

DeWitt of Frisco, Texas, who peacefully passed away on June 26, 2024.

Mrs. DeWitt was born on April 11, 1936, in Evergreen Park, Illinois to Thomas and Verena Colvin. She grew up with five other siblings in Downers Grove, where she enjoyed bike riding, ice skating, and staying at her family's lake cottage in Wisconsin. In 1953, Mrs. DeWitt graduated from Downers Grove North High School and began working as a secretary for Swift & Co. in Chicago. This is where she met the love of her life, Dale, and the two married just four years later. Together, they traveled across the country for work and raised six amazing children. During this time, Mrs. DeWitt worked at a bowling league and bridge club while volunteering at her children's Catholic schools. Along with her best friend Robyn, she co-founded the Bent Tree Travel agency and took advantage of travel perks to take her family on fantastic vacations around the world.

After retirement, the DeWitts settled in Frisco Lakes. Mrs. DeWitt was an active member of our community, and she spent many hours volunteering with the Republican Conservative Coalition to advocate for her values and support conservative candidates for office. Throughout her life, Mrs. DeWitt was most proud of having raised a wonderful family and spending time with loved ones. In her free time, she enjoyed singing along to Elvis Presley and Engelbert Humperdinck, her two favorite artists. Moreover, Mrs. DeWitt had a great sense of humor and always had a clever joke ready to bring laughs to those around her. I am saddened to hear of her passing, as her presence brought joy and warmth wherever she went.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our nation's Capitol to honor Mrs. DeWitt's wonderful life and contributions to our community. She will be dearly missed by her friends, family, and all who knew her.

HONORING MICHAEL DAHM

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of business and community leader Michael Dahm of Fort Wayne, Indiana. His contributions have greatly improved the lives of those in our community and helped make the region a wonderful place to live and do business.

A native Hoosier, Michael has been deeply committed to the growth and prosperity of northeast Indiana. After graduating from Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, he earned a bachelor of business administration with a minor in real estate from Xavier University. Upon returning to Fort Wayne, he co-founded NAI Harding Dahm, now Bradley Company, where I had the privilege of working alongside him as a commercial real estate broker. More than five decades later, Michael continues to share his expertise in office, industrial, and investment sales and leasing.

Throughout his career, Michael has given back to the community in numerous ways. Among his many service contributions and accolades, he was named "Realtor of the Year" by the Indiana Commercial Board of Realtors

(ICBR). He has also served as president of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR) and the Fort Wayne Board of Realtors. His volunteer work includes serving on the boards of the Better Business Bureau and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Additionally, he is a past member of the Anthony Wayne Rotary Club and a current member of the Rotary Club of Fort Wayne.

Recently, Michael celebrated both his 90th birthday and his 61st wedding anniversary with his wife, Dee Dee. As he prepares to retire after 66 years in real estate, I want to express my gratitude for his decades of service to our region. People like Michael are the reason the Midwest remains the backbone of America. I wish him continued success in this next great chapter of life.

CELEBRATING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN BAKERSFIELD

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Bakersfield, California. As St. George Greek Orthodox Church celebrates a century of faith, heritage, and hope this year, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the history and roots this Church has upheld since its founding.

Bakersfield's Greek Orthodox organized formally after a time when the Greek community experienced ethnic and religious persecution in their homeland and were forced to look for a new home overseas to practice their culture and faith. Many found work building the transcontinental railroad, venturing further and further west until some reached Kern County in the early 20th century. St. George Greek Orthodox Church's precursor community was founded in 1916 under the name Uplift Society Socrates. According to the narrative history of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in these early years, Greek Americans worked to balance two values so characteristic of the American immigrant experience—upholding the faith and customs of their homeland while also adapting to a new life in the United States.

