

During his decorated career, he received the "Classroom Excellence" award from the California Association of Teachers of English in 1983 and was selected as a Bay Area Writing Project Fellow at U.C. Berkeley in 1985. Fittingly, he was named an "Outstanding Teacher" in Marin County in 1997.

In addition to teaching, George was deeply involved in the San Rafael community with his wife Gayle. As Chairman of the Sun Valley Neighborhood Association, George traveled door to door to convince his neighbors to contribute to a community purchase of the land around Sun Valley Trail. This effort preserved the land for public use in 1985, which today is managed by Marin County Open Space District. George also coached his son's soccer and baseball teams and served as Assistant Scoutmaster for his Boy Scout troop.

George is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Gayle Mills, his 2 children: Christopher and Claire, and 2 grandchildren: Georgia and Donovan Illingworth. While he will be greatly missed, George's legacy will live on through the positive impact he had on his family, Marin County, and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that George Mills was a dedicated civil servant who will be missed and whose many years of service are worthy of commendation. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his many contributions and express our deep condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING THE INSPIRATIONAL
LIFE OF RAYMOND NIHLEAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Raymond Nihlean, a constituent and valued member of the Edgewater community, who believed in the goodness of every person. When you heard his contagious laugh, you knew his generous spirit would soon fill the room. His efforts resulted in tangible improvements in people's lives across every generation and background. "Raymond was a landlord with heart," said community activist, Clare Tobin. "He helped residents through the pandemic. He and his team connected renters with programs such as rent grants and resources for food." For one elderly tenant in particular, after finding supportive senior housing and 24/7 caregivers, Raymond even made funeral arrangements with her pastor.

In classic Raymond fashion, when a teenager threw a rock that dented his classic 1975 Lincoln Town car, he called the school instead of the police, and when Raymond learned the boy had a court date, he accompanied him. With such support, the young man received probation instead of a sentence. Always sensitive to youth needs, Raymond mentored many young people sparking their creativity, building self-confidence, and making them laugh. At neighborhood events, kids and grown-ups alike delighted in his convertible King Midget, a tiny red racing car with headlights that squirted water.

"Imagine you're at a restaurant and start singing happy birthday to your daughter. From across the room an energetic man with a booming voice and a gentle smile stands up

and joins in. He's much louder than anyone else, with energy and body language that take over, inspiring everyone in the restaurant to join in. Your daughter will never forget the joy of that moment, and neither will you. The man who created that moment was Raymond," remembered cousin Sim from years of family gatherings.

His devoted wife Tina recollects how excited Raymond was when heavy snow fell. He had such fun riding his red ATV snowplow over 2 miles of sidewalks and alleys so neighbors could safely reach shops and public transit. "I always heard from neighbors how much they loved Raymond. Some didn't know his name, but they loved him because he plowed their sidewalks. They never asked, he was just always there with love and joy in his heart," according to former State Senator Carol Ronen. For 15 years, he was a familiar early morning good Samaritan.

Former 48th Ward Alderman, Mary Ann Smith, recalls that "Raymond's \$35,000 donation was the lynch pin that got city funding for Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management training program. It was attended by local business owners who wanted to take their company to the next level." Raymond was a philanthropist who continued to provide resources to help other entrepreneurs flourish, including the Edgewater Uptown Builders Association (EUBA) and other community organizations. "Raymond was always generous with his time and resources and always knowing when and how to pitch in to fill a need. He personally provided and engineered state-of-the-art sound and visual equipment to help people communicate more effectively. Raymond is a one of a kind. Truly a prince of a man." added Jim Byrne, past EUBA president.

A lasting tribute to Raymond's love for his community is the beautiful mosaic "bricolage" at the gateway to the Bryn Mawr Historic District. He brought the student artists lunches and treats, as well as donating money and materials. Raymond and Tina's wedding photo is memorialized in the art wall too, forever sharing their joy and love.

Raymond's bravery inspired his medical team. "I will always use Ray as an example to my staff and patients what support and advocacy can do," remembers Dr. Samman Shahpar, Shirley Ryan Ability Lab. He further remarked at an international symposium, "Put aside whatever you know about brain injuries, because there is Raymond." To Dr. Jeffrey Raizer, neuro oncologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, "Raymond was indeed an inspirational person who fought hard against his GBM and by all measures Raymond had a wonderful life up until his passing."

