

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MRS.
LORRAINE EDITH GEITTMANN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Mrs. Lorraine Edith Geittmann, who passed away on January 5, 2024, in Redondo Beach, California. My friend Lori Geittmann was a remarkable person and I will miss her dearly. Lorraine Edith Geittmann was born December 11th, 1933, in Lancaster, Wisconsin, to Elmer T. and Leone E. (Allen) Geittmann. She grew up in the Ohio River town of Metropolis, Illinois. She was a 1951 Honor Society graduate of Metropolis Community High School. She won the Massac County general scholarship to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was a senior reporter on the student newspaper of the Daily Illini and was elected to Honorary Shorter Board and Torch. She received her bachelor's degree in Journalism in June of 1955, and moved to California where she had family members.

In 1957, she joined the staff of the Daily Breeze Newspaper where she worked for 10 years, taking leave in 1960 to be a congressional fellow of the American Political Science Association in Washington, DC. She worked on the staff of Rep. B.F. Sisk of Fresno California, and Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine. While in Washington she attended the inauguration of John F. Kennedy. She returned to the Daily Breeze Newspaper in 1961 but left in 1967 to attend graduate school to study Political Science at California State University at Long Beach where she was a graduate assistant.

In 1969 she became a Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officer and held that position for 25 years. She was the secretary of the Probation Officers union for two terms.

After her retirement in 1994, she served as a Commissioner on several Redondo Beach City Boards, and as the President of Friends of the Library. She served 5 terms as president of the Beach Cities Democratic Club and several years as an AD 66 Delegate for the Democratic Party. She also served several terms as an elected member of the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee, and a member of the executive board of the Democratic State Central Committee. She was a 1980 delegate to the Democratic National Convention. She served on a committee for the Beach Cities Health District. She also was a volunteer for several years at Torrance Memorial Hospital and belonged to Omnilore Learning in retirement from 2000 until her passing.

She was an early member of the Pacific Unitarian Church in Rancho Palos Verdes.

She was preceded in death by her parents, longtime companion Robert Jones, brothers: Charles Geittmann and John W. Geittmann, sister-in-law Myrna Geittmann, nephew J. Greg Geittmann, and great nephew Shawn M. Norman.

She is survived by her niece Suzanne Lowery, nephew William F. (Karen) Geittmann, great nephew Geoffrey W. (Cindy) Geittmann, Kyle (Courtney) Howerton, great great nephew Leon and her great, great, nieces Autumn F. Norman, and Grace S. Geittmann from Marion, Illinois, along with niece Jodie L.

Geittmann and nephew Rick A. Geittmann from Rainier, Washington.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT EZRA FOOTE

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ezra Foote of Kentucky's 1st Congressional District for earning the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout.

I would like to offer Ezra my sincerest congratulations for attaining this high-esteemed rank. He should be immensely proud of the accomplishments he has made to reach this point. I encourage him to continue taking on new projects and setting a positive example in his community.

I am honored to recognize him for this accomplishment. Ezra has achieved a place of honor, but he now also has a responsibility to strive for greatness. As an Eagle Scout, he is challenged to become the best person that he can be. I wish him all the best in his great future endeavors, of which I know there will be many.

I join with the community of Calloway County in celebrating Ezra Foote for his hard work and dedication. Congratulations once again and best wishes for continued success.

RECOGNIZING NEW HOPE BOROUGH CHIEF MICHAEL V. CUMMINGS RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. Fitzpatrick. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional constituent from my district, Chief Michael V. Cummings of New Hope Borough Police Department who is retiring after over 45 years of dedicated service as a law enforcement officer.

Michael was born and raised in Buffalo, New York, but moved to Warminster, Pennsylvania in 1971 where he has remained ever since. He graduated from Temple University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology. After graduation he began his career in 1977 with the Doylestown Borough Police Department where he remained for over 30 years.

During his tenure with Doylestown Borough, he held the ranks of Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, and Lieutenant. Michael Cummings during his tenure in Doylestown Borough had many notable accomplishments. As a patrol officer Michael was instrumental in forming what was to become a three dog K-9 unit. Michael, along with his police K-9 Bergey, went a step further and trained to compete at a regional and national level with the United States Police Canine Association.

As a sergeant, Michael was trained as a polygraph operator. In that capacity he served many police departments in providing testing for both criminal cases and new police hires. Michael Cummings was one of the first Drug

Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Instructors in Bucks County teaching the anti-drug curriculum to 6th graders in the elementary schools in the Borough.

