

HONORING NAPA VALLEY
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Napa Valley Education Foundation as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary of providing educational opportunities to support Napa County's students.

With the mission of inspiring students to broaden their horizons and deepen their knowledge, the Napa Valley Education Foundation serves all 18,000 students and 1,000 educators in Napa County's public school system. For the past 40 years, the Foundation has championed music education, career readiness, youth mental health, classroom innovation, academic growth, and social development of students.

The Napa Valley Education Foundation's Music Connection program ensures equitable access to music education in the Napa Valley, providing thousands of musical instruments, music instruction support, camps, and clinics to more than 6,000 students per year.

Additionally, the Foundation promotes the well-being of students by providing support, funding, coordination, and advocacy to ensure all students have access to on-campus behavioral health services. Their work has helped build local capacity and coordination of services for students and families.

Since the creation of Napa Valley Education Foundation in 1983, teachers, students, and the community have benefitted from their mission to foster and support innovation within public schools. Their work with career readiness, teacher classroom grants, project-based learning, and STEM initiatives have led to improved educational outcomes for students.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the Napa County Education Foundation has contributed to Napa County's educational system over the past 40 years. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor it here today.

HONORING THE NASHVILLE FIRE
DEPARTMENT'S RESCUE TASK
FORCE**HON. MARK E. GREEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nashville Fire Department's Rescue Task Force (RTF) for its quick and effective response during the Covenant School shooting. The RTF demonstrated bravery, selflessness, and poise during a senseless and violent tragedy.

This specialized force is composed of Nashville Fire Department Paramedics, Advanced EMTs, and Firefighters who are trained to work in tandem with law enforcement to enter a newly secured area to provide triage, emergent care, and to carry out patient extraction. These brave men and women expedited the medical care and transport for the individuals who were injured during the shooting. Where there was gunfire, these individuals ran towards the danger instead of away from it. Without a doubt, their bravery saved lives.

I continue to carry a heavy and grieving heart for my home state of Tennessee. No one should ever have to endure what The Covenant School and the Nashville community have gone through. As our home and the rest of the country come together to mourn this senseless loss of life, we remember the victims of this horrible attack.

Yet, even as we mourn the tragic losses of life—every one of them precious—we also praise the heroic efforts of our first responders. I am proud to commend all the first responders who were on the scene, and the medical professionals who treated the victims at Vanderbilt Medical Center. Tennesseans are strong and they take care of each other.

It is fitting that we honor these brave men and women by name: Paramedic Trevor Skiera and AEMT Chad Miller served on RTF-Medical; Captain Scott Burgess, Engineer Timothy Flowers, Firefighter Samuel Smith, and Firefighter Chad Malone served on RTF-Fire Operations; Engineer Justin Agnew, Firefighter Kayla Toney, Firefighter Garlon Russell, Engineer Cody Pomeroy, Firefighter Matthew Mangrum, Firefighter Joseph Mangrum, Firefighter David Travis, Firefighter Marsenio Rayford, Engineer William Brandt, Firefighter Gabriel King, and Firefighter Brett Yeager served on RTF-Extraction.

Though unspeakable grief still holds Nashville in its grasp, we are all grateful for the work of our first responders. On behalf of the United States Congress and all of Tennessee, I thank the Rescue Task Force for its heroic efforts to save precious lives in the face of evil. May God bless them and keep them safe.

HONORING THE FAITHFUL LIFE OF
SERVICE OF LARRY SILSBY**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who lived his entire life in quiet, dedicated service to the community he so loved, and whose loss we now mourn. Larry Silsby of Mason, Michigan, was a consummate public servant, deeply devoted to the principles of family, farming, and faith, and a fierce advocate for the interests of rural communities across our great state.

Larry was born on April 18, 1939, and graduated from Mason High School in 1957. Just a few years later, he married his wife Judith Emens, a love story that would bloom across more than 60 years. Together, they raised 3 children, and would go on to become grandparents of 8, and great grandparents of 2. As his family tree grew, he nourished its many branches through his example of hard work, honesty, and his secret recipe for pancakes. Larry cherished his time with his family, especially at their cottage on Drummond Island, where he loved to hunt for stones and watch the Lake Huron waves roll in.

