

a career in fire service for the City of Calistoga. He spent a total of 38 years working for the fire department, including serving the last 8 years as the Department's Fire Chief.

In 2006, Mr. Kraus ran for and was elected to the Calistoga City Council. Mr. Kraus served as a Councilmember for 16 years and was successfully re-elected 3 times. During his time in public service, Mr. Kraus was a strong advocate for local support of the environment and addressing climate change. This led him to push for the re-establishment of the Green Committee which will work to effectively implement Calistoga's climate action plan. Mr. Kraus also pushed for stronger building codes to improve fire safety and diminish negative environmental impact.

Mr. Kraus had a number of other accomplishments including introducing the idea for the community to have free park and recreation services, working to significantly reduce Calistoga's unfunded liability debt, and serving for years on the city's finance committee.

Even when not at work, Mr. Kraus was still serving his community as a passionate Rotarian. Due to his outstanding community service and leadership in the Rotary Club, he was eventually named Rotary Club of Calistoga President.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Councilman Kraus for his selfless service and commitment to the people of Calistoga.

RECOGNIZING PASTORS CHUCK
AND CHARLYN SINGLETON

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chuck and Charlyn Singleton for their many years of dedication to the city of Fontana as pastors.

Pastor Chuck has served his community for over 40 years as the Senior Pastor of the Loveland Church in Fontana with his wife Charlyn, who serves as the First Lady and Executive Pastor. Pastor Chuck holds a Doctorate in Theology and became an instructor at the Claremont School of Theology, the International School of Theology, and the Cincinnati School of Theology, among other institutions. He also served on the board of trustees for many of these institutions. Since 1981, Pastor Charlyn served as President and CEO of the God's Woman Conference, which aims to teach women about the principles of their church. Pastor Charlyn holds a Doctorate in Theology as well. Her service activities also include hosting a weekly podcast and bible studies. Pastor Chuck and Charlyn have separately authored several books. Additionally, they have been recognized by various government officials and faith and community-based organizations acknowledging their civic engagement and service to their community.

Today I speak in recognition of yet another one of their accomplishments. On Sunday, January 29, Mr. and Mrs. Singleton will celebrate their 50th anniversary together as husband and wife.

For their outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Pastors Chuck and Charlyn Singleton. Their years of civic service

and commitment to the city and the people of Fontana are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
WILLIE JAMES EPPS

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Dr. Willie James Epps, who passed away on December 27, 2022. A Former Director of the East St. Louis Campus of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (SIUE), he was a nationally recognized expert in early childhood education. Born on January 26, 1946, Dr. Epps was raised on a farm in Tchula, Mississippi, the poorest town in the nation's poorest county. His parents, Jonas and Nancy Ellis Epps, though literate and landowners, had never gone to college but insisted their children pursue higher education. Dr. Epps attended racially segregated schools, graduating in 1963 from Tchula Attendance Center, which the town's white leadership denied designation as a high school. Majoring in elementary education, he graduated from Mississippi Valley State University in 1966, having worked part-time as a custodian.

He then moved to Biloxi, Mississippi, where he taught sixth grade at Perkins Elementary School, the city's only primary school for Blacks, comprised of 400 young children and 30 teachers. At Perkins, he met Barbara Bacon, a 1966 graduate of Alcorn State University, who taught fourth and fifth grade. The two married at King Solomon Baptist Church in Natchez, Mississippi, on August 12, 1967.

While earning a master's degree in elementary education at the University of Southern Mississippi, Dr. Epps served as Lexington Elementary School's principal in Lexington, Mississippi, before being promoted to assistant superintendent of the Holmes County School System. In 1970, he joined the faculty of Alcorn State University for a couple of years, before heading off to Kansas State University to pursue a Ph.D., which he was awarded in 1974.

In the mid- to late-1970s, Dr. Epps worked at the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in Washington, D.C., and as a faculty member at both Mississippi Valley State University and the University of South Alabama. After being recruited to the St. Louis region in 1980, he was associated with SIUE for more than two decades. Dr. Epps initially was director of the National Science Awareness Demonstration Program and later was named director of the University's Head Start Program in St. Clair County. On behalf of the University, he applied for and received about \$15 million annually from state, federal, and private grants.

Dr. Epps assumed leadership of the East St. Louis Campus in 1994, retiring in 2001. During his administration he presided over tremendous growth, including the creation of SIUE East St. Louis Charter School, and securing \$27 million for a new facility. Dr. Epps served as vice president of the Greater East St. Louis Community Fund, vice chair of the Logan College of Chiropractic Board of Trust-

ees, and a member of the Education Commission of the States' Policy and Priorities Committee. He was a member of West Side Missionary Baptist Church, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

He received numerous awards and honors, including Region V Outstanding Head Start Director of the Year from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Outstanding Leader of St. Louis from the Center for Leadership of St. Louis, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from SIUE, and an Illinois State Senate Recognition on his retirement.

Prior to struggling with poor health, Dr. Epps founded Southern Research Associates and became an educational consultant to historically Black colleges and universities. He was a dynamic public speaker, traveling throughout the United States to speak at educational conferences and traveling abroad to consult with educational leaders in South Africa and China.

He also visited the Netherlands, Belgium, and France, among others. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. He loved playing the slot machines on the riverboats. Watching sports on television with family and friends was a favorite pastime.

Surviving are his wife of 55 years, Dr. Barbara Bacon Epps, who retired from SIUE in 2001; a son, Hon. Willie J. Epps, Jr., a federal judge who married Mischa Buford Epps; a daughter, Beatryx Epps Washington, General Counsel of O.C. Tanner based in Salt Lake City, Utah, who married Vincent D. Washington; three grandchildren, Gabriela Washington, Cambridge Epps, and Solomon Washington; two sisters, Dr. Fannye Epps Love and Dorothy Epps; and a brother, Sam Epps. His parents, Jonas and Nancy Ellis Epps, and siblings George Ellis and Alice Mae Epps Watson, predeceased him.

