

REMEMBERING LARRY COX

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Larry Cox, a transformational figure in the development of Memphis International Airport in my hometown over more than 40 years, who passed last Friday at the age of 76. Mr. Cox spent his entire 41-year career at the airport, beginning as an unpaid intern and ending with the last 29 as President and CEO of the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority. During his tenure, in much of which the airport was a major Northwest Airlines and later Delta hub and the largest cargo airport in the world, he oversaw development of the World Runway, an 11,120-foot runway to accommodate FedEx and other nonstop intercontinental flights, which was dedicated in 2000. Mr. Cox served as Chairman of the American Association of Airport Executives, on the board of Airports Council International and President of the Tennessee Association of Air Carrier Airports. His influence was recognized with the Federal Aviation Administration's "Kitty Hawk" Award in 1996. In addition, as a civic leader, he served as Chairman of the board of directors for the Greater Memphis Chamber, the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau (now Memphis Tourism), and the Mid-South Minority Business Council. Mr. Cox, an Air Force veteran and licensed pilot, earned undergraduate Economics (1969) and graduate MBA (1974) degrees from the University of Memphis. I express my deep condolences to his wife Patricia, his two daughters, Stephanie and Leigh-Ann, his extensive family and his many friends and colleagues. Mr. Cox made Memphis a better place and improved the air travel experience, and he will be missed.

CONGRATULATING THE MISSOURI CLASS 4 BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONS, BLAIR OAKS FALCONS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the achievements of the Blair Oaks Falcons baseball team in clinching the MSHSAA Class 4 State Championship.

Under Coach Mike DeMilia's leadership, the Falcons displayed excellence throughout their playoff run. During their run, they notably defeated three of the MHSBCA's top-five ranked teams, including the 32-win Benton High School Cardinals. Blair Oaks' rich tradition in baseball has been furthered with this fourth state title in the program's history, marking their second championship in the last five seasons. I congratulate the Blair Oaks team for their hard work and perseverance and for serving as a source of school and community pride.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Blair Oaks baseball team for a job well done.

HONORING ANDERSON STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable church, The Anderson Street Community Church of Christ.

In 1958, men and women of the community of Marks came together under the instructions of God, to prepare a house of worship for the community. There were initially only 8 members who planted crops, sold the products of that crop to buy the property that the Church now sits on at 541 Anderson Street. After years of laboring, under the directions of then Pastor Nelson Burres, the Church grew into the Community House of Worship it now is.

The Anderson Street Community Church grew and became very instrumental in the establishment of other area churches in Water Valley, Cold Water, Como and Batesville, Mississippi during the 70s and 80s.

Pastor Burres passed away in 2006 when the present pastor, Stanley Lang, became the minister. He and his wife have labored since faithfully at Anderson Street.

Pastor Stanley and his wife started a campaign to build a new building for the church in 1998 and in 2006, that building was materialized. The membership had dwindled to 8 members when this undertaking started. Due to perseverance, the church grew to over 100 members prior to COVID-19.

The Anderson Street Community Church of Christ was birthed out of the heart of dedicated pastors like Pastor Stanley who allowed great preachers before him to mentor and mold him into the pastor for his home community.

Pastor Stanley Lang is Chair of the County Democratic Party. He is Vice-Chair of the Board of Commissioners of North Delta Regional Housing Authority (NDRHA). He is also Coahoma Community College's Industrial Training Coordinator.

Since the church's inception in 1958, and it's humble beginning, the church has grown and now aids as a pillar in the community for services to the community.

April 2024 marked the Community Church of Christ's 65th-year anniversary. The Community church has done much for the community by way of scholarships to community high school graduates and to graduating members of the church from surrounding towns. The Church has established an education scholarship in honor of Pastor Stanley's grandmother, Rosie Lang. She was a dedicated member who believed greatly in education. This scholarship has been a staple by which they honor and serve their members and community. The Church has provided transportation to education centers (Ged), voting precincts, doctors' offices, etc. for many community members seeking to improve their education, health, and overall life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Anderson Street Church of Christ for its longevity and dedication to serving the community.