But make no mistake about it—Mason was home, and most certainly where Larry's heart was. A man of the land, Larry spent more than a quarter century working his dairy farm, then continued to lend his expertise to the agriculture community as a board member for the Michigan Farm Bureau. He also served as a trustee for the Board of Education of his alma

mater, Mason Public Schools, and was active in the local Masonic Lodge. In 1982 he was elected to the Aurelius Township Board, and from 1984 until the time of his death in March of this year, he served as Township Supervisor.

It's remarkable enough to hold the same job for nearly 40 years, but when that job is to serve the public, it's truly amazing. Larry was known for greeting everyone who walked into the township hall as a friend, whether they were there to dispute an assessment or inquire about a cemetery plot. And it should be noted that this was no cushy desk job, at least not for Larry, who was so devoted to his beloved community that he was often spotted mowing the grass and pulling weeds at the township parks in the mornings, and making sure the gates were pulled closed each evening. Perhaps his proudest accomplishment was overseeing the creation and opening of a new park, which will now live on as a testament to the goodwill he planted everywhere he went.

Larry was one of the first township supervisors I met when I took office in 2019, and someone whose advice I often sought on rural issues and perspectives. He dedicated his life to the betterment of the Mason area, and served, with no fanfare or spotlight, as the essential link connecting people to the services they needed to improve their lives. Today we mourn his loss, but we also celebrate the difference he made. On behalf of a grateful community, state, and Nation, I honor Larry for his faithful public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on May 10, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 205, NAY on Roll Call No. 206, and NAY on Roll Call No. 207.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
KENNETH WILLIAMS**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Kenneth Williams, an outstanding Mississippian, an influential businessman, a well-known philanthropist, and a beloved community member.

Mr. Williams, a native of Corinth, Mississippi, first began contributing to his home state by working for his family's multigenerational business, Corinth Coca-Cola Bottling Works Inc., in 1957. The business, known today as Corinth Coca-Cola Bottling Group, was started by his grandfather in 1907. Mr. Williams currently serves as the company's CEO and chairman of the board, which has, with the help of his brother, Sandy, been expanded across parts of Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee, serving over one million people.

Mr. Williams has served on various local, state, and national boards related to the soft drink industry and economic development. He served in leadership roles in Rotary and founded the Coke 10K Classic, one of the largest 10K races in Mississippi. He has served on the Mississippi Soft Drink Association board and the National Automatic Association and Trustmark Corporation in Jackson, Mississippi. He is also a past chairman of the Mississippi Economic Council.

The value that Mr. Williams has added to his community is evidenced by his awards. In 2020, Mr. Williams was awarded the Red Raspberry Humanitarian Award. In 2009, Mr. Williams and his brother, Sandy, were joint recipients of CREATE's George McLean Award for Philanthropy along with their spouses.

Mr. Williams represents one of four generations to attend the University of Mississippi. In honor of that legacy, his family sponsors the Corinth Coca-Cola Business Scholarship Endowment and formalized the Refreshments Inc. Partners in Business Scholarship Fund, which offers support to University of Mississippi's School of Business Administration students.

Over 80 years old, Mr. Williams has completed over 75 marathons on the 3 continents, including 22 consecutive Boston Marathons. At one point, he ranked fifth in the world in the 80+ age division of marathon runners. Mr. Williams has added cycling, swimming, skydiving, and bungee jumping to his list of hobbies to try.

Mr. Williams and his late wife, Nancy Ann Kincade Williams, were married for over 55 years. The couple has 4 children: Nan Williams Green (Stuart), Sara Williams Berry (Mont), Ken Williams (Edi), and Martin Williams (Adriene), most of whom reside in the Great State of Mississippi. His sons, Ken and Martin, are now part of the family business.

I commend Mr. Williams for a life that is so well lived and is such an example to others.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR AMELIO
HOWARD FOR 30 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO GRACE TEMPLE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Pastor Amelio P. Howard of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Pastor Howard received his calling to the ministry in March 1989 and has served as Pastor of Grace Temple Missionary Baptist Church since being installed as Pastor on May 2, 1993.

Answering the spiritual call to service leads so many people to a rewarding and prosperous life, and that can certainly be said for Pastor Howard. He has upheld his Christian duty to his God, to his family, and to his church of believers for 30 years. That long and steady leadership has certainly changed countless lives for the better, and the Pine Bluff community can be proud of Pastor Howard's commitment to them and to his faith.

