

Beverly Jean Davenport was born on April 30, 1929, in Detroit, Michigan, the second daughter of Lowell and Nellie Davenport. Her father died when she was merely two years old, and her mother got remarried to a kindly neighbor man with whom she had two more children. Raised in an evangelical household, Beverly's faith was a very important part of her life.

Beverly attended Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, where she met ministerial student Tim LaHaye, who was an Army Air Force veteran of WWII. The two fell in love, and he was ready to propose marriage by Christmas break of their first year. They married the following summer before returning to school. Not long after, they welcomed their first child, Linda, into their family. After graduating, the young family moved to Minnetonka, Minnesota, where Tim pastored a small church, and together, they served the people of that community. Their two sons, Larry and Lee, were born there.

In 1956, they relocated to San Diego, California, to begin their ministry at Scott Memorial Baptist Church. Their youngest daughter, Lori, was born soon thereafter. Throughout their ministry together, Beverly served as an integral part of whatever God had called them to do. When the church needed a secretary, Beverly stepped up to fill the role. When the junior Sunday school department needed a director, the young pastor's wife met the need.

During that time of life, Beverly had the opportunity to hear from a well-known Christian speaker who taught on the importance of being fitted with the Holy Spirit. She was introduced to the concept that walking in the Spirit meant full dependence on Christ, no matter what she was called to do. She was challenged to commit an aspects of her life . . . her marriage, her parenting, her fears, and her insecurities, into the hands of her Savior. This teaching changed her world.

God began to direct her steps to do more public ministry, including speaking at women's ministry events and working alongside her husband in his ministry to married couples through Family Life Seminars. Additionally, she was challenged to write, and over the course of her life Beverly had written or co-written many books, including *The Spirit-Controlled Woman*, *How to Develop Your Child's Temperament*, and *The Desires of a Woman's Heart*. Her books were one more way she could communicate God's truth to women on subjects that were increasingly coming under attack in the culture around her, namely womanhood, motherhood, and devotion to family.

In 1978, Beverly saw Barbara Walters' interview with Betty Friedan, the founder of the National Organization for Women. While watching, Beverly was convicted that she must speak on behalf of millions of women who were not being represented by the feminist philosophy. Friedan's purpose, according to LaHaye, was to promote homosexuality, abortion on demand, and thoroughly "undermine the core of American culture: the family."

God led Beverly to begin an organization that would provide a platform to advance conservative values in politics and policy. Concerned Women for America was launched at a rally hosted by LaHaye in a local San Diego theatre. CWA began as a local interest, but within two years, it had grown to become a national organization aimed at protecting and promoting Biblical and constitutional principles through prayer, education, and advocacy.

Believing that prayer was vital to the success of every endeavor, Beverly founded CWA on the principles of prayer and action. CWA

became a fast-growing grassroots organization of conservative women and men who were challenged and educated to pray for their country and its leaders, as well as to take action in their communities, states, and even at the national level.

In 1985, Beverly moved CWA headquarters from San Diego to Washington, D.C. Both she and Tim believed this move was vital in order for CWA to have its greatest impact on the culture as the organization continued to expand. Beverly's growing influence in the conservative movement, as well as Republicans holding a majority place in office, led to LaHaye's prominence during the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. She regularly testified in congressional hearings, including Supreme Court nomination hearings for Antonin Scalia, Robert Bork, and Clarence Thomas.

Initially, Mrs. LaHaye jumped into the debate over the Equal Rights Amendment, helping lead the opposition to it as well as advocating for the life of the unborn. As time went on, other vital family-oriented issues arose that demanded attention. She led CWA to speak out on the protection of marriage, support for Israel, and more. Additionally, God led Beverly to add a legal defense department to CWA's growing list of involvement as opportunities arose to be a voice on behalf of women and men embattled in the court in the areas of life, marriage, education, and freedom of religion.

During the 1980s, Beverly's heart of compassion led her to reach out to Nicaraguan families who were displaced by the communist regime in their country. On numerous occasions, Mrs. LaHaye led teams of volunteers to the jungles of Costa Rica, where they provided much-needed aid to refugees fleeing from their own country. CWA established a refuge station in the jungle which provided clothes, food, education, medical assistance, and, most importantly, hope to these struggling people.

The influence of CWA has spread throughout the country, with chapters in almost every state. As chair and founder, Beverly hosted an award-winning radio talk show and appeared in numerous media interviews. Beverly would not hesitate to accept the opportunity to be the voice of Christian women on national television, often in direct debate against some of the leading feminist and pro-choice voices of the day. She always conducted herself with grace and dignity and spoke truth with strength and clarity.

Throughout her years in leadership, Beverly has received many awards, including Christian Woman of the Year, the Southern Baptist Convention's "Religious Freedom Award," as well as "Talk Show of the Year" in 1993 or the Beverly LaHaye Live radio program. In 1994, she was honored by the U.S. House of Representatives for service to her country, and in 2016, she was recognized by the Faith and Freedom Coalition with the "Winston Churchill Lifetime Achievement Award." Most recently, in 2023 Beverly was named one of the 50 greatest pro-life leaders in the past 50 years.

Mrs. LaHaye retired from her role as President of CWA in 2006. She and Tim returned to Southern California, where they were closer to family. She continued to serve as Chairman of the board for CWA until her retirement in 2020. In addition, she continued to accept speaking engagements and served on various boards for Christian colleges and organizations. Well into her eighties, Beverly still loved to be a voice in the cause and to educate future generations of Christian activists.

