants, Rep. Torres dedicated his life to serving his community, our nation in uniform, and working families across Eastern Los Angeles County. I proudly introduced this legislation with Rep. LINDA SÁNCHEZ so future generations will remember Rep. Torres' legacy and be inspired by his service to our region and nation.

Rep. Torres was born on January 27, 1930, in Miami, Arizona. Shortly after finishing high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army from 1949 to 1953 during the Korean War conflict and was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant first class.

After attending various institutions including, the Los Angeles Art Center, East Los Angeles College, and California State University Los Angeles, Rep. Torres was subsequently elected to serve California's 34th district. He represented the cities of Artesia, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, Pico Rivera, parts of Whittier, South El Monte, Industry, La Puente, Baldwin Park, and West Covina for 16 years in Congress. During his first five terms, Rep. Torres served on the House Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs and the Small Business Committees. In 1993, he was named to the powerful Appropriations Committee where he was responsible for delivering millions of dollars for public transit projects in Los Angeles County and throughout the State of California and advocating for U.S. policies that advanced democracies throughout the world. Rep. Torres also served as Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and as a Deputy Whip for the House's Democratic leadership.

Rep. Torres also was an accomplished artist. His art was featured in the Washingtonian Magazine, at numerous galleries throughout Los Angeles, and admired by his colleagues in Congress, friends, and family. Among his proudest accomplishments was being one of the founders, along with Supervisor Gloria Molina, of LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, a world-renowned museum honoring the past, inspiring the future, and recognizing the cultural influence of Mexicans, Mexican Americans, and all Latinx in the greater Los Angeles community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 7832. Renaming the West Co-

vina Post Office in Rep. Torres' honor will be a small token of gratitude for his lifetime of dedication to his community and country.

HONORING MRS. KATHY J. THOMAS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my district staffers, Mrs. Kathy J. Thomas. I met Kathy in 2019 and quickly brought her on staff as a Constituent Liaison in my Gulfport district office. During her tenure, Kathy has assisted nearly 3,000 constituents through casework with compassion and dedication.

Kathy grew up in West Virginia in the small town of Follansbee. In 1988, she graduated from Brooke High School, and shortly thereafter, she married her high school sweetheart, Mark. After their wedding, she and her new husband moved to Biloxi, MS, where he served in the United States Navy Seabees. Her grandfather, Kale E. Wells, served in the United States Navy during WWII. Kale would have been proud of her decision to marry Mark as he rose through the ranks to retire after serving 30 years as a Command Master Chief.

Kathy and her husband raised two beautiful, intelligent daughters, Taylor and Riley. Taylor graduated from Mississippi State and the University of South Alabama and works as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at USA Children's and Women's Hospital in Mobile, AL. Riley graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and recently started a job at the DuBard School for Language Disorders in Hattiesburg, MS.

Kathy attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, earning an associate degree. Kathy volunteered for years as an ombudsman as her husband served and deployed with the United States Navy Seabees. While raising her daughters, she worked as a preschool teacher and assistant teacher. Her passion and dedication to helping others led her to work as a Congressional Liaison making a difference in the daily lives of the constituents of South Mississippi.

Kathy has been a valued, loyal, dedicated, and compassionate asset to my staff and me. I am grateful for her positivity and can-do attitude over the years. Madam Speaker, I am honored to express my gratitude to Mrs. Kathy Thomas for her service to Mississippi and my constituents.

COMMENDING DR. CHRISTA MARTIN FOR HER SELFLESS SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY AND THE GREAT STATE OF TENNESSEE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Dr. Christa Martin of Columbia, Tennessee.

Christa Martin exemplifies the volunteer spirit. She was born and raised in Maury County and continues to serve the community she cherishes so deeply. Growing up on a farm instilled in Dr. Martin the three main focuses of her life: education, public service, and faith. Through her humble beginnings, Dr. Martin said she learned from her surroundings, “the farm . . . the road . . . and the community,” and believes, “you didn’t have to have letters behind your name to be educated.”

Through various chapters of learning, Dr. Martin has never stalled in her intellectual journey. She graduated from Columbia State Community College in 1975 with a degree in Data Processing. A year later, she received a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems from Middle Tennessee State University. She then received a doctorate of Higher Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. Martin not only earned her degrees from these institutions, but also chose to give back. From 1979 to 2003, she worked in the Computer Science Department at Columbia State Community College. Since 2003, Dr. Martin has worked in a promoted role as an Assistant to the President, specializing in Access and Diversity.

Dr. Martin has also served her community well. She served on the Columbia City Council for over 22 years and is finishing her last term as the Vice Mayor of Columbia, where she is the first African American female to hold that position. Dr. Martin also serves on the Board of Directors for Columbia Power & Water, Blood Assurance, and Public Entity Partners. She serves non-profit organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club of South-Central Tennessee, Columbia Miracle League, Maury County NAACP, and many more.

Dr. Martin continues to be involved at New Smyrna Cumberland Presbyterian Church as a teacher, missionary, clerk, elder, and choir member.