CONGRATULATING WILLIE O'REE,
NHL TRAILBLAZER

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Willie O'Ree, who today celebrates the 65th anniversary of his first game in the National Hockey League. On January 18, 1958, Willie O'Ree became the first Black player in NHL history when he stepped on the ice as a winger for the Boston Bruins.

Willie went on to play more than 24 seasons in the NHL and minor leagues, overcoming bigotry and prejudice from fellow players and fans alike. On and off the ice, Willie became a champion for diversity in the sport. Following his retirement from the game, he became the NHL's Diversity Ambassador. In that role, he established the Hockey is for Everyone initiative to offer disadvantaged and marginalized children the chance to play hockey, create community, and develop important life skills.

In the 117th Congress, we joined Representatives MIKE QUIGLEY, BRIAN HIGGINS, John Katko, and AYANNA PRESSLEY as co-leads of the Willie O'Ree Congressional Gold Medal Act. We are proud to say that last year, the bill passed, and Willie was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

I congratulate Willie on this amazing milestone and thank him for everything he has done for the sport.

HONORING JULIE JACOBSON

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Julie Jacobson's lifetime of devoted service to Central Massachusetts. Thanks to her leadership, the people of Worcester and Auburn, Massachusetts have seen incredible improvements in our communities.

After graduating from Worcester's College of the Holy Cross, Ms. Jacobson began her career in service at the Massachusetts State House working alongside State Representative Thomas P. White. It was with State Representative White where she discovered her passion and talent for public service.

In 1985, Ms. Jacobson began working for the City of Worcester, quickly ascending to the role of Director of Economic Development. During her 15-year tenure, she oversaw more than 200 major development projects, all targeted toward the success of Worcester business and improving the lives of all who live and work here. An incredible leader, Ms. Jacobson coordinated programs across the private sector with help from small business grant programs to drive economic growth in our city.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Jacobson's impact on the Worcester community cannot be understated. In 2001, Ms. Jacobson began to lead the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development and Public Policy program. Quickly, she was chosen to lead the Regional Chamber of Commerce as Interim President and CEO. Under her guidance, she steered the second largest chamber of commerce in New England to roaring success.

Ms. Jacobson then went to serve the Worcester community at large, holding three critical offices: CEO of Worcester's Redevelopment Authority, Chief Development Officer, and Assistant City Manager. She uplifted communities through neighborhood development, urban renewal, and investments in transportation infrastructure.

Ms. Jacobson's most critical work, though, combined her visionary leadership with her

passion for local communities. In 2011, she began her 12-year tenure as Town Manager in Auburn, revitalizing the town's government, streamlining services, and improving her community. Under her leadership, she steered Auburn toward improved sustainability and more transparent governance.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Jacobson's commitment to solid and effective governance should serve as an example for local leaders across the country. Few have dedicated their expertise so consistently to the communities in which they live. On behalf of the United States Congress and all the people of Central Massachusetts whose lives she touched, it is my great privilege to thank and recognize Ms. Jacobson for her service.

COMMENDING SADIE LACKEY ON
HER WORK FOR ALABAMA DISTRICT ONE

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sadie Lackey for her service to Alabama's First Congressional District. A Georgia native, Sadie graduated from the University of Georgia. Prior to working on the Hill, Sadie gained knowledge and experience working in higher education at the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. After excelling there, she went on to work for the USDA, supporting youth-focused outreach programs and further providing opportunities for younger generations to succeed in the agriculture industry by partnering with higher education and industry. Through her efforts at USDA, Sadie helped inspire countless youth to become farmers, leaving a lasting impact across rural America. She then started on the Hill as a Senate Press Assistant, ensuring the Senator's message strategy was effective and clear. After recognizing her many talents, I hired her on as a Legislative Correspondent and then as a Legislative Aide. Sadie's success has forever shaped the landscape of South Alabama and made the 1st Congressional District a prime destination for the agriculture industry. I wish her all the best in her

future endeavors and know she will continue to be a leader in the agriculture industry.

HONORING TRAVIS STANLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Travis Stanley for his outstanding contributions to our community upon his retirement as President and CEO of the Napa County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Stanley grew up in Michigan and attended Florida Southern College on a basketball scholarship where, he earned a B.S. Degree in journalism. After college, Mr. Stanley started a career in basketball where he worked as the Assistant Director of Public Relations for the Orlando Magic. After working with the Magic for 5 years, he then worked as Director of Public Relations for the Sacramento Kings for another 5 years before accepting a job with the Golden State Warriors. Mr. Stanley worked for the Warriors for 14 years and held multiple important positions including Senior Executive Vice President of Marketing.

Mr. Stanley was named President and CEO of the Napa County Chamber of Commerce in 2014. He took on the role at a crucial time as he was instrumental in helping lead Napa's businesses through the Napa earthquake, the 2017 wildfires, the Coronavirus pandemic, and the LNU Lightning Complex fires. Mr. Stanley navigated these challenges and helped bring new members into the chamber with an approach that encouraged members to engage, connect, and collaborate.

Outside of his professional duties, Mr. Stanley served as the Executive Leadership Chair of the 2015 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Napa Light the Night Walk.

Mr. Stanley currently lives in Napa with his wife Irene and 2 children, Nina and Elijah.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Stanley for his commitment to helping our Napa community. His efforts have made Napa a more prosperous city.