Grace Temple Church's motto is, "We Are The Friendly Church That Loves People." That motto is lived by Pastor Howard daily. He has created a church community that embraces,

with love and grace, everyone who is guided by God. We can all learn from the Church's motto and from Pastor Howard's faithfulness. As a cornerstone of the Pine Bluff community, I know that I am joined by many in saying to Pastor Howard, "well done, good and faithful servant." He has earned the respect of his community, and I am proud to share his example with the people of the United States of America today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Pastor Howard for his 30 years of service to his church and his community in Pine Bluff.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF RENÉ KEMPER

HON. HARRIET M. HAGEMAN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, serving the community can take on many different forms, whether picking up trash in one's neighborhood or assisting individuals in need. However, Renè Suzette Kemper is someone who decided to dedicate her entire life to the service of others. Renè was born and raised on a ranch just outside Cheyenne. At a young age, Renè enjoyed spending time outdoors with the various animals that frequented her family's ranch, including her lifelong favorites, the family's cats. Growing up, her love for writing and limitless imagination would later inspire her to attend the University of Wyoming and graduate with a teaching degree in English studies. Shortly after graduation, Renè moved to Douglas where she pursued her passion for service by working and later serving as director for Youth Development Services in Douglas, Wyoming. Renè later had the privilege to serve as mayor of the community she so dearly loved. During her tenure, she touched the hearts of everyone around her. Renè tragically passed away after a long, courageous battle with cancer on March 2, 2023. Though she is not physically with us anymore, her work, compassion, humor, and tireless service remain steadfast in both the town of Douglas and the hearts and minds of everyone who knew her. It is my hope that we all look to Renè's story for inspiration and leadership so that we may carry on her legacy by positively impacting all our communities.

HONORING THE 21ST CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS 2023
SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, today we congratulate the 2023 Service Academy appointees from the 21st Congressional District of Texas.

The following individuals have accepted Academy Appointments:

Sophia M. Akers, Health Careers High School, San Antonio, United States Military Academy. James C. Cowden III, Greystone Preparatory School at the University of Ozarks, Regents High School, Austin, United States Naval Academy. William S. Crone,

Central Catholic High School, San Antonio, United States Merchant Marine Academy. Lukas C. Decker, United World College East Africa, Arusha, Tanzania, Comfort, United States Air Force Academy. Clay A. Dellinger, Huntsville High School, Alabama, Spring Branch, United States Air Force Academy. William H. French, Boerne High School, Boerne, United States Military Academy. James A. Garcia-Gallegos, Northwestern Preparatory School, Douglas MacArthur High School, San Antonio, United States Naval Academy. Houston K. Hendrix, Boerne High School, Boerne, United States Air Force Academy. Pierce D. Patterson, Deerfield Academy, Austin, United States Military Academy. Trieste A. Perciavalle, Smithson Valley High School, Spring Branch, United States Military Academy. Joshua A. Torres, Ronald Reagan High School, San Antonio, United States Military Academy. Joseph W. White, Alamo Heights High School, San Antonio, United States Air Force Academy. Gavin S. Woods, Smithson Valley High School, Spring Branch, United States Naval Academy. Josephine C. Zink, Ronald Reagan High School, San Antonio, United States Naval Academy.

These outstanding students have much to contribute to their chosen Academy and to our country. We appreciate their talents and their patriotism.

I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating these truly heroic young men and young women.

RECOGNIZING MRS. LAURA LEE
KIRKLEY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Laura Lee Kirkley for her 40 years of service to the Di Giorgio School Board and the Central Valley community. Mrs. Kirkley has been a Valley resident her whole life—growing up in Tehachapi before eventually moving to Arvin in 1974. In 1976, she married James Kirkley and started a family. As her sons started attending school in the Di Giorgio School District, Mrs. Kirkley knew she wanted to become more involved. This led her to join the school board in 1983—a position she has held ever since.

Mrs. Kirkley attended Bakersfield College and would graduate from California State University, Bakersfield in 1994. One year after her graduation, she was hired by the Arvin Union School District as a 7th and 8th grade math teacher at Haven Drive Middle School. As a teacher, Mrs. Kirkley regularly demonstrated her commitment to her students by helping to lead math competitions for the school. Her students were involved in the County Math Field Day competitions and won many awards—including winning first place in the Arvin High Math Field Day 11 straight years.

Mrs. Kirkley was incredibly involved in the Arvin community throughout her sons' childhood. She attended many Little League, Babe Ruth games, and other extracurricular activities. When they attended Arvin High School, she enjoyed going to their baseball, football, and band performances. Throughout her entire