

HONORING DOUG WIGHT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doug Wight, who was named the 2024 Member of the Year by the Napa County Farm Bureau. Mr. Wight is being honored for his decades of outstanding contributions to our agricultural community in Napa County.

Mr. Wight is a fifth-generation farmer in the Napa Valley who graduated from St. Helena High School in 1968. He obtained a degree in Fruit Science from Cal Poly in 1973 before returning home to plant his first vineyard of Cabernet Sauvignon at his family's Lewelling Ranch in 1974. With Mr. Wight's extensive viticulture knowledge, he is upholding the 160-year tradition of continuous family farming on his family ranch. Today, Mr. Wight continues to farm and mentors the future farmers of his family.

In 1983, Mr. Wight started his business, Wight Vineyard Management, which has been in operation for over 40 years. The company manages 500 acres of vines across the Napa Valley. Over the course of his career, Mr. Wight has also been a longstanding member of the American Society of Oenologists and Viticulturists, one of the original members of Napa Valley Vineyard Technical Group (Vit Tech) and served on the board of directors of the Farm Supply and Grape Growers Association.

Mr. Wight also made great contributions beyond our agricultural community. As Chairman of the St. Helena High School Class of '68 Scholarship, Mr. Wight has helped ensure educational opportunities for our local students, supporting their growth and success. For 25 years, he has also served with pride on the St. Helena High School Football Chain Gang. Additionally, Mr. Wight was a founding member of the committee to reestablish the St. Helena High School FFA program, helping to revive and strengthen agricultural education programs in our region.

Mr. Speaker, Doug Wight has continued to uphold his family's legacy of humility, generosity, and community in Napa County agriculture. His award as Napa County Farm Bureau's Member of the Year recognizes the positive impact he has had in Napa County. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CELEBRATING PASTOR JERMAINE JOHNSTON'S DEDICATION TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Pastor Jermaine Johnston of Ypsilanti, Michigan, on the 8th anniversary of his Founder's Day. Since 2016, his ministry "Berea City of Hope" has been a beacon of good will for the community and his work is worthy of commendation.

Pastor Johnston came to Ypsilanti as a young boy when his family relocated from

Brooklyn, New York. His path to the ministry is not all surprising, as he was often referred to as "the little preacher" by those who knew him. Raised by a single mother, Pastor Johnston grew up attending the St. James Church of God in Christ in Ypsilanti. He was a devoted church drummer for over 20 years, but despite everyone's expectations, he had no desire to preach.

After attending a transformational service at Burning Bush International Ministries, Pastor Johnston decided to heed the calling and dedicate his life to the church. Under the guidance of then Pastor Don W. Shelby, Jr., Pastor Johnston served as an armorbearer, observing, learning and growing spiritually. In 2008, he was licensed as a minister, and in 2010, he was ordained as an elder by Bishop John H. Sheard. His dedication to the ministry led to his appointment as an Assistant Pastor in 2015.

In the summer of 2016, Pastor Johnston brought the idea of having his own ministry to life, opening up the Berea City of Hope in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Together with his wife, Lena, the last eight years has seen Berea City of Hope truly become a bastion of hope for their community. This year, they will be hosting then 6th annual Back to School Fair, where they will be giving out free backpacks and school supplies to the neediest in the community. They also run a food pantry on the 3rd Saturday of each month, a summer literacy program, and a coat drive in the winter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the accomplishments of Pastor Jermaine Johnston and all of the good he has done for his community. It is leaders like Pastor Johnston that make our communities safer, stronger, and more prosperous. We thank him for his service, and are excited to see how his ministry continues to serve his community well into the future.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
DONALD DUCKERING**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life and incomparable spirit of Donald "Don" Webster Duckering, an inspiration and beloved member of his community.

Born in New York, Donald was the son of Lynn and Mae Duckering. He, along with his brother Verle, was raised in Santa Cruz, California, where their father was a prominent architect. Donald excelled in athletics during his youth, particularly in tennis, snow skiing, golf, and polo. His passion for aviation led him to earn a pilot's license at the age of 16. During high school, Donald's mechanical skills, particularly his work on fast cars, captivated the attention of Hilda, who would later become his devoted wife. Together, they shared a lifelong love for British Triumph sports cars, even participating in the Pebble Beach Sports Car Rallies with their sons, Dale and Lee.

Donald pursued higher education at the University of Washington, where he was an active member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He graduated with a bachelor of arts in transportation engineering and was commissioned as

an ensign through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program. A pivotal moment in Donald's life was his appointment to naval flight school in Pensacola, Florida, where he earned his wings as a naval aviator. After advanced training in Hutchinson, Kansas, Donald served as a patrol plane pilot commander, leading missions across various global locations.

A highlight of Donald's distinguished career was his selection to attend the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, where he earned a bachelor of science in meteorology. He subsequently served as chief meteorologist aboard the USS *Oriskany*, playing a key role in numerous missions in the Middle East.

In 1963, Donald retired from the Navy as a lieutenant commander and transitioned to a successful career with Atmospherics Incorporated in Fresno, California. Over nearly four decades, he held significant roles as a meteorologist, chief pilot, and vice president.

Donald's personal life was marked by a loving and enduring marriage to his wife, Hilda, lasting 72 years. They treasured their friendships at the Sunnyside Swim & Racquet Club and later at the Fort Washington Golf & Country Club. Donald's passion for the outdoors led to memorable family camping trips, high Sierra backpacking adventures, and a successful venture into international fly tying. He also shared a special bond with his daughter Judith, racing sailboats.

