

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO ASHLEY BURNETT

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Southlake resident Ashley Burnett. Last year, Ashley found out her father, Todd, was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a progressive and fatal neuromuscular disease. Ashley has been working to raise awareness and funds for ALS research ever since. Over the summer, which marked the 10-year anniversary of the original ice bucket challenge to raise money for ALS research, Ashley hosted her own ice bucket challenge at Hawaiian Falls Waterpark in honor of her dad.

In Ashley's own words, "With a disease that is full of the unknown and often feels so hopeless, raising money through this event gives my family back a little bit of that hope." Through her efforts, Ashley is helping those living with ALS, and their loved ones; tackle the physical, emotional, and financial toll that comes from the devastating disease. Her challenge raised over \$15,000 for ALS research.

I'd like to thank Ashley for her efforts to support those living with ALS. She is an inspiration to North Texans and a beacon of hope to those suffering from the disease.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE
FRIENDS UNIVERSITY SINGING
QUAKERS

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Friends University Singing Quakers for a century of vocal excellence.

The Singing Quakers have proven to be a premier choral group that has taken their talents across the country, including our nation's capital, and even around the world. They have entertained Kansans locally with annual home concerts, Christmas candlelight concerts and Symphony of Spring.

The many men and women who have performed with this prestigious group should be commended for their incredible talent, dedication to musical greatness, camaraderie and character. The Friends University Singing Quakers represent their institution and our region well.

I also want to recognize the phenomenal leadership of the Singing Quakers' directors, including current director Dr. Rayvon T.J. Moore, recent director Dr. Mark Bartel and longtime director Dr. Cecil Riney. They have elevated choral music in Kansas and are well-respected far beyond the Sunflower State.

As they gather this weekend to celebrate and perform, I want to thank the alumni and current performers of the Friends University Singing Quakers for providing our region with exceptional choral music for 100 years.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
HISTORY CONFERENCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax County History Commission on the occasion of the 20th Annual Fairfax County History Conference.

Since 1969, the Fairfax County History Commission has worked to identify, document, record and preserve the history of our region. There are few areas in the country that are as rich in history as our area is. The History Conference provides an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year while recognizing our neighbors who have made significant contributions to preserving and promoting our local history. Through the dedicated efforts of the History Commission and its many volunteers, we are assured that our history will not be lost and will be available for future generations.

This year, a number of dedicated individuals are being honored for their commitment to the preservation and education of history. I am proud to include in the Record their names:

Dr. Glenn Fatzinger received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his career as a distinguished historian and educator.

Tom Shoop received the Nan Netherton Award for his book, *ILDA*, that brings to life the stories and history of a small, interracial enterprising village in Fairfax County.

Etta Wilson, Rita Colbelt, Linneall Naylor, and Rondia Prescott with Jeneé Lindner received the Cultural Engagement Heritage Award for their book, *Black Communities of Fairfax — A History*, that serves as an anthology of Fairfax County's rich Black Heritage.

Gibran Parvez received the Edith Moore Sprouse Award for the creation of his website, *Heritage Dulles*, that is an interactive online map and historical essay allowing readers to explore the area within and around Dulles Airport over multiple time periods.

Dr. Krystyn Moon, Kristin Neun, Dr. Matt Bakker, and Janine Dewitt received the Beth Mitchell Award for their website, *Documenting Exclusion & Resilience*, that examines the racial dynamics among property owners in Northern Virginia and Fairfax County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating all the honorees and thanking the Fairfax County History Commission for the important work they do for the Northern Virginia community.

HONORING WARREN COUNTY'S
BICENTENNIAL

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor historic Warren County, which is celebrating its bicentennial anniversary this fall. Warren County was incorporated in November of 1824 through an act of the New Jersey State Legislature, which named the new county after the renowned Revolu-

tionary War hero, Dr. Joseph Warren. At the time of her founding, a sum of almost \$10,000 was raised to build a county courthouse that is still in use to this day.

Warren County has historically been an important locus of transportation and commerce. In the 1650s, Dutch settlers built a road to carry mined copper in the region across colony lines to New York. Today, "Old Mine Road" is a popular visitor attraction for both New Jersey residents and tourists from across the country. Through the 19th century, Warren County expanded in commercial importance, hosting a large part of the Morris Canal, which connected the New Jersey and Pennsylvania countryside to metropolitan markets on the eastern seaboard. Phillipsburg, New Jersey, also became a major hub for five major railroads.