Michael was also the supervisor of the Doylestown Borough Detective unit. He supervised the more serious cases that occurred in the Borough. One of these cases resulted in the arrest of a Columbian national and the seizure of 102 kilos of cocaine, hundreds of thousands of dollars confiscated, and property forfeitures Michael was awarded a commendation from the Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department as well as other local and state authorities for his work on this case. In addition, Michael was awarded the Delaware Valley Association of Police Professionals Officer of the year as the Bucks County recipient.

The Central Bucks County Region realized a need for a special response team for the handling of critical incidents. Michael Cummings was trained as a Negotiator and was appointed by the members of the executive Board to supervise the Crisis Negotiation Team servicing 20 municipalities in the Central and Upper Bucks region of the county.

In 2009 Michael became Police Chief of New Hope Borough. In his 15 years as chief he led numerous initiatives to better the force and community as a whole. He worked with the Borough Council to replace an aging fleet of patrol vehicles and upgraded equipment to include Mobile Data Terminals, greatly enhancing effectiveness in the field.

Chief Cummings standardized and streamlined his department in numerous ways during his tenure. He set out to issue every officer the same side arm replacing an inefficient and disjointed system of different manufacturers and models. He was successful in obtaining funds to purchase Glock pistols that have since been upgraded to include red dot sights and mounted lights.

The record system for the Parking Enforcement Department was unorganized. Chief Cummings was able to work with a parking enforcement company to install software that made it possible to track all tickets and automatically send out letters to violators. When many of the parking tickets were discovered to be unreadable, Chief Cummings obtained handheld parking devices that took pictures. The error rate went to zero as the registration plates could be verified by pictures. He was also tasked with the implementation of a new parking system that used kiosks and a parking application. This new parking system has resulted in an increase in parking revenue.

Faced with the cost of looking up vehicle registrations becoming cost prohibitive, Cummings was able to install a Mobile Data Terminal connected to the Bucks County Radio Center in the station. Now vehicle registrations from all over the country can be accessed not only in a timely fashion but without cost.

Chief Cummings championed de-escalation during his tenure. He made sure that all full-time New Hope Borough Officers received 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training. In 2022 a body cam program was instituted with the help of a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (P.C.C.D.). He was able to obtain another PA P.C.C.D. grant to replace and outdated records management system. In 2023 the New Hope Borough Police Department became an PA accredited police department. To date, only 19 boroughs in the state have obtained this designation.

Chief Cummings is not only the Police Chief but the Emergency Management Coordinator for New Hope Borough. He was appointed by the Borough Council and the Governor to this position. In this role he has been involved in all the floods, winter storms and hurricanes since 2010. His expertise allowed him to work with the New Hope Solebury District Superintendent to develop a multi-faceted response program to deal with any threat that could be presented at the school district buildings. Officers, School Staff and Emergency responders were all involved and trained.

Chief Cummings has served as the head of the Central Bucks Crisis Negotiators Team Leader, the President of the Bucks County Chiefs Association, and the President of the Delaware Valley Hostage Negotiators Association. Despite numerous leadership positions, Michael attends all events. He oversees all operational plans for 5K races, parades, festivals, protests, and other large gatherings.

Chief Cummings is proud of his work as a liaison to the LGBTQ+ community and enjoys a strong affiliation with New Hope Celebrates the Umbrella organization. He has supervised the annual Pride Celebration in New Hope culminating in a parade that draws 10,000 people. Michael's expertise and dedication to public safety has resulted in 15 incident free years of celebration.

I am eternally grateful to Chief Cummings for the life of committed service he has given to our community, district, and country. His selfless example is a beacon of civic stewardship for the next generations of law enforcement to emulate. Michael's proficiency and devotion will be sorely missed, but I am excited for his entry into this new chapter and wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE SONGFEST FOR KOREAN VETERANS

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the veterans of the Korean War. The Korean War was fought from 1950 to 1953 and resolved by Armistice on July 23, 1953, 70 years ago, and seemed to be forgotten about. In fact, last year I introduced House Resolution 858 acknowledging the importance, courage, and sacrifice of veterans from the Korean War.

We should all remember with honor those who bravely served in that war. We should also honor the memory of the more than 36,000 Americans and 7,000 Korean Augmentees who lost their lives to Chinese and North Korean armies, not to mention the tremendous loss of life to the Korean people, as well as remembering the more than 7,500 Americans still lost, unaccounted for and missing to the day.