In 1924, Uplift Society Socrates accomplished the former by constructing a modest hall for religious and social gatherings at 401 Truxtun Avenue. This hall became the foundation upon and around where the Bakersfield Greek Orthodox Church community has since grown. By the early 1930s, the Bakersfield Greek Orthodox community had grown to over 200 families, who soon called for the construction of a Church, which was completed in 1932. Also in 1932, the community changed its name to The Hellenic Community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Father Vasilios Markopoulos became the community's first official priest in 1944, though four "Pioneer Priests" had been active in the community in the preceding few decades. Unfortunately, the 1952 Kern County earthquake precipitated the demolition of the original hall. As a mark of the faith of the Greek Orthodox community in Bakersfield, the new Church was blessed by the Bishop of the Fourth Dio-

cese of Los Angeles in 1956. St. George Greek Orthodox Church continues to thrive. And it continues to exemplify the role of faith as the heart of such a vibrant community, uniting individuals in love, compassion, and shared purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate St. George Greek Orthodox Church as it marks its 100th Anniversary, standing as an example of the incredible growth and faith of the Bakersfield community. Generations of Bakersfield Greek Orthodox have worked to ensure that their traditions and sense of community remain strong in the heart of Bakersfield.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROSE MARIE HANSEN

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of longtime Concord resident Rose Marie Hansen.

Rose Marie was born in Kansas, where she spent many of her formative years working on the family farm with her father and brother. She eventually moved to Oakland, California, where she worked as a nanny. Shortly after, Rose Marie met her husband, Alfred "Bud" Hansen, at a dance in Alameda. The two married in 1941 and were together for 52 years until Bud's passing in 1993.

She and her husband owned a contracting business and later partnered with a local businessman to open a bowling alley and retail complex, known today as Clayton Fair Properties. When Bud passed away in the early 1990s, Rose Marie took over as manager, a position she held until 2023, helping the successful business for more than 60 years.

Rose Marie was also very active in her community, volunteering at Concord's First Presbyterian Church where she served as an accountant, deacon, and elder. She also volunteered at the American Cancer Society as their coordinator of transportation for over 21 years, served as president of the Concord Diablo Historical Society for over 7 years, and traveled the world as international president of the USA Inner Wheel Association. On top of it all, she was also vice president of the Concord Homes Board of Directors, overseeing the development of two multi-story residential buildings for seniors.

Rose Marie will be greatly missed, but I am confident her impact will be felt in the community for generations to come. Please join me in recognizing Rose Marie for her many contributions to our community and devoted service to the city of Concord.

HONORING WOMEN OF THE YEAR, MYRTLE BRAXTON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Myrtle Braxton, honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Ms. Braxton is a dedicated community leader and advocate, renowned for her tireless work in social justice and public service. As a long-standing member of Easter Hill United Methodist Church.

Ms. Braxton has worn many hats, championing justice and environmental causes. Following her 35-year career with the Social Security Administration, she continued her public service by becoming the first Black female president of a national citizens branch of the National Parks Association.

Ms. Braxton remains actively involved in numerous community organizations, including the Richmond Commission on Aging and the West Contra Costa County League of Women Voters. A staunch advocate for women's rights and police accountability, she inspires others with her compassion and unwavering dedication to justice. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor Ms. Braxton for her invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2024 CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize a leading figure in the Oceanside community, Robbie Hass, as my Constituent of the Month for February 2024.

For more than 20 years, Robbie has been an active member of our community, donating her time and energy, as well as being active in numerous clubs and organizations. In 2000 she joined the North County African American Women's Association, which provides scholarships to young women in our district to fulfill their academic ambitions.

As a lifetime member of the NAACP, Robbie was named Woman of the Year in 2017 for all the work she's done in our community as a local business owner. She now serves as the first Black President of the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce and most recently joined the Board of Directors of Community Housing works, an affordable housing non-profit dedicated to making sure working families have housing opportunities in an expensive housing market.

Robbie's work as a public servant is inspirational and I'm proud to honor her as my February 2024 Constituent of the Month.

HONORING SALVADOR PRECIADO ZAMORA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Salvador Preciado on his 85th birthday. Mr. Preciado is a pillar of our community, having revolutionized grape growing through his techniques of grafting vines.

Mr. Preciado grew up in El Grullo, Mexico. In 1963, Mr. Preciado immigrated to the United States from Mexico. He began working with Annie and Frank Emmolo at their plant

nursery, where he was first introduced to grafting. Mr. Preciado then fell in love with grafting, and this led him to start his own company. Simultaneously, Mr. Preciado attended language classes to help strengthen his English. Today, Mr. Preciado resides in St. Helena and is regarded as one of the most successful grafters in the wine community.

