

RECOGNIZING ARTS SAVING
HEARTS**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bilva Vedamurthy and the organization he started, Arts Saving Hearts.

Bilva is a student at Monte Vista High School in Danville, California, and the founder of Arts Saving Hearts. Inspired by his love of learning and discovery, Bilva started Arts Saving Hearts during the COVID-19 pandemic to help artists in our community learn new skills and to promote a self-sustaining lifestyle. Arts Saving Hearts works with local artists to showcase and sell their work, with 100 percent of proceeds going toward helping disadvantaged communities around the world. The organization has received art from students, teachers, and professional artists from all over the Bay Area. Thanks to the contributions of these local artists, Bilva has been able to raise money to support COVID-19 victims and others in need in our community.

The organization works with a variety of local nonprofits and businesses. Bilva has worked extensively with the Edgewood Center for Children and Families in San Francisco to help provide mental health services to children. Arts Saving Hearts also works with Plaza Chiropractor, Indian Red Cross Residential School for Hearing-impaired Kids, and other community partners to support underserved groups. Bilva's work has been instrumental in supporting our community's youth and in helping to connect young people with necessary mental health resources and treatment.

Please join me in honoring Bilva Vedamurthy and Arts Saving Hearts for their important work.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HATCHETTS**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the marriage of Jerry and Bonnie Hatchett. Jerry and Bonnie celebrated 50 years of marriage this year, marrying on June 2, 1973, after 2 years of dating. During their many years together, Jerry and Bonnie have been blessed with 3 sons, who have in turn blessed them with multiple wonderful grandchildren. They started a successful trucking business, Hatchett Transportation, Inc., in 1982, which they still own and operate today.

Jerry serves as President, while Bonnie serves as Secretary and Treasurer. I congratulate Jerry and Bonnie on their 50 years of marriage. I know that finding a partner to go through life with takes a whole lot of luck. Being married for 50 years, going through life's many ups and downs, takes a whole lot of work. I only hope that others are as fortunate as them to be able to spend so many years with the one they love. I pray that Jerry and Bonnie have many more happy and healthy years together ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE ARKANSAS
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the reopening of our magnificent Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts.

The museum, located in downtown Little Rock, reopened on April 22 after almost four years since closing for renovation and expansion.

After years of planning, the museum has been reimaged into a beautiful work of art itself.

The architecture firm, Studio Gang, led the design which preserves historic elements of the building but includes other critical, interesting, and tasteful elements, making it into one of the most influential museums in the country.

The museum has much to offer, from the visual and performing arts, to full art educational experiences.

The goal is to create a cultural space where our community can engage with a diverse portfolio of artistic perspectives and come together to see beautiful temporary exhibitions and participate in the wonderful array of educational courses.

I thank all involved for their efforts in making this renovation possible and congratulate the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts for this new chapter in their history in our state.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE VIENNA ELEMEN-
TARY SCHOOL**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Vienna Elementary School of Vienna, Virginia on its 150th Anniversary.

Vienna Elementary has the distinction of being the oldest continuously operating school in the Fairfax County Public Schools system. It is also in one of the oldest buildings still operating. The school serves nearly 400 children between kindergarten and 6th grade.

The faculty and staff at Vienna Elementary strive to instill a world-class education in both academic and social domains for all students, equipping them with the skills to succeed in the 21st century. They cultivate values, attitudes, knowledge, and capabilities to nurture good citizenship in a safe, diverse, and instructionally rich environment. The students at Vienna Elementary benefit from a rich legacy of instruction focused on meaningful and practical applications to students' futures.

From the PTA to local business and non-profit organizations partnerships, Vienna Elementary is deeply ingrained in our community. The school hosts annual events like Bingo Night, a Holiday Shop, a 5K Fun Race, the GRACE Arts Program, which brings volunteer docents into every classroom to connect art and art history with the curriculum, ensuring a holistic and enriching education for the next generation.

To commemorate this momentous occasion, community members will gather to enjoy cake, games, and activities for children and adults alike. The "birthday party" will also include acknowledgments of the school's history, including roots in segregation.