We are blessed to have almost 50 Korean War veterans with us at SongFest for Korean vets today, who served in every aspect of the Korean War and support of those efforts, with awards that include the Purple Heart, Silver and Bronze Stars, Combat Infantry Badges and Combat Patches from units with names like the First Marine Division, the 24th and

25th Infantry Divisions as well as many others. Including those who served on ships with names like the USS *Antietam*, the *Baoding Straigt*, the *Bennington*, the *Boxer* and the *Cabot*. These men and women served in Pusan, Inchon, Chosin, and on hills with names like Heartbreak Ridge and Pork Chop Hill. We have many Korean Americans who remember that war and the effects on their land that remains divided and dangerous to this day, some of whom have joined us for this celebration and commemoration.

Mr. Speaker, let it be Proclaimed that we will always honor and never forget the contributions of every Soldier, Marine, Sailor, and Airman who served on the Peninsula or in support of Korea, the Forgotten War. We will also never forget the sacrifice of the Korean people and will not rest until all those missing come home again. A grateful Nation honors them on this American Heroes Day at the South Florida Fair.

RECOGNIZING AVA SOMMER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ava Sommer for earning an Honorable Mention Award in the 2023 Congressional App Challenge.

Ava built an app entitled Voter Pride Guide app, which helps users keep track of pro and anti-LGBTQ legislation in state legislatures around the country, share resources and articles, and connect them with ways to be civically engaged through voting and more.

Ava, a student from Peak to Peak High School, spent countless hours and used numerous tools to learn about coding and app development while developing new skills and further advancing her STEM education. Her perseverance and dedication to this challenge exemplifies the character and determination the faculty instills in the students at Peak to Peak High.

Congratulations to Ava Sommer for her hard work on this project. I am certain she will exhibit the same dedication and character in her future accomplishments, and I wish her the best of luck going forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for two votes on January 12, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 9 and NO on Roll Call No. 10.

TRIBUTE TO LENA "JACKIE" JACQUELYN TAYLOR

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to extend my

condolences to the family and community mourning the passing of Lena Jacquelyn Taylor, affectionately known as "Jackie," a caring and benevolent entrepreneur and a passionate champion for community engagement. It saddens me to say that Jackie passed peacefully in the early morning of Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

Born on June 9, 1945, in the heart of Little Rock, Arkansas, to the loving embrace of Thomas Bartholomew and Delta Ivory Thompson, Jackie, the youngest of eight children, proudly stood as one of "Mama Delta's Finest."

Jackie's educational journey unfolded within the halls of Milwaukee Public Schools, where she assumed leadership as the cadet captain at Lee Street Elementary School. She progressed to John Marshall High School, where she became part of the inaugural class of African American students to integrate into the school.

In 1965, Jackie and Wilbert united in matrimony, fostering a family that extended beyond their own, embracing nieces and nephews as their own. The marriage may have seen its course, but the commitment to parenting and supporting their daughter, Lena Carolyn Taylor, endured. Jackie's return to education at MATC and UW-Milwaukee marked a significant chapter, guided by her exceptional counselor, Jimmy Johnstone.

Jackie's professional journey was interwoven with roles at American Motors, AO Smith, and Milwaukee Public Schools. Simultaneously, she immersed herself in her mother's business ventures, accumulating invaluable knowledge. After completing her coursework, fueled by her mother's entrepreneurial spirit, Jackie embarked on her path as a business owner, collaborating in managing a grocery store, restaurant, real estate holdings, and facilities aiding veterans and the unhoused.

Her benevolent spirit, inherited from her mother, manifested in civic engagement as an Elks Temple No. 247 member. Jackie orchestrated debutante balls, displaying dynamic leadership, providing invaluable social etiquette and moral guidance to young black women.

In the later stages of her life, she joyfully welcomed her "darling baby boy," Jacques Taylor. A devout believer from a young age, Jackie's spiritual journey took a profound turn under the pastoral leadership of Reverend Thomas B. Moody at Solomon Community Temple United Methodist Church. Her commitment to Christ and the church catalyzed the establishment of The Love House in 1994, a faith-based initiative offering support to the unhoused, returning citizens and those grappling with mental health challenges.

For nearly three decades, The Love House, initially rooted in her home, evolved into a beacon of hope. Jackie's tireless efforts surpassed counseling to encompass securing employment, fostering independence, and reuniting individuals with their families and communities. Every week, she hosted a food pantry, spreading love through her culinary creations and warmly welcoming everyone who crossed her path.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Lena "Jackie" Jacquelyn Taylor. She has helped transform the lives of so many people, including my constituents. The people of the 4th Congressional District,