

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SANDRA IRBY FOR HER RETIREMENT FROM JPL NASA DEEP SPACE NETWORK

**HON. JAY OBERNOLTE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2023*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sandra Irby as she retires from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory NASA's Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex after 24 years of service supporting the United States space program. She began her career working with the Marine Corps in Brawley, California during Operation Desert Storm and is a valuable member of our community.

Sandi began her career at NASA Goldstone working in logistics as a warehouse worker. Her hard work and commitment led to expanded responsibilities as she was promoted to Property Administrator. In this role she was responsible for asset tracking, property movement, government reporting, and inventory of NASA property. Sandi assisted with the development of advanced hierarchical systems for determining locations and specifying the condition of assets. This information was critical in ensuring the continued operation of telecommunications equipment across the Goldstone complex.

Sandi's 24 years of service have been an important contribution to the success of JPL NASA's Deep Space Network. Goldstone has played a critical role in NASA's robotic and human-crewed spaceflight mission, landing, and planetary encounters. We honor Sandi for her commitment and contributions towards our mission to expand humankind's understanding of the solar system and beyond.

**TRIBUTE TO BARBARA HOWELL—  
30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2023*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Barbara Howell of the Los Feliz neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born in Ogden, Utah, Barbara is the eldest of three children and the only daughter of the late Joyce and Clyde Howell. Due to her father's work obligations, the family moved quite often, living in Utah, Colorado, Nevada, and Minnesota. After graduating from high school in Minnesota, Barbara attended Brigham Young University in Utah, and earned a bachelor's degree in communications and marketing. While a student at the university, she served as an intern with Utah Easter Seals, which ignited her passion and interest in working for non-profit organizations. She went on to work for the organization in several states for seventeen years and later spent three years with the Greater Los Angeles Leukemia

and Lymphoma Society as the organization's executive director.

In 2004, Ms. Howell joined the Burbank Temporary Aid Center (BTAC) as its executive director, and over the years has been instrumental in raising money to fund the renovation of BTAC. Immediately after assuming this position, Barbara enrolled in Leadership Burbank, an organization that offers a leadership training program for individuals who work or reside in the City of Burbank, which helped Barbara develop appreciation and a better understanding of the community. While at BTAC, she fulfilled a lifelong dream of continuing her education and pursued a master's degree in organizational leadership at Woodbury University, graduating in 2010. Expanding her knowledge has been especially important to Barbara when leading the organization through challenging years.

Dedicated to giving back to the community, Barbara served as a board member for Leadership Burbank, and held various leadership roles, including past president, in the Burbank Noon Rotary Club. She also served as treasurer for the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council. Ms. Howell has received several honors and awards including the Woman of the Year Award from the Zonta Club of Burbank Area and the Citizen of the Year award from the Burbank Association of REALTORS.

Barbara enjoys traveling and has visited Canada, England, France, Ireland, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Germany, Wales, Mexico, and Italy. She learned to play the piano at a young age, often accompanying her father when he would sing, and developed an appreciation for all types of music. Ms. Howell has sung with the Southern California Mormon Choir and plays the organ for her congregation.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Barbara Howell.

**HONORING FRANK SMITH**

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2023*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, alongside my esteemed colleagues Senators MIKE CRAPO and JIM RISCH, to pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Frank F. Smith. It is with great sadness that we mourn his passing on July 7th of this year. Frank was a man of unwavering integrity, dedicating his life to serving his country and his fellow veterans.

Frank was raised in a home that instilled in him the values of patriotism, hard work, and compassion. His father was a former Lt. Colonel of the Army Air Corps and U.S. Air Force. Frank went on to follow in his father's footsteps and served in the U.S. Air Force.

During the Vietnam War, from 1964 to 1968, Frank proudly served in the Air Force at Edwards Air Force Base in Kern County, California. His contributions were instrumental in the development of experimental aircraft, many of which would later be utilized in the Vietnam War.

Frank's distinguished military career garnered him numerous accolades, including the National Defense Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Lon-

gevity Service Award Ribbon, and Air Force Good Conduct Medal. In recognition of his exceptional service, he was honored with the Spirit of Freedom Award in 2017.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Frank dedicated 16 years of his life as the Information Technology Director for the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center. Additionally, he established his own business providing IT services in Eastern Idaho.