Dr. Martin is a pillar of the community who is dedicated to leaving it a better place than she found it. Her life shows how passion and commitment can create a causal chain that benefits whole cities, counties, and, indeed, the state. I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this great American’s unwavering devotion toward education, her community, and her faith.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JULIA REICHERT

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Julia Reichert, an Academy Award winning documentarian from my district in Southwest Ohio. Julia passed away earlier this month at her home in Yellow Springs after a battle with cancer. I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her life and legacy.

Julia came to the Miami Valley to attend college and eventually settled there where she would spend the next 50 years producing films and documentaries that challenged viewers’ preconceptions on gender, class, race, and economics. Julia debuted her first documen-

tary, *Growing Up Female*, in 1971 and it is widely recognized as one of the first films from the Women’s liberation movement. The Library of Congress honored Julia’s work on *Growing Up Female* by selecting the film for preservation in the United States National Film Registry.

Julia would continue her passion and work in film making, receiving Oscar nominations in 1976, 1984, and 2010 before finally breaking through to win the 2020 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature for her film, *American Factory*. Julia’s film captures the arrival of Fuyao, a Chinese glass manufacturer, that comes to the United States and reopens a shuttered GM plant in Moraine, Ohio, employing 2,000 workers in the Miami Valley. She captured the tumultuous journey between high-tech Chinese employers and working-class Americans with a creative style that showcases the stark contrasts in the two cultures, invoking empathy for both parties.

Her films and documentaries are not the only legacy that Julia will leave behind. As a professor of Film Production at Wright State University for the past 28 years, she influenced hundreds of lives in the classroom. Julia’s impact on the Miami Valley and her country will not soon be forgotten and her legacy as a storyteller, advocate, and teacher will live on for generations to come, both in her work and in the lives she touched.

HONORING JAMIE MILLER FOR HIS SERVICE TO MISSISSIPPI

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my former staff, Jamie Miller, for his dedication to the state of Mississippi.

Jamie was born in Gulfport, MS, and graduated from Gulfport High School. He has an associate degree from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, where he attended on a baseball scholarship, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Jamie has been married to his wife, Kelli, for 25 years, and they have 3 children. Their oldest daughter, Maddison Miller Cuevas, is a University of Southern Mississippi graduate and lives in Birmingham, AL. Their second daughter, Carson Miller, attends Mississippi State University in Starkville, and their youngest son, Landon Miller, is a freshman at Stanford University.

Jamie began his career as a coastal ecologist working for the Department of Marine Resources in 1997. The City of Pascagoula hired him in 1999 as a planning coordinator and grant administrator, focused on downtown development and hazard mitigation. He worked his way to the position of Deputy City Manager before leaving for the private sector. After Katrina, Jamie worked with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency to assist local communities with recovery efforts but joined Governor Haley Barbour’s Office of Recovery and Renewal in April 2006.

In 2011, Jamie joined my team, initially as the District Director but became Chief of Staff in my Washington, D.C. office. During his tenure, he worked to connect federal resources

and legislative solutions to South Mississippi communities, businesses, and individual constituents. Jamie participated in the drafting and the RESTORE Act, which paved the way for billions of dollars to be directed to the Gulf States for recovery from the Deep-Water Horizon Oil Spill. He also worked on National Flood Insurance Program, Defense, and Commercial Space policy.

Following his time as a federal employee, Jamie continued to serve the state of Mississippi. In 2013, Governor Bryant appointed Jamie as Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine resources. Then in 2018, Jamie received another Governor appointed leadership role as the Deputy Director of the Mississippi Development Agency. Jamie is currently the Chief Operations Officer at MDA and is responsible for all aspects of the agency’s administrative, technology, and financial divisions. Jamie directly coordinates the staff assigned to the administration of the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund.

Madam Speaker, it is with gratitude and appreciation that I honor this Mississippi native and my friend, Jamie Miller.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF WALT JORDAN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am honored to salute the 40-year career of Walt Jordan, Vice President of Governmental Affairs for Oncor Electric Delivery, as he celebrates his well-deserved retirement at the end of December. This native Texan has made lasting impacts on one of our nations most critical industries and has played a key role in ensuring Texas continues to lead in energy innovation and delivery.

With his “can-do” spirit, genuine personality, and high-minded vision, Walt has been a trusted leader and a fierce advocate for common-sense energy policies not only in Texas but also in Washington, D.C. During his four decades with Oncor, the largest transmission and distribution electric utility in Texas, he brought his tremendous work ethic and commitment to excellence to every challenge his company and state encountered.

Heavily involved in the Texas utility industry since 1982, Walt made critical contributions to restructure the Texas electricity market, support renewable energy generation, and enhance infrastructure investments. With a “no task too big” approach, Walt shouldered a variety of responsibilities across his illustrious career and has made lasting impacts on this critical industry for the next generation of Texans.

Retirement is meant to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. It is my honor to recognize the service of Walt Jordan as he starts this new chapter of his life alongside his beloved wife Kim and son Luke. On behalf of Central Texas, I thank him for his superb work and wish him the very best.