Throughout his 6 year and 3 month survival with brain cancer, Raymond never lost his humor, his optimism, or his zest for life. "Every day is precious, each moment was the only moment we were sure that we had," said Tina. "In the hospital, we created our own world with natural sounds of birds singing and falling water. The smell of lilies would fill the room. We were content. Patient through the pain and the healing process, attentive to the details, giving and receiving kindness, hopeful. The Zen like quality, peacefulness and good will was conducive to healing for everyone entering the room. And after 21 years of marriage, Raymond's devotion to his wife Tina, never dimmed. Their friend, Ellen Pritsker knew, "They spoke to the beauty in one an-

other." On his final day, he and Tina were looking out of his hospital window at the place by the Lake where he proposed so many years ago. Then, with a smile on his face, he took his last breath. Raymond freely shared his love and his time with all who knew him. His generosity of spirit and deeply felt joyfulness will stay with us always.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF NOREEN KOKORUDA

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Noreen Kokoruda of Madison, Connecticut. A stalwart community leader and advocate, Noreen passed away on December 21st, 2022.

Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut to Victor and Eileen Swaller, Noreen immediately showed traits of the characteristics which would define her life: compassion for others; commitment to service; and devotion to friends and family. At an early age, she distinguished herself for her friendly and out-going nature, going out of her way to help others. Even in high school, Noreen's penchant for public service was made clear after her election to the student council at Notre Dame High. Her passion for service blossomed as she continued her studies at Pace University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Education. While at Pace, she was once again elected to represent her peers, this time as class president.

Soon after her graduation from Pace, Noreen met her life partner, Daniel. Noreen and Daniel began their lives together in West Haven, Connecticut, but soon settled in near-by Madison where they grew their family and community roots.

In Madison, Noreen threw herself into community work. She dedicated her time to the parent teacher organization, athletic boosters, and even worked as a substitute teacher. After serving on the Beach and Recreation commission, Noreen was elected to serve on Madison's Board of Selectmen, where she worked tirelessly for 14 years to weave a bright future for the town.

Ever savvy, Noreen was also an influential member of the Shoreline Foundation, an organization dedicated to creating recreational and enrichment opportunities in the Madison area. Through this organization, Noreen helped host summer camps in Killingworth to support local youth. Additionally, recognizing the want for a regional pool, Noreen was the one to discover an angle for the Foundation to support the construction of the Madison Aquadome, a facility which helped meet the needs of the community at no additional taxpayer cost.

In 2011, Noreen was elected to represent the 101st district in the Connecticut General Assembly, where she worked on the Planning and Development, Children, Appropriations, and Education committees. In the General Assembly, Noreen distinguished herself as a tenacious fighter for her constituency who worked across the aisle to collaborate on efforts to support the 101st district with her colleagues from both parties. Following Noreen's work in Hartford, she served on the Board of Selectman in Madison. Her dedication to public service was rare and her work touched the

lives of many people throughout the communities of Madison and Durham and the State of Connecticut as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders as devoted and compassionate as No-reen. Her absence will be felt throughout the region, and I offer my sincere condolences to her family and friends during this time. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring No-reen's life and work.

HONORING TIMOTHY BURKE ON
HIS 26 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Timothy Burke on his retirement from the City of Vacaville, following an incredible 26-year career devoted to serving the people of Vacaville. Throughout Mr. Burke's public service career, he has demonstrated a sincere commitment to improving his community and an unyielding zeal for addressing the pressing challenges faced by the residents of Vacaville.

During his tenure as a public servant, Mr. Burke served as Assistant Engineer, Associate Engineer, Senior Engineer, and most recently, as Assistant Director of Public Works and City Engineer. From his first role as Assistant Engineer, Mr. Burke has played an instrumental role in revolutionizing Vacaville's infrastructure, demonstrating his staunch spirit of innovation and leadership.

Throughout his career as an engineer, Mr. Burke approached every challenge presented to him with ingenuity and resourcefulness. He worked tirelessly to improve Vacaville's public systems, making them more efficient and prioritizing the concerns of his community. Mr. Burke's engineering efforts played an indispensable role in ensuring the safety of Vacaville residents.

As the Assistant Director of Public Works, Mr. Burke collaborated with Vacaville land developers to negotiate countless agreements to ensure the stability of Vacaville's infrastructure. In these negotiations, he demonstrated his great commitment to serving the needs of his community.

Mr. Burke's remarkable career is characterized not only by his wealth of knowledge and profound engineering skills, but also by his spirit of kindness and empathy. His patient guidance and persistent optimism left an indelible legacy on the people of Vacaville and Solano County.