The County also has a long history of industriousness and prosperity. In the 1830s, furnaces in Oxford, New Jersey, became the first in the Nation to use the hot blast process, while a Phillipsburg furnace was one of the first to employ the Bessemer process. Phillipsburg was also home to the first commercially successful diesel-electric train engines. In the 20th century, a heavy manufacturing plant in Phillipsburg provided critical machinery for the Allied World War II victory. Today, Warren County remains the leading manufacturing county among the 21 counties of New Jersey.

Agriculture has long been a staple of Warren County's prosperity and health. Warren County feeds New Jerseyans as the top producing County of milk, dairy, cattle, feed corn, and eggs. The county's proud tradition of family-owned farms continues to provide quality fresh produce to residents across New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

It is my honor to congratulate the communities of Warren County on their bicentennial celebration, as it continues to be a pillar of New Jersey and American agriculture, industry, and history.

CELEBRATING JACKIE RAILY
AND HER YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE TO WYNMOOR AND THE
CITY OF COCONUT CREEK

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jackie Raily of Coconut Creek, Florida, for her many years of dedicated service to the Wynmoor community and the broader Coconut Creek area. Jackie's commitment to public service has greatly enriched the lives of her neighbors, and her continued leadership has strengthened the entire community.

In addition to her longstanding contributions to Wynmoor, Jackie Raily has served as a Coconut Creek City Commissioner, where her dedication to the public good has made a profound difference in the lives of our residents. Throughout her tenure on the City Commission, Jackie has been an advocate for responsible governance, fostering transparency and responsiveness to the needs of the people. Her role as a commissioner has been marked by her focus on community engagement, environmental sustainability, and maintaining Coconut Creek's high quality of life.

Jackie is the President of the Wynmoor Community Council, President and Council Representative for Martinique III Village Condominium Association, and Special Events Vice President of the Wynmoor Golf Association. Jackie's service to Wynmoor spans many years, during which she has taken on a wide range of roles, from advocating for improved amenities and recreational spaces to leading social programs that bring residents together. Her initiatives have fostered a sense of unity within the community and have enriched the lives of all who call Wynmoor home. As a City Commissioner and a devoted community volunteer, Jackie has shown exceptional leadership, integrity, and commitment to her constituents. Her legacy of service is an inspiration to all who work alongside her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Jackie Railey's invaluable contributions to the community. Her years of service as a City Commissioner and community leader have left an indelible mark, and we are deeply grateful for her unwavering dedication. I thank Jackie Railey for her exceptional commitment to our community and look forward to the lasting impact of her work.

HONORING VIETNAM WAR
VETERAN RICH ALLEN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Rich Allen, a distinguished military veteran and the longest tenured employee at Lansing Community College. Rich Allen's life exemplifies dedication to both education and service. His story is one of unwavering commitment to his country and to higher education.

Born on June 11, 1945 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Rich moved with his family to Michigan in the 1950s. He grew up in Michigan and graduated from Chelsea High School in 1963. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cleary University, Rich chose to enlist in the U.S. Army in 1967 during the height of the Vietnam War. He served with the Army Security Agency, a predecessor of today's National Security Agency, which was tasked with electronic intelligence and warfare. Agency operators played a critical role in intercepting and decoding enemy radio transmissions to provide vital intelligence to American forces.

As a Morse Intercept Operator, Rich underwent rigorous training, mastering Morse code. In 1968, he was deployed to Vietnam stationed at the 303rd Radio Research Battalion, an undercover unit for Army Security Agency operators. Rich performed critical tasks such as tracking enemy radio transmissions and triangulating positions to support military operations. His work, which often included helicopter reconnaissance to gather frontline intelligence, was crucial to the war effort, coordinating intelligence that informed artillery and airstrikes.

Rich's distinguished service earned him numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal, all recognizing his technical expertise and steadfast commitment.

After his honorable discharge in 1971, Rich returned to Michigan and enrolled at Lansing

Community College, marking the beginning of a 50-year career. While pursuing a degree in computer programming, he began as a student programmer in 1973 and soon transitioned to a full-time position in the Information Technology Department, where he helped advance the college's technological capabilities. From writing code on punch cards and using early computer systems to developing the college's first online system in 1975, his work laid the foundation for modern IT practices at Lansing Community College.