Mr. Preciado has had a thriving career in the wine community. He has taught grafting around the world, including South America, Europe, and throughout the United States. Mr. Preciado's hard work created many job opportunities within the wine community. The lessons he shared with fellow grafters have been spread throughout the world's wine community. Mr. Preciado has helped shape many vineyards in Napa, Sonoma, and in other countries.

Mr. Preciado is a strong community servant, guided by the desire to help others. In the 1980s he was given the title, "The Vine Whisperer" as Mr. Preciado proved essential when he used his grafting skills to save vineyards during the phylloxera outbreak in Sonoma and Napa Counties. Mr. Preciado and his crew have worked tirelessly to graft infected vines and preserve local vineyards. In response, the University of California, Davis invited Mr. Preciado to help identify vines in their vineyards because of his impressive abilities. Mr. Preciado was also recognized for his work in the "Latino Winemakers Oral History Project Collection" of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center.

Mr. Preciado's wife, Gloria, also gives back to the community. Mrs. Preciado was recognized in 2001 by the Dalai Lama for the work she did in the St. Helena community as well as in El Grullo. In Mexico, she worked to help build a local drug and alcohol rehabilitation center and a soup kitchen for underserved children. Mr. and Mrs. Preciado also helped start a local soccer team in St. Helena so people from El Grullo could feel connected to their hometown and to each other. They maintain an open door, often hosting community dinners and inviting community members and friends to stay in their home.

Mr. Preciado has positively impacted our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Mr. Preciado here today.

HONORING SHANNON CASEY AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Shannon Casey is a proud firefighter and paramedic, currently a distinguished member of Osceola County Fire Rescue. She graduated from Coral Springs Regional Institute of Public Safety with class 17-05, receiving the student achievement award for her class. She has since served the communities of Coral Springs and Osceola County for the last five years.

Working as a firefighter/paramedic is not for the faint of heart. They work long hours, receiving call after call, going from one trauma to the next, many times never receiving clo-

sure or recognition for their efforts. When everyone else is running away from danger, they are the ones running towards it, bravely fighting to keep the community safe. In a male-dominated and heteronormative field, Shannon has not only survived, but she has thrived.

With over 15 years of experience in the field, she has a wealth of knowledge and experience that makes her a natural leader and role model for her peers. She has gained the respect of a diverse group of individuals while working as a float firefighter/paramedic across Osceola County. She responds to a multitude of emergencies, both fire and medical, often encountering adversity and exposing herself to a great deal of trauma. She continues to carry herself with honor and dedication with each and every call and willingly makes many personal sacrifices in order to be there for people in need on their worst days.

Her ability to remain calm in the face of chaos is unmatched, making life-or-death decisions in a matter of seconds. Her positive outcomes speak for themselves, as her accomplishments have deeply benefited her patients and community. She always strives to do and learn more, and her strength and resilience are inspiring, to say the least.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL COLBY K. KRUG

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Colby K. Krug and recognize his professional leadership skills in the Armed Forces of the United States. He is a Buffalo native and leaves active service with numerous decorations and accolades.

Lieutenant Colonel Colby K. Krug received his commission as an engineering officer from St. Bonaventure University Reserve Officer's Training Corps in 2004, where he also earned his bachelor of business administration degree in accounting and a master of arts degree in engineering management from Missouri University School of Science and Technology. Lieutenant Colonel Krug also holds a master of arts degree in operational art from the Army School of Advanced Military Studies and is a certified project manager and associate emergency manager.

Showing his loyalty and dedication to his Nation, Lieutenant Colonel Krug has received several awards, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Ranger Tab, Sapper Tab, Combat Action Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Parachutist Badge. Under his leadership, his regiment received accolades for "Most Outstanding Engineer Company" in the U.S. Forces Command in 2011. He was awarded the Army's Best Sapper Competition in 2007 with a Bronze DeFluery Medal. He has been deployed multiple times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

At his side throughout his military career has been his beloved wife, Erin, and daughter, Chloe, and son, Jack. Today, we thank Lieutenant Colonel Colby K. Krug for his outstanding service accolades and duty to serve