While we hope that all who attend will be able to enjoy, it is now more important than ever to acknowledge the systemic injustices that have pervaded our country's history. Our children have a right to know how we got to this point if we are going to task them with creating a brighter future.

Vienna is one of the most culturally rich and promising localities in Virginia's Eleventh Congressional District, and I am proud to represent this community and this school. They have striven for greatness and instilled a drive in their students to accomplish great things and to work towards a future in which we can all take pride.

Mr. Speaker, this school is a testament to the hard work of Virginia's teachers, parents, administrators, and everyone else who contributes to the education and experience of our youngest and most promising neighbors. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Vienna Elementary School for 150 years of dedicated service to Virginia's students.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF DR. CAROL WEYLAND CONNER**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Dr. Carol Weyland Conner.

Dr. Conner studied English literature at U.C. Berkeley and French literature at the Sorbonne in Paris. After watching her brother experience mental health issues, Dr. Conner was inspired to help others and earned her PhD in clinical psychology from Catholic University. After earning her degree, she practiced as a therapist in Walnut Creek, California, for 25 years. During this time, she also volunteered as a counselor at Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. Additionally, Dr. Conner acted as a spiritual director until her passing.

Throughout her life, Dr. Conner was devoted to serving her community and helping those in need. She started White Pony Express in 2013, and the organization has grown into one of California's largest food rescue programs. The White Pony Express distributes clothes, resources, and high-quality, fresh food throughout Contra Costa County. White Pony was also active in aiding victims of the 2018 Camp Fire in Butte County, transporting clothes, food, and other necessities to the community. Dr. Conner received the 2019 Andrus Award from the California AARP for her leadership on that project. She has also received numerous accolades for her leadership at White Pony Express, including the Hometown Hero Award from the Contra Costa Times, the Jefferson Award from San Francisco KPIX, and the Soroptimist Ruby Award for Women Helping Women.

Sadly, Dr. Conner passed away at the age of 80 on April 22, 2023. She will be remembered for her compassionate nature and dedicated service. Please join me in recognizing

Dr. Conner for her many contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL
R. GLASS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Michael R. Glass of Salem, Virginia, who passed away on June 4, 2023. Glass was described by his loved ones as an "out-standing father, husband, brother, friend, mentor, and Firefighter." Mike dedicated his life to serving his community, following in his father's footsteps, and becoming a volunteer firefighter at Fort Lewis Fire Department in 1978. Mike then became a career firefighter with Salem Fire Department in 1987, where he obtained his EMT certification and served as part of the Regional HazMat team.

Committed to expanding access to fire service training programs, Mike was influential in starting Roanoke County's Volunteer Firefighter Academy, where he continued as the Lead Instructor. He also helped start a second fire academy in conjunction with the Elliston Fire Department in Montgomery County. Mike retired from the Salem Fire Department in 2008 after 20 years of service and from the Fort Lewis Fire Department in 2019 after 41 years of service. While at Fort Lewis, he served as treasurer and lieutenant and won service Firefighter of the Year awards.

Over the years, I had the privilege of attending many Fort Lewis Chicken Barbeque dinners, which Mike organized twice a year and were the department's biggest fundraiser, with proceeds going toward the department's budget and providing training and safety equipment for the station. When not fighting fires, Mike loved making trips to the Smoky Mountains with his family and friends. He also had a great love for dogs and had a special place in his heart for children, making sure to hand out a few dollar bills to any youngsters he came across.

Mike joins his wife Bonnie, his parents Harrison and Barbara, and best friend Kevin Sheppard in heaven. Mike is survived by his son, Stephen Palmer (Stephanie); grand-dog, Ace; his baby sister, Becky Ayers (Justin); special nephews, Jase, and Ryan Ayers; brothers, James and Ronnie Glass; Sister, Anne Paitzel (David); special nieces, Sylvia Paitzel (Cedrick); great niece, Leia; and special aunt, Sandra Dawley. I wish them condolences on the loss of their loved one. Mike served as a mentor to countless Volunteer Firefighters, and his contributions to Salem and the fire departments around Southwest Virginia will not be forgotten. He will be greatly missed.

THANKING ARKANSAS COMMUNITY
AFTER TORNADO

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of central Arkansas during

the recovery period after our devastating tornado that hit our district last month.