HONORING GIGI GODWIN'S DECADES OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent and beloved friend, Ms. Gigi Godwin, as she concludes a chapter of exemplary service to the people and businesses of Montgomery County. Gigi's vision as President and CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) expanded the organization into a nationally recognized resource for innovative business practices and inclusive programming. The communities of Maryland's beautiful Eighth District owe her a debt of gratitude for developing vital services for local business owners from all walks of life.

Gigi's career has spanned across the U.S. Congress, the National Academy of Sciences' Climate Research Board and the alternative energy sector. She found her way to MCCC in 2003 as Director of Education and Outreach before rising to become MCCC's President and CEO. She played a pivotal role wearing the additional hat of the MCCC Foundation's Treasurer, developing educational programs and initiatives to support the Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation's Veteran Institute for Procurement. This remarkable program has provided training at no expense to nearly 2,500 veteran-owned small businesses to improve their access to the federal contract and procurement process. Gigi not only recognized our important obligation to ensure that economic opportunities are available to veterans—she made it happen, and earned a Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition for her efforts in 2010.

As a passionate advocate for Montgomery County's local economy, Gigi also helped broaden government contracting opportunities to many more businesses in Montgomery County. In addition to her work to establish veteran-centered procurement training, Gigi seized on the potential of Montgomery County's proximity to the engine of federal government to start the GovConNet Council, which educates business owners on the latest contracting opportunities, and advocated for the unanimous passage of the Small Business Runway Extension Act.

Gigi's service has extended beyond MCCC to encompass some of Montgomery County's most beloved and foundational institutions. She earned an Honorary Degree from Montgomery College for her five years of service advancing education equity on the College's Board of Trustees. She also served on the boards of the Montgomery County Business Roundtable on Education, the Committee for Montgomery, the Montgomery County Executive's Business Advisory Board and Imagination Stage.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention Gigi's signature grace and her steady leadership during some of the most tumultuous economic periods in American history. Her service as the head of MCCC spanned the depths of the Great Recession and a global pandemic. The economic recovery in Montgomery County and the resilience of our small businesses is due

in no small part to Gigi's leadership and agile responses to these crises and her focus on building the resources, infrastructure, and capacity to support our local small businesses.

In addition to her outstanding professional achievements, Gigi is also a beloved wife to her husband Jeff, and amazing mother to three children. As she begins this exciting new chapter, I am extending my warmest wishes to Gigi and my deep gratitude for her plentiful and enduring contributions to the businesses and people of Montgomery County.

**HONORING RABBI GEORGE
GITTLEMAN**

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi George Gittleman of Congregation Shomrei Torah in celebration of his retirement after twenty-eight years leading his congregation and providing service to our community.

Born in the city of Chicago, Illinois and growing up in Louisville, Kentucky, Rabbi Gittleman joined our community in 1996 when he and his family moved to Sonoma County. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in American History from the University of Vermont, a Masters in Hebrew Letters and Ordination from the Reform Seminary, Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion and is a Senior Rabbinic Fellow with the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Gittleman, affectionately known as Rabbi George, became the rabbinical leader of Congregation Shomrei Torah, a progressive Reform Jewish synagogue in Santa Rosa in 1996. Through his leadership, the congregation grew from 100 to over 475 member families and, in turn, outgrew its facilities. In 2008, the Rabbi welcomed his congregation to a beautiful new temple. This would not have been possible without his determination, fundraising abilities and oversight.

In addition to growing members and Congregation Shomrei Torah's spiritual home, Rabbi Gittleman expanded his temple's programs including the Shomrei Torah Religious School. The school for children ranging from kindergarten through eighth grade teaches Hebrew, religious practices, and about Jewish history and culture. He has also expanded offerings for teens and adults through Torah study sessions, teen groups, dinner lectures, and many trips to Israel, the Amerman South and Eastern Europe.

Rabbi Gittleman is a proponent of tikkun olam, translated as "repairing the world" through our actions. He is a prolific writer and outspoken on many critical issues facing our community. His published works include Maimonides and The Guide to the Perplexed, Lights in the Forest: Rabbis Respond to Twelve Essential Jewish Questions, and We should remember the Shoah in a way that helps to heal the world. The Rabbi is an advocate for addressing challenges including homelessness, food insecurity, affordable housing, LGBTQIA+ rights, gun violence prevention and has gracefully guided his faith community in the wake of the October 7 attacks. He does this through the congregation's

Social Action Committee and in collaboration with other faith and civic leaders. Our district and country are better because of his work.

