

RECOGNIZING THE UNION COUNTY
WRESTLING TEAM

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Union County High School wrestling team for achieving their 15th state championship and 3 individual state champion titles.

The Union County wrestling team has been the gold standard for Kentucky wrestling for nearly two decades and has created a dynasty of success. In the past 11 seasons, they have achieved 9 state titles.

Their first state championship title was in 1976 and they have continued their winning traditions since. I am honored to stand with the community of Union County to celebrate another state wrestling championship.

I am proud to recognize this tremendous achievement by the Union County wrestling team as they add another trophy to their case.

RECOGNIZING DEMETRIUS WEST,
INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC
ARTIST AND COMMUNITY LEADER,
AND THE JESUS PROMOTERS
GOSPEL CHOIR

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Demetrius West and The Jesus Promoters Gospel Choir on their 20th anniversary.

Demetrius was influenced by his great-grandmother and discovered his passion for gospel music at an early age. As an internationally-renowned recording artist, he has shared the stage with notable Gospel and Christian artists such as Marvin Sapp, Byron Cage, Kirk Franklin, and Chris Tomlin. His work made the Billboard Music Charts several times and has held several No. 1 hits on Gospel airplay radio charts. In 2015, Demetrius released the album "Jesus Promoter" in 2015 featuring award-winning Earnest Pugh and 40-voice choir, The Jesus Promoters.

An Indianapolis native, Demetrius has a deep-rooted sense of community, exemplified by his support to the Resource Hub Foundation, Westside Baptist Church, and other local organizations aiding families in need. He is additionally involved in local politics and elections, and as Minister of Music and Arts for the Westside Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Michael O. Bryant. He has assisted many choirs, groups, soloists, and musicians with his knowledge and love of music by conducting workshops and seminars nationwide to help other ministries perfect their talents.

Music helps us translate joy, sorrow, and faith. Demetrius West and The Jesus Promoters is a voice that resonates across generations and will continue to play a role in the cultural fabric of our community.

Demetrius is married to the lovely Shalette West, and they have one beautiful daughter, Zanolbia Denise.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Demetrius West and The Jesus Promoters Gospel Choir on their 20-year celebration.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT WIRTH

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life and legacy of a remarkable man, Mr. Robert "Bob" Wirth.

Bob was born on October 2, 1932, and grew up in Shiocton before his family moved to their family farm in Hortonville. Beginning in high school, Bob was involved in many extra-curricular activities such as football and basketball. Bob demonstrated incredible leadership and talent resulting in him being named team captain for both football and basketball. Following high school, Bob was drafted into the Army and served at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington. I commend Bob for his service and dedication to the United States.

On March 2, 1957, Bob married the love of his life, Marlene Rollmann. Throughout their life together, they enjoyed years of happiness and welcomed five children: Barb, Kelli, John, Mark, and Ricky. Bob was so proud of each of these children and was thrilled as their family grew. Family was always of utmost importance to Bob, and he was blessed to have 15 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

When Bob wasn't spending time with his growing family, he enjoyed many hobbies. Bob cherished each opportunity to join family and friends exploring the outdoors. He especially loved their annual deer hunts and snowmobiling trips. Bob's kindness and friendship will be missed by many that were blessed to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and legacy of Mr. Robert Wirth and thank him for his years of service and dedication to the United States. My sincere thoughts and prayers go out to his wife of 67 years, Marlene, and his entire family during this difficult time.

EULOGY FOR RAYMOND NOEL
RAMSEY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD the eulogy of a great American, Raymond Noel Ramsey, who epitomized what a citizen who gives back to his community, state, and Nation is all about.

On behalf of Peg, Noele, Kelly, Melanie, and the entire Ramsey family, thank you for being here for Ray. How about that obituary and the prayer card! Ever the fashion statement, wasn't he, with those bright pastels and those shirts, that were a reflection of his personality. Yesterday was quite an afternoon and quite a tribute. It was good to see old East Hartford on display—the outpour of love and respect for a man who lived it.

Now we know he had a great reception committee up there with Billy Mud, Fred Kurtz, Fred Leone, and Jimmy Deleo singing—I'm sure—as he entered the gates of Heaven. As Ray would often remind the faint of heart, life is not a dress rehearsal. He embodied both the right attitude and the appetite for a life well lived.

Talking with several of you at the wake, and over the past few days, about stories of

Ray and what he would want this service to be—Father, I have to start with a disclaimer here—Craig Jordan, Kevin Brown, and numerous others want to be clear that the funniest Rammer stories are not suitable for church or in mixed company. I think it's safe to say he was a guy's guy.

