

HONORING JOHN PATRICK
MCGAHAN

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my dear friend, John Patrick McGahan, in recognition of his retirement as the leader, CEO and guiding light of Gavin Foundation. Gavin Foundation has been a sanctuary and source of refuge, comfort and rebirth for so many individuals in Massachusetts suffering from the disease of addiction.

And it is my honor to bring to the floor this evening the gratitude of thousands of families from my District and beyond who are grateful beyond words for John McGahan's service to the Massachusetts recovery community over the past 31 years.

John McGahan was born in Concord, New Hampshire on April 3, 1961, to Thomas and Viola McGahan but it was not until 1991, in what can now be seen as divine providence, that John traveled from New Hampshire to South Boston in search of sobriety. And like many before him seeking that help, he found his way to the doors of the Gavin House.

John was a resident of Gavin House for 6 months and it was here that many believe John found his calling and placed him on a path that not only changed his life, but one day at a time helped change the lives of thousands.

Understanding the change sobriety had made in his own life, John McGahan developed a relentless passion for helping others to obtain sobriety. John volunteered and then took a job at Gavin House in 1992. In 1999, in the midst of a teen suicide cluster, John helped to establish and operate the Cushing House for boys—the state's first residential recovery home for adolescent boys. John was a driving force behind the Total Immersion Program (TIP), an alternative to incarceration for those struggling with addiction. Building on the success of the Cushing House for boys, in 2006 John helped create the Cushing House for girls, the only female adolescent recovery home in the state.

In 2007, John was appointed CEO of the Gavin Foundation. John committed himself completely to the mission of the foundation—"the restoration of dignity" for those suffering from addiction. He ensured that every individual could receive the care they needed and had access to sobriety tools and support. John learned and utilized all the elements of funding, education, and advocacy, and combined these key concepts to create the thriving Gavin Foundation recovery network we know today.

Under John's leadership, the Gavin Foundation grew from an initial 25 employees with a \$2 million dollar budget to over 240 employees and a \$27 million dollar budget—serving over 10,000 individuals each year. Throughout his tenure, John had a unique ability to foresee changes and prepare the organization for the future. It was John who made the decision to utilize electronic medical records systems in the houses, an innovative and rare initiative for recovery homes. John always had his eye on the ever-changing recovery landscape and prepared the organization for anticipated challenges and growth. In 2008, the Charlestown

Recovery Home became a part of the Gavin Foundation. In 2015, the Hamilton House recovery home joined the Gavin family and with the courageous assistance of Mayor Tom Koch, Gavin Quincy was established the same year, offering a 64-bed intensive detox and clinical stabilization program.

Most recently, in response to a longtime goal of the Gavin Foundation board, and with the generous support of Jack and Eileen Connors and others, John launched a capital campaign to fund and then open Eileen's House, the organization's first recovery home for adult women.

In addition to his work with Gavin, John has been a trusted advisor to leadership at every level of government. His excellent judgment, advice and counsel has been instrumental in advancing addiction recovery policies at the federal, state and local levels. He has given his time and talent to numerous boards, committees and commissions across the state.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a person in this chamber who hasn't suffered in some way the incredible loss and grief associated with addiction. The heartbreak has been shared across our Nation. John McGahan is one of those rare individuals who has walked in a dark place but has used that experience to shine a light for others to follow. He has dedicated his life to help others lift themselves out of the clutch of addiction and share in the blessings of sobriety and recovery. His life has been an extraordinary example. He is a humble leader who is admired, respected and indeed loved.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss indeed if I failed to acknowledge that John Patrick McGahan has the great good fortune to have the unconditional love and support of his wife Anne and his sons Will and Sean. He has had their love at every step of his life journey.

John Patrick McGahan's legacy is one of relentless compassion in service to the Massachusetts recovery community, the cities of Boston and Quincy and to his family. It is my distinct privilege to take the floor of the House today to join the Gavin Foundation, Mr. McGahan's family and his many friends in recognizing his retirement, and to thank him for his incredible service on behalf of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

I thank John McGahan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANNETTE
PERKINS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Annette Perkins, who passed away on July 26, 2024.

Raised in Portsmouth, Virginia, Ms. Perkins determined her life's work should be focused on education. She worked as a teacher and administrator for Montgomery County Public Schools for many years.