Our neighbors immediately began to work hand in hand, neighbor to neighbor, to rebuild our community.

Many volunteered and worked tirelessly to set up emergency shelters in our local schools and churches to ensure those impacted by this severe storm had safe housing in the wake of the tornado.

The response of our leaders at the state, county, and city level was invaluable to be commended.

The incredible efforts and active emergency response from Governor Sarah Sanders, Pulaski County Judge Barry Hyde, Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott, Mayor Terry Hartwick of North Little Rock, Mayor Jeff Elmore in Jacksonville, and Mayor Mary Jo Heye-Townsell of Sherwood, and many others all saved lives and accelerated the recovery process.

Not only did we witness their outstanding response and an outpouring of local volunteers, but we saw the swift action of our first responders and our essential businesses.

Entergy Arkansas began repairs to the local power grid as soon as the storms passed, and many of our linemen and women worked countless hours to restore power, even when themselves were affected.

One lineman I met with was in his bed at the time of the tornado and the roof torn off his apartment, and after a day off from that tragedy was out there working 16 hours a day to connect the power to his neighbors.

Countless time put in neighbor for neighbor. Entergy Arkansas's corporate office also donated \$50,000 to the American Red Cross to be used toward tornado recovery efforts, with an additional pledge of up to \$50,000 matching employee donations.

The Arkansas Food Bank did an incredible job of delivering food, water, and other necessary items throughout our communities to ensure those affected by the storms were supported by necessary goods.

Additionally, our local restaurants, our local businesses all donated hundreds of meals and supplies to those in need.

I thank our community for demonstrating generosity and thoughtfulness during a time of great need. They simply demonstrate that core value that we all take pride in Arkansans and Americans.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TEPHRA INSTITUTE
OF CONTEMPORARY ART

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. This non-profit endeavor was founded in Reston, Virginia as the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) in 1974 to showcase the phenomenal talent of Northern Virginia.

Tephra ICA works with artists, galleries, institutions, thought leaders, and collectors around the globe to promote creativity and the generation of ideas and growth that the arts can facilitate. They are committed to promoting innovative contemporary art and inno-

vative thinking to accompany it. By building intimate connections between artists and audiences, including insights into the creative processes by which this art comes to be, Tephra ICA is able to extend their impact beyond the museum itself and instill these values into the Northern Virginia community at large.

Northern Virginia is one of the culturally richest and most diverse regions of the Nation, and Tephra ICA seeks to illuminate that diversity. They curate globally conscious experiences that seek to contextualize artists' work in the historical and cultural canon from which they are derived, simultaneously promoting contemporary artists, and deepening their audience's understanding of artistic movements altogether.

The organization recently rebranded as Tephra ICA to emphasize their growing audience beyond just the Reston Town Center, including Fairfax County and the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area. The word tephra means "matter ejected from geothermal eruptions settling upon and changing the landscape." I cannot think of a more fitting name for this institute, which seeks to showcase the eruption of talent in the region and reshape perceptions of art for tens of thousands of visitors, both in person and online.

Of particular importance to the community is Tephra ICA's annual Arts Festival, a celebration in which contemporary artists from across the country can present their original work to festival audiences. This is one of the most exciting and unique events of the year, and one to which thousands of my constituents and I look forward to. The individual and group experiences, performances, and special events exemplify Tephra ICA's commitment to the cultural education and enrichment of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art on its 50th anniversary and in recognizing the visionaries and leaders who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

HONORING THE MANHEIM TOWNSHIP
SCHOOL DISTRICT UNIFIED
TRACK TEAM

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Manheim Township Unified Track Team on their PIAA championship win. Manheim Township school district is in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

The Manheim Township team was only assembled in March of this year and quickly grew into a team of 28 athletes. Coach Shannon Sloss and Assistant Coach Shawna Givens led this team to success with no prior track experience. Members of the team came from a variety of backgrounds in sports. Some played field hockey, others played football, and some had no prior experience at all. Yet, athletes found themselves in search of a spring activity. For others, this was their first opportunity to join a team.

Unified Track teams present a unique opportunity for athletes with intellectual disabilities to work with their classmates and compete as a team. The Manheim Township