It was abundantly clear from all, that he would want an upbeat sendoff on his next journey. First and foremost, and most of all, the shared empathy, respect, and love for Peg and his three angels, Noele, Kelly and Melanie. At the wake it was hard viewing and watching them hold back the tears, the grieving and the mourning and with each person. A memory of a man whose actions were bigger than life, knowing even in this difficult moment, what Ray would want is to celebrate his journey and the relationships he shared with all of you. I know I'm stating the obvious, as so many of you have spoken of his lifelong love and relationship with Peg. Many of you have attested that they were the quintessential couple. They simply go together well, Ray and Peg. Peg and Ray. No gathering was complete without them—and you talk about opposites! Yet there was a greater bond that held them together, certainly Noele, Kelly, and Melanie, but it was their great faith and devotion to each other that always resonated.

Many of you said Ray was always there for you, no matter how trivial or important. How many of you can recall being with Ray into the wee hours of the morning, partaking in the elixirs of life and thinking—as I have—there's no way after this that he gets up and takes Peg to mass in the morning—only to be astonished again by him being there for her and their faith, dependable and rock solid. That's love and devotion. That's Ray and Peg.

Comradery is a great term about a gathering of friends, and as Nick Olivia pointed out, with Ray, those gatherings were always punctuated by having fun and enjoying one another's company, whether at the Hose Club, the Dirty Dozen, the F&L Dinners, or innumerable political events, Ray and a good time were synonymous. He was always a doer, never a complainer and put everyone else first. His last trip to Ireland is an epic example. A trip he had planned for some time with Nick and Vita, Bruce and Wendy, and he and Peg. As Bruce recalls, weeks before, he had terrible and severe back pain and was not feeling well, but would not let his health stand in the way of a great trip with friends. While I'm sure the Guinness helped, everyone knew he was in pain, but he did it because of who he was and the people he cared about. That's Ray.

As my brother Danny says, having worked with Ray on building the house—and you heard Father say how he did it with his own hands—Ray had many skills, among his specialties was electrical, with a minor in procurement. If we needed hardware: nuts, bolts, nails, screws, blades, zip ties, gloves, paint, or whatever, Ray always managed to come up with a donor and keep us going. My brother went on to describe his essence, saying what I believe everyone in this room agrees with. He was the most dependable friend you could have. First one on the site, and there till the end, and the job was done. He had a broad base knowledge and a hands-on versatility of all of the trades. Nothing that he couldn't figure out with an occasional break for a Marlboro or two. His heart was bigger than himself, it's as if he was made to help everyone else. He was practical and direct and always with an informed view.

Now, most here assembled know Ray was the master of the power nap. From which virtually in any environment he could fall into a deep sleep, and awake and rally.

Danny Delmastro, of course, cites the best example of his capability at the annual Aero Med Christmas Party, when about three-quarters the way through a great evening, Rammer says to Danny he's going to "step outside for a smoke." Danny looks at him and says "it's snowing," Ray just nodded and about an hour later with the place closing down and everyone looking for Ray, Danny went outside and found him on a bench with about three inches of snow on his head and his shoulders and said, "Rammer!" And Ray responded without missing a beat that "yes, I'll have a final final." That was our guy.

He clearly is a giant of a man, Jim Iacobellis noted that. He said he had a giant talent. He could do anything he put his mind to. He had giant knowledge. He knew so much about so much, and if he didn't, he'd ask and inquire until he did. He had a giant personality—the life and center of any gathering, you always wanted to be around him and talk to him. He was a giant friend. He had so many, and he knew them, he knew what they liked, and knew what made them happy or unhappy. He was also the first to accept new people and become friends, as he did so with Jim more than 30 years ago when he was the new kid on the block.

Now, we have a Bocce tournament and a gathering and have done so for 32 years, and whether it's tents, limoncello, garbanzo and hot peppers, you know, and of course, grilling that sausage, it was Ray. And as Linda and Leslie attest and verify and everyone agrees—without Ray, there would never have been a Bocce. He was the essential part and mover.

I think it's safe to say that the way he lived his life and in talking with David McQuaid, I said, "David, he had a great run." And David looked at me and says "A run? He had several runs." In short, Ray was authentic and original without a phony bone in his body, dependable as the day was long. He was always there for everyone and in so many different capacities.