Frank actively engaged with several meaningful organizations, serving as a lifetime member of the American Legion and the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). Notably, he held prominent leadership roles, including President of the VVA-972, Idaho Falls Bob Taylor Memorial Chapter, and he played a pivotal role in establishing the American Legion Riders in Idaho, where he served as director for the Department of Idaho and the Idaho Falls Chapter. Furthermore, he wholeheartedly contributed to the Idaho Falls and Pocatello Idaho military affairs committees.

Frank saw his role as a founding member and the driving force of the Veterans Mobility Corporation (VMC) as his greatest achievement. Established in 2015, the VMC tirelessly endeavors to provide electric wheelchairs to veterans, their spouses, and children. To date, the VMC has furnished 378 electric wheelchairs, significantly improving the lives of veterans and their families.

Frank's unwavering dedication to assisting others, particularly his fellow veterans, leaves an indelible mark. He exemplified a life of compassion and selflessness. Frank will be remembered by many as a man who made a profound difference in their lives. His memory and legacy will forever inspire us and shall never fade away.

**TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF  
JOHN D. LEMES**

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2023*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of an extraordinary constituent, John D. Lemes, who died in Los Altos, California on May 15, 2023.

John was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on December 30, 1936, and he attended Punahoa School where he excelled in track and football, and was key to Punahoa winning Hawaii's state football championship in 1953.

He attended Colgate University and shortly thereafter moved to California. He met and married Karen Lemes and spent a lifetime devoted to her. Together they had five children; Lucia Nicholson, Renee Seligman, John (Ocean) Lemes, Jennifer Springer, and Frank Lemes, and 14 beloved grandchildren who brought him great joy.

John spent 26 years as Chief Internal Auditor for the County of Santa Clara. He was also active in his community, serving on the Santa Clara Federal Credit Union Board, coaching soccer, and serving his church in various positions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of John Lemes, and in extending our condolences to his wife Karen, and his entire family. He was a great and good man, a patriot and

a citizen who served his community. We are a better Nation because of him.

---

TRIBUTE TO RHONDA REYNOLDS—  
30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

---

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Rhonda Reynolds of the Echo Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born and raised in Indiana, Rhonda attended Indiana University Bloomington, where she met her future husband, Rob Rowe. After graduation, she moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she was a founding member of a theater company. In 1993, Rhonda moved from Chicago to Los Angeles, and she and her husband first settled in Silver Lake, and then in 2000, into their home in Echo Park.

In 2004, Rhonda and Rob opened Masa of Echo Park Bakery and Cafe, a family-owned restaurant that specializes in Chicago-style pizza. Masa is a beloved community-minded restaurant that "feels like home" for employees and customers, a place for friendship and food. Rhonda is honored and grateful to share in the lives of the Masa family. Through first dates and chance meetings at the restaurant that have turned into engagements and marriages, the people at Masa bring her great joy and have become her extended family.

Crediting her teacher parents' philosophy of embracing a larger sense of community, Ms. Reynolds is actively involved in her neighborhood, working to nurture growth and foster relationships with fellow business owners, schools, and neighborhood groups. She has devoted countless hours volunteering on local committees and non-profit organizations. Rhonda is President of the Echo Park Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Rampart Community Advisory Board, a member of the Preserve Echo Park Lake group, and a Board Member of a children's literacy/animal welfare non-profit, Reading to the Rescue.

Past involvement includes serving on the Dodgers Neighborhood Community Advisory Board, the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council's Governmental and External Affairs Committee, the Echo Park Film District Planning Committee, the FILM LA Community Relations Subcommittee representing Echo Park, and a block captain for the UNTAG—Uniting Neighborhoods to Abolish Graffiti—program. In addition, Rhonda and her husband donate food and supplies from their restaurant to numerous nonprofit events. Rhonda and Rob have 2 mixed-breed rescue dogs, Mimi and Marty.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Rhonda Reynolds.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GEORGE GLEN PRIETTO

---

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate the life and legacy of George Glen Prietto, Kumeyaay Native and Sycuan Tribal Elder from the 48th District of California.