Beyond his faith and civic leadership, Rabbi Gittleman is a devoted father and husband to his wife Laura, his son Levi, his daughter Sophie, to his son-in-law Julian and to his grandson Jamie. Rabbi George is an avid outdoorsman and from a young age, he was an avid rock climber, skier and mountain biker. Even now, he continues to fly fish, shoot sporting clays, bird watch, backpack and hike. You can often find Rabbi Gittleman playing his guitar with his blues-rock band.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Rabbi Gittleman is a true public servant and has dedicated his time, leadership and wisdom to the benefit of Congregation Shomrei Torah and to our district. After twenty-eight years, he now embarks on his well-earned retirement. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

**RECOGNIZING THE 2024 GOLD-
WATER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPI-
ENT, CHRISTIAN PENA**

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Christian Pena, the recipient of the 2024 Goldwater Scholarship.

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship Foundation annually awards sophomores and juniors in college who have demonstrated an elevated skillset in mathematics, engineering, and science. It is awarded to students to encourage and contribute to their professional endeavors, aiming to bolster the capabilities and quality of U.S. professionals in these fields. Previous scholarship recipients have pursued careers where they have contributed to improving our Nation's well-being.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Christian Pena for his academic dedication to mathematics, science, and engineering.

**HONORING SUNSET VIEW
CEMETERY**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sunset View Cemetery.

Sunset View Cemetery was established in September 2011. It is independently owned and operated by Jimmy and Quartreate Ware, giving personal and professional services to families of the Mississippi-Louisiana and surrounding area in their time of need.

With hard work and dedication, they maintain 20 acres of land covered in beautiful pine trees and a pond, which is located at 1617 Dr. Martin Luther King Road in Natchez.

They offer quality services for burial and gravesite services. They are also a perpetual care cemetery, this means when you purchase your lot or niche, 15 percent of that sale goes into a trust in compliance with Mississippi

state law. This longstanding trust will provide Sunset View Cemetery with the necessary resources for the lasting preservation of our memorial park.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sunset View Cemetery for their actions and achievements in the Natchez, MS community.

**APPRECIATING THOMAS
CAUGHMAN**

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, June 9, 2024, marks the 20th anniversary of the tragic death of Army Specialist Thomas Day Caughman of Lexington, South Carolina. Assigned to the 391st Engineer Battalion, Army Reserve, Spartanburg, SC, Thomas was killed while bravely serving America during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As a 20-year-old graduate of Lexington High School, Thomas had a deep appreciation for America as he included in each of his letters home with the words, "Freedom isn't free."

In a touching tribute to the duty he felt in securing freedom for America, and expressed love for his family, he wrote the following letter in case of his death to parents, Jane and Hamp Caughman, and sister Lisa:

"Dad, Mom, Sis

I think sometimes why I did this and if it was worth it. Then I realize how important people like me are, we all know Freedom isn't never free and somebody must protect that, for my family and everyone who enjoys freedom. Sometimes I get angry because I realize that people take advantage of that. But many respect that also, so its worth it, doing my job as an American soldier I've done many things and seen many things most will never experience. I know the sacrifice to protect the U.S and more important my family and friends.

If ya'll are reading this. I guess it means that I have lost my life on this world but started a new one in Heaven. Don't cry or worry about me, because I have died for my country and yall. We knew what may happen while I was here, but I think it was meant to be. . . .

. . . I really don't know how to end this but, carry on with your lives and remember you live in a great place, where men and women sacrifice so much for all of us. I love yall so, so much.

Sincerely your son and brother, Thomas (PFC Caughman)"

As the grateful father of four sons who have served in Iraq, Egypt, or Afghanistan I especially appreciate the courage and extraordinary maturity of Thomas Caughman. He will always be cherished for his service which has for 20 years achieved protecting Americans from terrorist attacks in the continuing Global War on Terrorism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on June 3, 2024, and on June 4, 2024, I was unable to make it back to D.C. for votes. Had I