While his presence will surely be missed, Mr. Burke's 2 decades of service to the residents of Vacaville will leave a long-lasting impact. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for Mr. Burke's dedicated service to the people of Vacaville and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE
BRYAN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of George Wilkerson Bryan, Sr. George was born in West Point, Mississippi, in 1944. He was the son of John H. Bryan and Catherine Wilkerson Bryan and the youngest of 4 siblings. George was a devoted husband and father and a member of the First Presbyterian Church in West Point, Mississippi. Throughout his life, he devoted his energy and passions toward his family, his friends, his businesses, and golf. He had a deep and positive impact on the people in his life.

A 1968 business administration graduate of Mississippi State University, George began his business career in 1964 at Bryan Foods, his family's West Point-based meat products manufacturing company, which was acquired by Sara Lee Corp. in 1968. After working in cost accounting, George became production manager and vice president of sales before being named Bryan Foods president in 1974. He was named Sara Lee Corp.'s senior vice president in 1983 and served the position until 2000. George served as chief executive officer of Sara Lee Foods and chairman and director of the American Meat Institute.

A tireless champion of business, civic, and charitable endeavors, George also served as general campaign chairman for the United Way of the Mid-South; a 30-year director and member of the Audit, Trust, and Compensation committees of Regions Bank; and past president of the Chickasaw Council Boy Scouts of America. He was named an "Outstanding Mississippian" in 1979 by then-Gov. Cliff Finch and was inducted into the West Point Hall of Fame in 1992 and West Point "Citizen of the Year" in 2000. George was named MSU's College of Business and Industry Alumni Fellow in 1992, College of Business Alumnus of the Year in 1996. He was named MSU's National Alumnus of the Year in 2000 and was a longtime board member of the MSU Foundation.

George served in 4 components of the Armed Forces: U.S. Marine Corps; U.S. Army; U.S. Army Reserve; and Army National Guard, where he was mobilized as a combat engineer during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Later in his military career, he served under the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, DC, as an advisor to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in the 1980s. He retired as a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and was the recipient of the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

In 1988, George and his wife, Marcia, were co-founders and owners of his hometown's Old Waverly Golf Club, one of the South's premier golf destinations and home to Mississippi State men's and women's golf programs. He led in bringing the U.S. Women's Open to Old Waverly in 1999—an achievement that earned him the Jackson Clarion-Ledger's 1999 "Sports Person of the Year" award. George was a cofounder of Mossy Oak Golf Club, which also serves MSU's golf programs and

was recognized in 2018 as one of Golf week's Top 100 Modern Golf Courses.

George Bryan is survived by his wife, Marcia Lavender Bryan, and their children: Suzanne Lavender Bryan, Brentwood, TN; George Wilkerson Bryan, Jr. (Amy, West Point, MS; Laura Bryan Williams (Shane), West Point, MS; and Nancy Bryan Campbell (Matt), Oxford, MS. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Kimberly Bryan; father, John H. Bryan Sr.; mother, Catherine Wilkerson Bryan; sister, Catherine Bryan "Kitty" Dill; brother, John H. Bryan Jr.; and brother-in-law, Robert Donald Harrell, Sr.

HONORING HOWARD GANTER FOR
44 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE
ARC JEFFERSON—ST. LAWRENCE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Howard "Howie" Ganter for over 40 years of service to The Arc Jefferson—St. Lawrence, formerly Jefferson Rehabilitation Center. Since 1978, Howie has served The Arc in many capacities, culminating in his promotion to Chief Executive Officer in 2009.

Howie began his career at Jefferson Rehabilitation Center in 1978 as a Recreation Therapist, where he was an exceptional provider of services for people with disabilities and truly embodied the vision of the Jefferson Rehabilitation Center. Under Howie's tremendous leadership, Jefferson Rehabilitation Center merged with St. Lawrence NYSARC and established The Arc Jefferson—St. Lawrence. During this time, Howie successfully led these organizations through a smooth merger, while never losing sight of their missions to enhance the lives of people they serve to help them achieve their hopes and aspirations.

Howie's immense passion for serving others extended beyond his career at The Arc. Howie served on numerous committees and boards and volunteered countless hours to many organizations dedicated to helping those with disabilities. He served as the President of 1 World Foundation, where he coordinated shipments of needed supplies for people with disabilities in underserved areas all over the world. Additionally, Howie was the President of DOHL Development Corporation, a for-profit corporation that employs and trains nearly 100 people with disabilities providing them with vocational independence and confidence. Howie's motivation to make the world a better place for everyone, especially for those with disabilities, led him to lead a life of service even above himself.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize Howie's immense contribution to his community that has assuredly left an indelible impact for generations to come. His dedication to serving those with disabilities and tireless support of The Arc should serve as an inspiration to us all. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement, and I wish him the best for all of his future endeavors.