Donald is survived by his beloved wife Hilda; his children: Lee and his wife Debra, Dale and his wife Debbie, and daughter Judith and her husband Scott, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and other close relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lynn and Mae Duckering, his brother Verle, and other cherished family members.

In Don's passing, we celebrate a life that has left an indelible mark on the world and all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy will be remembered with respect and admiration by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Donald Duckering, a true pioneer, and adventurer.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TY
FAHNER**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Tyrone "Ty" Fahner of Northfield, Illinois, who passed away on September 16, 2024, at the age of 81.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Ty Fahner received a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, a law degree from Wayne State University, and a master's degree in criminal justice from the Northwestern School of Law. Ty's sharp legal mind and passion for public service led him to great accomplishments in both the public and private sectors.

Upon graduation, Ty began work in the private law practice for a short period of time before becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. In 1976, Ty joined Illinois Governor Jim Thompson's administration as Director of Law Enforcement,

focusing on Chicago government corruption and the reorganization of state law enforcement agencies. In 1980, Governor Thompson appointed Ty as the Illinois Attorney General. From 1980 until 1983, Ty proudly served the Illinois community, primarily investigating a sting of Tylenol poisonings across the state.

Ty later returned to private practice, serving as Co-Chairman of the prestigious Mayer Brown law firm from 1998 until 2001, and Chairman from 2001 until 2007. Ty also held positions as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the John G. Shedd Aquarium, Director at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Chairman of the Illinois Republican Party finance committee, and President of the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago. Ty was undoubtedly an impactful, dedicated figure within our Illinois community.

I want to offer my condolences to the Fahner family and then loved ones on the loss of a great man. Ty's leadership, commitment, and dedication have made a lasting impact on the Illinois community that will last for generations.

RECOGNIZING DEBORA
SCHEFFEL'S STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION COMMENDATION

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, State Board of Education member Debora Scheffel, representing the 4th Colorado District, deserves recognition for her outstanding service to Colorado's education system. Currently Dean of the School of Education at Colorado Christian University, Debora has succeeded in strengthening and improving our state's education in many ways throughout her career.

Debora is a published author in literacy, special education, and higher education assessment. Her professional affiliations include the International Neuropsychological Society, the International Dyslexia Association, and the Council for Exceptional Children. She previously served on the editorial board of Learning Disabilities Research and Practice and currently serves on the editorial board of Journal of the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition.

During her time on the State Board, Debora has been a strong advocate for data privacy and parental choice. She is passionate about quality public education, a range of available educational options, and knows the value of exemplary teachers, great school leaders, and parents who best know their children's educational needs and potential.

It is my distinct privilege as the United States Representative of the 4th District of Colorado to commend Debora for her success in improving Colorado's education system. Her dedication to Colorado students cannot be understated, and I encourage Debora to continue working to create the best education system possible for all the students of Colorado.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
AND YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE OF CORAL SPRINGS
COMMISSIONER JOY CARTER

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Coral Springs Commissioner Joy Carter, retiring after a decade of dedicated service to our community. Commissioner Carter's tenure has been marked by her unwavering commitment, passion for public service, and dedication to the wellbeing of the residents of Coral Springs.

Commissioner Carter was first elected to the Coral Springs Commission in 2014, and over the past 10 years, she has been a steadfast advocate for her constituents. Her commitment to the community has been evident in her efforts to enhance public safety, support economic development, and maintain the high quality of life that Coral Springs residents cherish. She has played a pivotal role in numerous initiatives that have strengthened the city and enriched the lives of those who call it home.

Throughout her tenure, Commissioner Carter demonstrated a unique ability to listen to the concerns of the residents, always putting the needs of the community first. Her approachability and genuine care for her constituents have made her a beloved figure in Coral Springs. Commissioner Carter has been a champion for community engagement, ensuring that all voices are heard and that the needs of residents are addressed in every decision made by the commission. Commissioner Carter has nearly 40 years of community service and volunteer support for many organizations across the city and Broward County. This year, the Florida League of Cities recently recognized her with the Home Rule Hero Award for her advocacy during the 2024 legislative session.

Commissioner Carter's leadership extended to her involvement in numerous projects focused on sustainability, infrastructure improvements, and public health. Her contributions to the local economy through supporting small businesses and economic initiatives left a lasting impact. Furthermore, her dedication to preserving the city's parks and recreational facilities has provided invaluable benefits to families and young people across Coral Springs.

As we celebrate Commissioner Carter's retirement from the Coral Springs Commission, we celebrate her achievements and the integrity and compassion she brought to her role. Her legacy will continue to inspire future leaders in Coral Springs and beyond. Her presence on the Coral Springs Commission will be greatly missed, but her impact will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Commissioner Joy Carter's well-deserved retirement and expressing our deepest gratitude for her many years of remarkable service. We wish Commissioner Carter and her family all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: LINDA SALLEY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration I recognize Linda Salley, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades, but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Linda has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In her role as President, Executive Director, and founding member of the African American Museum of Bucks County, Linda has made it her mission to enrich our community through her tireless work of preserving, illuminating, and celebrating Bucks County's rich African American history, culture, and legacy. A trailblazer and driving force of positive change, Linda's work and efforts have significantly impacted our community. Constituents like Linda strengthen the fabric of our district and prove that when driven by purpose, compassion, and a resolute sense of duty, one individual can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Linda that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, is testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Linda not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Linda that our communities thrive and our Nation grows stronger. Her actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. She embodies the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively, and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Linda Salley for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.