

Democratic Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana. Since 2006, Senator McCONNELL has won the respect and trust of his colleagues who have rightly given him their vote of confidence nine consecutive times to lead the Republican conference.

Senator McCONNELL started breaking records early in his career. When he was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984, it was the first time that a Republican had won a statewide race in sixteen years. In fact, his election gave Republicans a newfound confidence Kentucky politics, and he remains the longest-serving senator in Kentucky history. His historic service is marked by courageous legislation, a stronger national defense, and a transformation of the federal judiciary. During his service as Majority Leader, he led Senate confirmation of three justices and 30 percent of circuit court judges nationwide.

Senator McCONNELL and I share a mutual mentor from southern Kentucky, the late Senator John Sherman Cooper. Senator McCONNELL's success in public service reflects the many values that Senator Cooper shared with us, including unwavering perseverance, wisdom in negotiations, visionary leadership, and astutely serving as a "consummate bridge builder," as Senator McCONNELL once described our mentor.

Together, we have partnered on countless projects for the benefit of our fellow Kentuckians, and I count it a great honor to call Senator McCONNELL a close friend and valiant ally in public service. I applaud Senator McCONNELL on achieving this significant milestone in American history and I wish him continued success on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CELEBRATING MARY GATTON'S SELFLESS CARE FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Mary Gatton for her selfless commitment to the care of cancer victims, the terminally ill, and their families. Ms. Gatton recently received Business First's 'Lifetime Achievement Award' as a part of the Health Care Heroes program.

At age 79, Ms. Gatton has spent much of her adult life supporting sick patients, the dying, and their families, through her work at Hospice/Hosparus Health, Inc. and Gilda's Club.

Many struggle to find words of comfort for those experiencing grief and loss, but not Ms. Gatton; she is truly 'there' for those in need, whether sitting at hospital bedsides with dying patients, in the waiting rooms with family members helping provide peace and understanding, facilitating a support group, comforting a newly diagnosed or newly bereaved person, leading a memorial service, or simply assisting at an event to support patients and caregivers.

As a single mother of four children, Ms. Gatton pursued a bachelor's degree in social work in 1977, in the hopes that hospice care would one day make its way to the U.S. The National Hospice Organization wasn't even

created until 1978, when it then began to promote the concept of hospice care. Congress passed a provision to create a Medicare hospice benefit in the 1980s, by which time Gatton had earned a master's degree in social work.

Karen Morrison, CEO of Gilda's Club explains, "The number of lives Mary has touched in her career is immeasurable. Everywhere I go in the community, people remember the impact she made for them . . ."

Ms. Gatton is a shining example of the dedication that defines end-of-life care. I offer my congratulations to Ms. Gatton for her well-deserved award and thank her from the bottom of my heart for her loving care of our families and departed loved ones. She is an Angel.

HONORING SHIRLENE ANDERSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, Ms. Anderson.

Shirlene Anderson is the former deputy director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN), where she retired after 32 years of service. Shirlene's law enforcement career began in 1976, when Doris Johnson-Holt and Shirlene Anderson made history together, becoming the first 2 Black/African American females to serve as agents of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN).

When Shirlene Anderson was promoted through the ranks from Agent, to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Major to Lieutenant Colonel she became the first female. During her tenure with MBN, she served as District Supervisor of a field office responsible for narcotics operations in 10 counties.

She also served as Regional Supervisor of 4 field offices in North MS (Greenwood, Oxford, Tupelo and Starkville). In October 1997, she was appointed as Chief of Enforcement/Deputy Director, (Lieutenant Colonel) where she managed enforcement operations for the entire State of Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

Shirlene retired in 2004 from the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics. On July 7, 2005, Shirlene Anderson was appointed first female Chief of Police for the City of Jackson, MS Police Department (Capital City). Shirlene is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University where she completed her bachelor's degree in education.

She is a graduate of the Mississippi Highway Patrol Class 47B, Sep 1991 (MLEOTA, Whitfield, MS). She also graduated from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Academy and The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy. Shirlene volunteers with a program, "Getting Ahead while Getting Out" with the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility and a Board Member of Alcohol Services Center, Inc.