Mr. Prietto was born on January 26, 1931, at the Soboba Indian Hospital. He moved to the Sycuan Reservation and attended Dehesa School and Grossmont High School.

Before he was 18, Mr. Prietto joined the U.S. Army as an infantryman and served with distinction during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged after 4 years of service.

After his military service, Mr. Prietto became a proud farmworker in Yuma—picking lettuce in the sun and train-hopping to Lodi to pick grapes. After years of painstaking labor, he transitioned to driving big-rig trucks.

Mr. Prietto eventually returned to the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation and co-founded the Sycuan Fire Department with Hank Murphy. He served as a dedicated firefighter on the reservation, including transporting patients for the Southern Indian Health Clinic, for which he was celebrated upon retirement.

Mr. Prietto dedicated himself to preserving and teaching the Kumeyaay language. He taught hundreds of children, stressing the importance of family values and celebrating their culture.

Mr. Prietto loved spending time with his lifelong friends, including Kenny Meza, Leroy Elliott, Paul Cuero, Jr., Steve Banegas and Bobby Wallace. His family meant everything—especially his marriage to Terri and spending time with his nephews Raymond and Joe Sandoval.

While we mourn the loss of a great leader, tribal elder, family man, and veteran, we can find solace in the fact that Mr. Prietto's legacy will continue to enrich the lives of generations to come.

---

HONORING SGT./REV. JESSE C. TULL, SR.

---

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, Jesse Commasel Tull, Sr. Mr. Tull fought for freedom as a soldier in the United States Colored Troops as a member of Company C, 119th U.S. Colored Infantry. Tull's Company C was 1 of 8 U.S. Colored Troops regiments assigned to various locations in Kentucky, including Camp Nelson, located in Jessamine County near the Kentucky River. Attaining the rank of Sargent, Tull performed guard, garrison, and recruitment duties at various points across Kentucky. He helped to enlist and emancipate many men and their families and thus aided his country to ultimate victory in the Civil War.

In addition to his important military service, Mr. Tull became a Reverend in Jessamine

County, ministering to many believers. He organized the Historic First Baptist Church of Camp Nelson, Ky. This church, located at the Camp Nelson Refugee Camp where soldiers' wives and children lived, was 1 of 3 African American churches organized in the area to minister to African Americans in their transition from slavery to freedom.

Sgt./Rev. Jesse C. Tull served his country as a soldier and served God as a preacher. His descendants include his great grandson the Rev. R.P. Gates, Sr., current pastor of the Historic First Baptist Church at Camp Nelson. Rev. Gates has helped keep the story of Jesse C. Tull alive as he is remembered as an important part of our Nation's history.

I am humbled to honor the memory of Sgt./Rev. Jesse C. Tull, Sr. before the United States Congress.

---

TRIBUTE TO ALEXA ILES SKARPELOS—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

---

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Alexa Iles Skarpios of Hollywood, California.

Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, Alexa studied design at Western Washington University and spent the next two decades working as a Design Director for global brands such as Guess and Levis. In 2000, she and her husband, George moved to Hollywood and welcomed their daughter, Athena a few months later.

Ms. Skarpios is dedicated to creating opportunities for civic engagement by developing meaningful partnerships between the community and government officials, and providing space for productive and candid communication. A tireless volunteer, she is the organizer of many successful annual community events. For several years, she has led the Hollywood Dell Summer Block Party and Pet Parade, now in its 17th year, and the Hollywood National Night Out event. Alexa has also coordinated an annual neighborhood Halloween celebration, a Hollywood Dell Art Show and neighborhood cleanup days. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she encouraged her neighbors to create and display artwork in front of their homes made from materials on hand for the "Hollywood Dell Shows the LOVE" campaign and shared some of her "Recipes for Disaster" in neighborhood email news updates.

Alexa belongs to several civic organizations, including the Hollywood Dell Civic Association, where she served as Secretary for eight years, and currently serves as President. She also served as Secretary for several years and was recently appointed as the Civilian Co-Chair for the Hollywood Community-Police Advisory Board.

Among her numerous community achievements, Ms. Skarpios led the grassroots effort