

They were married at Saint Patrick's Church in San Jose in 1954.

Barbara and Richard had four dearly loved sons, William Richard, Michael Joseph; Mark Anthony, and Carl Thomas. She also loved her daughters-in-law: Janet, Patti, Chris, and Leslee, and her wonderful grandchildren: Natalie (Danny), Nancy (Tim), Billie (Carrie), Jessica, Siena, Jake, Chris (Ashley), and David. She adored her four great-grandchildren: Taylor, Teagan, Naomi, and Geo, and she was very fond of her dog Mi Amigo.

Barbara Guardino will be fondly remembered by all those who were privileged to know her for her love, her kindness, and her dedication to family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Barbara Guardino, an extraordinary American, and in extending our most sincere condolences to her large and loving family.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 1, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as this year's Black History Month ends, I rise today to honor two District of Columbia residents who have made tremendous contributions to civil rights, Walter Fauntroy and Robin Williams.

Walter Fauntroy served as a key organizer alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., helping to organize the Selma to Montgomery marches of 1965. Walter was also a noted lobbyist for civil rights, where he played a pivotal role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1965. Walter's efforts during this critical period were key to ushering in a new era of progress and possibility for all Americans.

Walter was also the second Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, a position he held for almost 20 years. During his tenure in Congress, Walter was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and a champion for D.C. home rule.

Robin Williams is an associate director at the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) and a member of the National Board of Directors of the NAACP.

Robin joined UFCW as an employee at the Georgetown Safeway in 1986 and was elected International Vice President in 2015. As a labor organizer, Robin was a lead coordinator for the "Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride," which brought together tens of thousands of immigrant workers and immigrant rights activists for a tour throughout the United States to demand respect for immigrant workers' rights. Robin also serves as an Executive Vice President of the UFCW Minority Coalition and is a trustee on the board of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Robin is also a noted community activist. Some of Robin's local contributions include developing the D.C. Workers' Rights Board and D.C. Jobs With Justice. Robin has been recognized by the AFL-CIO Washington Metropolitan Central Labor Council for her impact on the National Capital Region.

Again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Walter Fauntroy and Robin Williams.

RECOGNIZING MR. GLEN STEPHENS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 1, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Glen Stephens for his dedicated service to the Kern County community and to congratulate him on his well-earned retirement from the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District. Mr. Glen Stephens' career in air quality control and passion for public health began more than thirty years ago when he became an Air Quality Engineer for the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District. In 1992, he joined the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and two years later, returned to work for Eastern Kern County. In 2012, Mr. Stephens was appointed to serve as Air Pollution Control Officer by the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District Board. During his tenure as Air Pollution Control Officer, Mr. Stephens has worked to expand the Tehachapi field office to solve staff members and the District's Board of Directors, deployed additional air monitors throughout Kern County to improve air quality, and advocated for cost-of-living wage increases for his staff. Mr. Stephens has also used his expertise to help numerous solar projects navigate the rulemaking and permitting processes. Throughout his career, Mr. Stephens has been steadfast in his commitment to promoting clean air for all residents of the community. He has used his decades of experience to support rural communities and work with local stakeholders to address complex air quality issues and find common sense solutions. He has also strived to engage community members on the importance of air quality and preserving the character of rural communities across the Valley. His dedication to his colleagues, his work, and his community is a true testament to his character. I know that his service to our Central Valley community will have a lasting impact for generations to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mr. Glen Stephens for his decades of service to the Central Valley and wishing him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. PEACE CORPS

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 1, 2024

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate 63 years of the United States Peace Corps' work in promoting world peace and friendship among nations. President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps as the United States' first global volunteer initiative on March 1, 1961. Since then, the Peace Corps has sent more than 241,000 Volunteers to serve communities in 143 countries. These committed Americans have formed enduring

bonds of friendship across cultures and championed the best of our country's values abroad.

The founding Director of the Peace Corps, Sargent R. Shriver, observed that "Peace requires the simple but powerful recognition that what we have in common as human beings is more important and crucial than what divides us." Peace Corps Volunteers have performed immensely valuable and meaningful work to advance the vision of person-to-person peace-building by living and working in communities abroad. Over the past 63 years, Volunteers have learned the languages of their host countries to advance development work in public health, education, agriculture, youth organizing and community economics. Today, the Peace Corps' mission is in the capable hands of my constituent, Director Carol Spahn, who is herself a former Volunteer. This week, I am honored to celebrate her work as my Eighth District Local Hero to showcase the importance of her leadership of one of our country's most important diplomatic and service programs.

I am proud of the generations of compassionate and courageous Volunteers who have committed themselves to two or more years of service in a land previously unknown to them. Among their ranks are many of my constituents from Maryland's beautiful Eighth Congressional District. This year, my district has sent more Peace Corps Volunteers to serve abroad than any other congressional district in the country. It is my surpassing honor to represent the many individuals who are choosing to live, serve and learn in over 20 countries as Volunteers.

When they return to the United States, Peace Corps Volunteers bring their new vision home. After immersing themselves in the culture of their host communities, Volunteers continue to enrich our communities with the friendships they built during their time abroad. They bring not only their memories but new skills in languages, cross-cultural understanding and subject matter expertise. Many Volunteers continue to serve our country through other forms of public service.

As we honor the 63rd anniversary of the Peace Corps, I am grateful to the Volunteers and to the dedicated civil servants, led by Director Spahn, who make their work possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 1, 2024

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes as I was accompanying President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to my district—the 34th Congressional District of Texas. Due to my absence, I was not present to vote on Roll Call No. 57, Roll Call No. 58, and Roll Call No. 59.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 58. I stand firm against my stance on government shutdowns as they have adverse impacts on every part of the country, national economy, and national security.

Likewise, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 59. It is crucial that funding for the

Federal Aviation Administration does not lapse as it would have great implications for our air travel, activities and programs related to airport planning and development, facilities and equipment, and operations.

Moreover, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 57. Everyone deserves a seat at the table and the establishment of the Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration will do just that by estab-

lishing substantial resources to support Native American-owned businesses.