Shirlene has volunteered with the National Federation of the Blind, and Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service/Connect 1 Summits. Shirlene is a lifetime member of National Organization of Law Enforcement Executives (NOLE), Mississippi Valley State University Alumni, and a Member of Pleasant Springs Baptist Church in Leland, MS.

Some of the State and Federal drug investigation cases Shirlene was involved in: Frederick Dotson, Greenville, MS seized firearms, crack, powder Cocaine and money during the investigation; James "J. J." McNeil, California millionaire and drug kingpin, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana; Jeff Fort, Chicago, IL and MS conspiracy, drugs, and weapons conviction; Fort Co-founder and leader of Black P. Stones and Founder of El Rukn Chicago; James Albert "Sonny" King Tallahatchie County, Hattie Ray King, Johnny Wayne King, and Jerome Lewis charged in distributing of cocaine and marijuana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Shirlene Anderson for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

RECOGNIZING MR. RON EVANS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize a special resident of Center, Missouri.

Mr. Ron Evans has served on the school board in Ralls County, Missouri for 30 years. In 1967, Ron graduated from Mark Twain High School. His wife, Judy, their 3 children, and several grandchildren have all been students at Mark Twain High School. He was elected to the Ralls County R-II School Board in 1993 and went on to serve 9 more three-year terms, at times serving as President.

Over the course of Ron's 30 years of service to the district, many changes have occurred including the consolidation of all Ralls County communities into one education building. Ron has been involved with more than \$20 million dollars of renovations and projects.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Ron Evans on his retirement. I ask you to join me in thanking him for his service to his community and for being an outstanding leader. I am proud to represent Mr. Evans in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ALFRED HOFFMEISTER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Alfred "Al" Hoffmeister.

Al was born in New York and was named after former governor of New York, Alfred Emanuel Smith. Throughout his life, Al has exemplified his dedication to his community and his country. Al was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps working with B-17 Flying Fortress—China/Burma/India Theater. Following his service, he studied business administration at St. John's University. He then began working as a metal trading manager with Kaiser Aluminum of Oakland, California where he met his future wife, Georgia Belle Davis.

Al and Georgia moved to Concord, California in 1962 to start their family and have lived there ever since. Al worked for Kaiser for 25 years, retiring from the organization in 1989. In his retirement, he remained active and engaged with the community. He was a strong advocate for our community's youth, serving as a leader with the YMCA, on the Concord American Little League Board, and working with the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. Al was also dedicated to his faith and was an original member of St. Bonaventure Catholic Church where he served as an usher for many years.

Sadly, Al passed away on December 9, 2022 at the age of 98. He is survived by his wife Georgia, daughter Laura, sons Stephen, Thomas, and Philip, sister Dorothy, and nine grandchildren, Tessa, Hannah, Trent, Hope, Grace, Jacqueline, Johnathan, Matthew, and Erik. He will be remembered for his humility, hard-working nature, and devotion to his family. Please join me in honoring Alfred Hoffmeister for his many contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 1, 2023, I was absent from the House floor and missed roll call vote 125.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 125.

CONGRATULATING DIRECTOR
DAVID BEASLEY**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the leadership of United Nations World Food Programme Executive Director and former South Carolina Governor David Beasley. Over the past six years during his term, he has been a strong advocate,

fundraiser, and leader, and I am grateful to have worked with him personally in Guatemala in 2017 and with volunteers from Lebanon in 2020.

Congress appreciates David's work with us in achieving historic levels of American funding to confront global hunger demands. His humanitarian efforts and work in the global fight against hunger is an inspiration to all.

David's efforts were recognized when the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the World Food Programme the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

I am grateful for David's hard work during his term as Executive Director and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

I look forward to working with the newly appointed Executive Director, Ambassador Cindy McCain, who currently serves as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. Agencies in Rome: the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme, and the International Fund for Agriculture Development.

America will continue to be the world leader for humanitarian assistance for the benefit of those impacted as it promotes America material security reducing international instability.