At various points, Ms. Perkins was principal of Christiansburg Middle School, assistant principal of Christiansburg High School, and a history and government teacher at Christiansburg and Blacksburg High Schools.

Her interest in advancing the goals of Montgomery County Public Schools went beyond her service as a teacher.

Starting in 1991, Ms. Perkins was appointed to the Montgomery County School Board. As a member of the school board, she continued to monitor and assess the educational growth of children and teenagers in the county.

Following her tenure with the Montgomery County School Board, county residents elected Ms. Perkins to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors in 1997. She served in her supervisor role for nearly twenty years.

Important projects came together under Ms. Perkins' watch, including the construction of the new Auburn High School and Blacksburg High School. Montgomery County recognizes her instrumental role in having a 9.25-acre portion of undeveloped property donated to the Town of Blacksburg for a public park known as the Meadow.

During her service in both bodies, she served as chairwoman.

A woman of strong faith, Ms. Perkins contributed time as a Sunday school teacher to Blacksburg Christian Church, where she also served on various committees.

Ms. Perkins was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby H. Perkins.

Montgomery County parents placed enormous trust in Ms. Perkins to be a voice for their kids and their education.

I worked with Ms. Perkins during my years representing Montgomery County in the Virginia House of Delegates, and she was a fierce advocate for the programs that she believed in.

Ms. Perkins will be remembered by her colleagues and students as a dedicated educator who enhanced educational experiences and cared deeply for her community.

RECOGNIZING TOM TROXLER FOR
HIS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
RANKIN COUNTY

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Tom Troxler for his 32 years of service to Rankin First Economic Development Authority and congratulate him on his retirement. Tom has put decades of his time, energy, and resources into Rankin First, making it a key component for economic development across the region and state. Tom has identified and capitalized on many economic development opportunities over the years that have improved Rankin County and the entire state of Mississippi.

Tom's legacy of promoting economic development and improving the lives of his fellow Mississippians will benefit us for decades to come. I am thankful for the opportunity to recognize Tom and his work for our community.

CONGRATULATING VINELAND
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB ON
THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland County on 20 years of outstanding

service to children and teenagers in Vineland. Their mission is to empower disadvantaged youth to reach their full potential as successful, kind, and respectful adults and the Vineland chapter serves nearly 260 young people through its various programs. They are committed to providing a world class experience that ensures every child who walks through their doors can achieve success. With their mentorship, they expect every member to graduate from high school with a solid plan, good character, exceptional citizenship, and a commitment to a healthy lifestyle. The Boys & Girls Club recognizes that helping kids succeed requires more than just a single approach. It takes compassionate mentors, a safe environment, and quality programs that encourage youth to excel academically and lead productive lives, ensuring that every child has a bright and promising future. For two decades, the Vineland Boys and Girls Club has gone above and beyond to guarantee that all kids have a fantastic future, and I thank them for their efforts. God bless the Vineland Boys and Girls Club, and God Bless our United States of America.

HONORING MAYOR JIM ADAMS

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career and significant contributions of Mayor Jim Adams, who will be retiring as Crystal's Mayor after an extraordinary 25 years of service to the City of Crystal. I wish to thank Mayor Jim Adams for his enduring legacy of service and his lasting contributions to the city he serves.

Starting in 1999, Mayor Adams worked as a firefighter from the West Metro Fire-Rescue District, serving and protecting his neighbors in that role for 15 years. In 2012, he ran for Mayor and won the support of his constituents by putting the needs of all Crystal's residents first. His leadership was defined by four shared goals: having strong, safe neighborhoods, having a thriving business community, having sound financial policies, and being welcoming and inclusive.

Over the past 12 years, Mayor Adams has made great strides for the city, with a focus on good stewardship of the city's infrastructure. He has helped lead the efforts to improve key city parks, including Becker Park, Bassett Creek Park, and the Crystal Aquatics Center—enhancing recreational opportunities and quality of life for Crystal's residents. Mayor Adams helped build a new Police Department and the Public Works Facility while investing in street maintenance, implementing effective long-term planning to enhance Crystal's community assets. Throughout his tenure, Mayor Adams has prioritized an ambitious plan to make Crystal debt-free by 2033. Under his leadership, the city has made significant progress in reducing its debt while making long-term plans for maintenance and investments of city infrastructure.