Throughout her life, Beverly's family was very important to her. She invested in them personally and prayerfully. While her life was very busy, whenever possible, she tried

to carve out time to visit her children and grandchildren wherever they were living. She organized family trips and opportunities for them all to be together.

In 2016, Beverly lost the love of her life, Tim, to a stroke at the age of 90. They had been married for 69 years. He was her greatest champion, her encourager, and true soulmate. Ten months later, her son, Lee, also passed away. It was a year of incredible loss for her. She took great solace in the company of her remaining children, nine grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren.

Beverly LaHaye was not born into privilege nor blessed with extraordinary skills and abilities. Her life is a beautiful demonstration of what God can do with a person who is fully devoted to Him. She was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ all the days of her life and God used her in extraordinary ways to make a difference in the world around her.

RECOGNIZING DANICA BARELA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Danica Barela for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Danica has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Danica, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Danica's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Danica Barela on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MIKE SUTTON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Mike Sutton. Mike has served as the CEO for Habitat's for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco since 2014. When he arrived, the affiliate had built 280 homes in our community. That number is well over 850 today, with plans for a 900th home celebration in early summer. Under his leadership, the agency has grown from 19 to 75 employees, allowing for sustainable and impressive growth. His organization has also been recognized as one of the top 3 producers of new home builds among all 1,100 Habitat affiliates in the United States for several years in a row. In addition to his work at Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco, Mike is an active community member of numerous organizations. Mike is an active volunteer for the Valspar Championship, the University of South Florida Alumni Association, the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity Education Foundation, and the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. He has

served on the Board of Directors for the Non-profit Leadership Center of Tampa Bay, the Habitat for Humanity State Association of Florida, and the Pinellas Park Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the Pasco County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors for Amplify Cleanwater, formerly known as the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce, which he chaired in 2020.

It is clear that Mr. Sutton has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

RECOGNIZING JE DUNN CONSTRUCTION GROUP'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense pride to recognize and celebrate the centennial anniversary of JE Dunn Construction Group. This milestone is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and contributions that JE Dunn has made in the construction industry.

Founded in 1924 by John Ernest "Ernie" Dunn, this company that began in Kansas City, has now stretched across various generations of the Dunn family, and has only increased their reach beyond Missouri's Fifth Congressional District as the years have passed by. With over 26 offices nationwide and being placed as the 8th overall largest contractor in the United States, this company has served its community through the principle of enriching lives.

Today, JE Dunn employs more than 1,200 people in Kansas City and 4,000 across the country. In 1964 when Ernie Dunn passed, the company was worth \$1.4 million and now the company is nearing a revenue of \$6 billion. The contributions in the local Kansas City area are important to job creation and sustaining economic growth as the city continues to grow and receive national and international attention.

Through JE Dunn's commitment to the local region, Kansas City began to see an increase in innovation and development in the 1960s with the development of Worlds of Fun, the Hy-Vee Arena then known as the Kemper Arena, among others. As their mission to serve others in the pursuit of building perfection continues, JE Dunn has been vital in recent developments such as the Kansas City Zoo and building the world's first ever stadium

for a women's pro sports team. The impact of these investments will have a positive ripple effect on our city and community for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing this momentous celebration and thanking JE Dunn for their contributions to the Greater Kansas City area and beyond. It is a distinct privilege to represent the JE Dunn Construction Group in the United States House of Representatives. I speak with the voice of Missouri's entire Fifth Congressional District as we congratulate them and wish them many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR MARC WEISS

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Command Sgt. Maj. Marc Weiss of Red Lion, Pennsylvania, for his 35 years of service in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Marc enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1988. He began his career of military leadership at Foxtrot Battery, 109th Field Artillery Regiment, where he eventually became First Sergeant.

For the last two and a half years, Marc led the 213th Regional Support Group. Marc's colleagues speak highly of his dedication to understanding units within his command, which he did to better prepare and lead the formations.

Throughout his career, Marc was involved in overseas missions to Bosnia, Kosovo, England, and Iraq, as well as multiple state and drug interdiction missions.

Upon his retirement, Marc was presented with the Legion of Merit award for his devoted service and career.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Sgt. Maj. Weiss for his commitment to our Nation and his selfless service. We are indebted to the 35 years of sacrifice he has given. I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING DENISE AIELLO

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions

of one of my constituents, Denise Aiello, a volunteer Peer Specialist with LifeStream Behavioral Center. She works with the citizens of Citrus County who have substance misuse disorders. Denise focuses her efforts with pregnant mothers, meeting them at their prenatal appointments, ensuring follow-up with maternity care, and providing resources to address treatment needs, and other material resources. Denise also works closely with Citrus EMTs responding to overdose calls as part of the CORE program, meeting consumers at the emergency room to offer connections to substance misuse treatments including MAT, counseling, or admission to residential treatment. Denise will meet with the consumer at their home or outpatient appointment to provide support, guidance, and assistance with paperwork. She will respond at night and on weekends if a call comes in. She is dedicated to helping others rehabilitate and recover. She will make repeated attempts to engage with a consumer, understanding they might need time to recognize and accept that they need help. Denise is an empathic and dedicated peer who is an asset to the LifeStream family and to the residents of Citrus County.

It is clear that Ms. Aiello has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and on the lives of countless people she has worked with in the fight against the horrific crime of human trafficking. I am grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING SYDNEY CAMPBELL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sydney Campbell for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Sydney has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Sydney, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Sydney's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Sydney Campbell on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.