In this human comedy we call life, his skills, his curiosity, his inquisitive and honest and practical advice will be what I miss the most. He was the real deal. He was the Rammer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF JACKSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote during a portion of the legislative day on March 6, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on H. Res. 1061.

HONORING FLORIDA STATE SENATOR BETTY HOLZENDORF

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor State Senator Betty Holzendorf, a Jacksonville native who dedicated her life to improving the lives of all Northeast Floridians.

At the age of 84, Senator Holzendorf passed away on February 29, leaving behind

legions of supporters and friends who were lucky enough to have known her bright spirit.

A mainstay of Florida politics whose long career spanned across both chambers of the legislature, Senator Holzendorf was a true woman of the people who never stopped fighting for her constituents.

One of Senator Holzendorf's greatest passions was fundraising for universities and scholarships in Northeast Florida. As a science teacher, Betty knew that Florida is only as strong as its youth, so she championed education as an avenue to brighten the minds and futures of her constituents.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the long and fruitful life of Senator Holzendorf, along with offering our deepest condolences to her friends and family.

HONORING JAY A. MYERS

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding New Yorker, Attica Fire Department Member, Jay Myers, for his 50 years of service to the community of Attica and the Attica Fire Department. On Saturday, March 9, 2024, members past and present from the Attica Fire Department will gather to honor him for his service.

Jay Myers was born and raised in the Town of Attica in Wyoming County, New York and began his service as a volunteer in 1973 with the Attica Fire Department. Throughout his years with the Attica Fire Department, he has responded to countless numbers of ambulance and fire responses. His excellent service has earned him the title of Fire Chief along with numerous other positions within the department. Jay's call to service did not stop at the Attica Fire Department, he served for 41 years as a 911 dispatch operator for Wyoming County before his retirement. Along with his passion for the fire department, Jay enjoys traveling in his spare time.

I thank Jay Myers for his incredible volunteer service providing protection to local homeowners, farmers, businesses, and schools in Wyoming County, New York. His many years of dedication have made the community a better place to live, and I wish him all the best in his many more years serving in the Attica Fire Department.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS. KAREN HOSLER

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Karen Hosler, a distinguished Baltimore Sun correspondent whose beats included Congress and the White House. Karen died on February 1 of this year, and it is an understatement to say that Karen lived life to its absolute fullest during her 75 years on this earth.

Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to meet Karen, but I wish that I had. Those that worked with and knew her said, "Karen always brightened up a room with her cheerfulness, her wonderful laughter, her joy for life and her deep commitment to first-rate journalism done the right way . . . She loved reporting on politics, be it Annapolis city government, the governor and General Assembly or the White House and Congress.

Ms. Hosler earned a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1970 from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she was on the staff of The Diamondback, the campus newspaper. After college, she got her start right here in Congress working as a press aide to U.S. Senator Charles Mathias and then began covering politics for The Bowie Blade and Prince George's News. She then joined the staff in the early 1970s of what was then known as The Evening Capital in Annapolis, where she covered government, including the General Assembly and Anne Arundel County elections.

Those that knew her in the newsroom describe her as ". . . sassy, brassy and bold . . . She had the perfect reporter's combination of skepticism of what the government officials she was covering was telling her and empathy for the people she covered . . . She asked the questions that got right to the heart of things."

She then joined The Arundel Sun in 1977, and then went back to Annapolis, where she covered politics and state government. From 1980 to 1983, she was the paper's state political reporter and from 1983 to 1988 its Maryland correspondent.

In 1988, she was named White House correspondent where she covered the administrations of Presidents Ronald W. Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

In 2002, my colleague, Representative STENY HOYER, included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that Ms. Hosler was "always a tough interrogator of a politician. She asked the hard questions that we didn't always like to answer, but she always got it out of us. She took her responsibility as a reporter very seriously and her readers were better off for it."

As if her professional accomplishments were not enough, Karen completed 12 marathons including the Boston, New York and Marine Corps marathons and brought her love of running to Washington. In fact, she even ran with President Bill Clinton and described the President as "a whole lot faster than he looks."

In 1993, Karen became the congressional correspondent for The Sun until 1998, and its deputy Washington bureau chief from 1999 until 2002.

From 2008 until retiring in 2020, she was a WYPR talk show host, reporter and assignment editor.

She was even the subject of a PBS special, which was based on a very personal piece written by Karen.

In these times of political turmoil, it was inspiring to read Karen's story and see what it means to live a life well lived. Fair winds and following seas to Karen, and may her memory be a blessing to her husband and United States Naval Academy adjunct professor, Alan Friedman, and her brother, Richard Argy.