Mayor Adams also played a pivotal role in keeping Crystal vibrant and affordable for residents. He collaborated directly with small businesses to help make their lives easier, helping to drive Crystal's retail vacancy rate below 5

percent. He advanced regulatory reform and zoning changes to spur new housing developments, leading to 330 more units of housing across the city.

For the past 12 years, Mayor Jim Adams has been deeply committed to improving the lives of his constituents. Residents of Crystal will benefit from his hard work for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Jim Adams for his exceptional service and to wish him well on whatever his future holds.

RECOGNIZING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th Anniversary of the McLean Citizens Association (MCA). The MCA provides a forum where residents of the greater McLean area can address local issues and advocate for solutions that serve the interests and values of the community.

The McLean Citizens Association was founded in 1914 as the McLean School and Civic League, driven by the needs of a local school. When Franklin Sherman Elementary School, which consolidated oneroom schools in the area, opened that year, it lacked basic supplies. The League rallied to raise money to furnish a school auditorium, buy library books, help pave local roads, and further aid the community. This community effort led to a tradition that is continued to this day: McLean Day.

Eight years later, the citizens of McLean were faced with another challenge, and the group's civic leaders helped launch the McLean Volunteer Fire Department and negotiated with Alexandria Power Co. to bring electricity to McLean. The power company brought a line from Falls Church and created a distribution center around a decade later. The station has since undergone upgrades and is still serving the people of McLean.

In 1953, the League was reincorporated as the McLean Citizens Association. In the years since they have been instrumental in shaping the McLean community that we know today. The MCA helped launch the McLean Community Center, steered county funds to create McLean Central Park, and they helped advocate for the creation of a park that became Scotts Run Nature Preserve.

In addition to their work shaping the physical community of McLean, the MCA has worked to instill a commitment to service in the residents of McLean. The MCA created a committee in 1970 to preserve trees that later turned into the nonprofit McLean Trees Foundation in 2004, and they formed the nonprofit McLean Community Foundation in 1978 to provide philanthropic grants for community projects. The McLean Community Foundation gave its first grant in 1981 to the McLean Volunteer Fire Department and has given more than \$2 million in grants to nonprofits in McLean over the past 43 years.

Today, the MCA continues to study issues and advocate for positions, send representa-

tives to task forces, host candidate debates, forums, and town halls, and collaborates with elected officials and staff at all levels of government to accomplish its goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the McLean Citizens Association's incredible milestone. Their advocacy and their commitment to community and volunteerism helps make McLean one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family. I thank them for everything they have done for the McLean community over the past 110 years.

HONORING JUDGE RICHARD MEYER

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Judge Richard Meyer of Calhoun County, who passed away on November 18, 2024, at the age of 74. A man of integrity, Judge Meyer's impact on his family, community, and South Texas is a testament to a life well-lived.

Judge Meyer was a proud third-generation Calhoun County resident. His early years were spent exploring the natural beauty of Lavaca Bay alongside his father, instilling in him a deep appreciation for the land and its people. A dedicated farmer and rancher, Judge Meyer was widely recognized for his success, earning accolades from the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce in 1988 and being named Calhoun County's Man of the Year in 2015.

Yet it was his sense of duty and desire to serve his neighbors that led him to public office. In January 2019, Judge Meyer began his tenure as County Judge, bringing the same tenacity and work ethic to governance that had defined his earlier endeavors. As a champion for economic development, he worked tirelessly to ensure that Calhoun County remained a vibrant and prosperous community. His passion for building connections and supporting growth reflected his commitment to serving others.

Despite his many accomplishments, Judge Meyer's greatest joy was his family. He was a devoted husband to Jackie, his wife of 49 years, a loving father to their two children, Ty and Leslie, and a proud grandfather to nine grandchildren. His family was the heart of his life, and his love for them was evident to all who knew him.

Judge Meyer was a man of compassion, generosity, and faith. His legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched and the enduring contributions he made to his community. As we remember him, let us be inspired by his dedication, humility, and unwavering service to others.

May God bless the Meyer family and bring them comfort during this time.

HONORING MR. JUSTIN COLE

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Representative VALADAO, to honor Mr.