Over his tenure spanning more than five decades, Rich Allen has served under seven college presidents and held various job titles, adapting to each new wave of technology. His expertise and collaborative spirit has helped countless colleagues, earning him deep respect within the Lansing community.

Rich's legacy is marked not only by his military service and professional accomplishments but also by his dedication to his family. He finds joy in spending time with his son and grandchildren, fishing, camping, and gardening—a testament to living a well-rounded life. It is with profound respect and gratitude that I recognize his service.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GOODWIN

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Goodwin, Councilmember and current Mayor of the Town of Colma, upon his retirement after 35 years of serving the public.

Mr. Goodwin was born in a small community near Denver, Colorado, in 1960. His love of the outdoors and passion for serving others led him to begin his career as a National Park Service law enforcement ranger. For 27 years, Mr. Goodwin worked in National Parks across the continental United States, traveling from the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, to Mount Rainier in Washington State, to the Everglades in Florida, and finally to Golden Gate National Recreation Area in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mr. Goodwin's extensive career as a National Park Service ranger is emblematic of his commitment to helping others. He put his life on the line numerous times, saving many others in the process as well as nearly losing his own from two devastating lightning strikes. Mr. Goodwin endured the physical and mental costs of the dangers of his career, including a decade-long battle with post-traumatic stress disorder. However, with the help of his family and friends, Mr. Goodwin persevered, seeking treatment at the West Coast Post Trauma Retreat and continuing his mission to help others. He later documented many of his unforgettable stories in his memoir "Echoes of the Badge: Stories from a National Park Service Career" where he poignantly shared the joys and tribulations of his 27 years as a ranger.

In 2016, after retiring from the National Park Service, Mr. Goodwin decided to continue his career of public service by successfully running for an elected seat on Town of Colma City Council. Referred to as the "City of Souls," this small community just south of San Francisco is unique in that much of its land is dominated by cemeteries—the population of

the dead is speculated to outnumber the living by a ratio of one thousand to one. During his tenure as a councilmember, Mr. Goodwin embarked on numerous initiatives to cultivate the vitality of the town. He pushed for increased multi-cultural recreation events, supported public art projects, championed flag-raising to honor the diversity of the town's residents, and offered his unwavering support for local businesses. He additionally welcomed Colma's Veteran's Village with open arms, providing 65 units of housing for formerly homeless veterans and their families. Mr. Goodwin served as Mayor of Colma in 2020, where he worked tirelessly to protect his constituents and the town's local businesses during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024, he again took office as Mayor, serving the town on the 100th anniversary of the town's incorporation.

Mr. Goodwin has also demonstrated exemplary community service outside of his official leadership positions in Colma. He has volunteered and raised thousands of dollars for various mental illness and veteran support organizations, including the Wounded Warrior Project, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and for 9/11 survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the extraordinary service to the public that John Goodwin has presented over his 35-year career. All of the lives that he has touched are better off through his dedication and commitment.

CONGRATULATING ENVISION DALLAS ON A NEW FACILITY IN FARMERS BRANCH

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Envision Dallas on the grand opening of its new facility in Farmers Branch, Texas. Envision Dallas has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to our community and dedicated countless hours to the development of a state-of-the-art facility that will serve as a beacon of hope, opportunity, and empowerment for many North Texans.

The transformation of the long-abandoned AT&T call center in Farmers Branch is nothing short of remarkable. This building, which had stood vacant for over a decade, has now been revitalized into a hub of economic growth and empowerment. The project has not only breathed new life into this space, but it has also created over 100 jobs for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, providing them with meaningful employment through the AbilityOne program. This level of investment and impact is precisely the kind of initiative that strengthens our communities.

In addition to its direct contributions to economic development, Envision Dallas plays a critical role in supporting our national defense. Through its work as a key AbilityOne provider, Envision Dallas supplies essential items such as battle dress uniforms, office supplies, presentation binders, printing support, and eyeglass cases to our military. This commitment underscores its vital role in supporting those who ensure our national security every day.

Envision Dallas also extends its impact closer to home by directly supporting the State of