

Laura was born on January 29, 1922, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

When she had completed schooling, Laura found a job working at the Quartermaster Depot in South Philadelphia. She took the Frankford EL Line to work every day. It was on one of those daily trips that she met Joe Sidman, the man who was to become her husband. Laura and Joe were married in October 1942.

As Joe was in the Army, they spent the first few months of married life in Florida. Once Joe was out of the service, they settled in an apartment in Mayfair for a few years. Joe and Laura then moved in with Martha and Harry Raudenbush who lived in Somerton for a short period of time while looking for a home. In 1950, Babe and Joe moved to their home on Elmwood Avenue in Trevose.

Babe and Joe raised 3 wonderful children, Lorraine, Barbara, and Jay while in their Trevose home. Once the kids were in school, Laura went back to work part time at Mortimer's Clothing store. Eventually she settled into a job at the Trevose Hardware Store joining her good friend, George Wehlau. Laura would continue in this position for over 20 years, becoming a staple of the community. She enjoyed baking cookies for her loyal customers who came back time and again for her caring nature and incredible baked goods.

Laura's love of sports has been a lifelong interest. She is an avid sports fan, especially of the Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies. Win or lose Laura can be seen in front of the TV rooting for her favorite teams. When the Phillies won the pennant in 1950 Laura sat in front of her TV trying to take pictures of the action. Although those pictures didn't develop well, Laura did manage to get a picture roster of the 1950's winning Phillies. It hung in her home for many years.

In the community, Laura supported the Neshaminy "N" club with all kinds of baked cakes whenever asked and her son wrestled and played football for Neshaminy. She has been a member of St. James Episcopal Church in Langhorne for over six decades. During this time, Babe sang in the choir and was an esteemed member of the Altar Guild. In the course of her service on the Altar Guild, Laura trained generations of congregational members in the proper altar set up and the care, handling, and cleaning of the communion vessels. After Laura's retirement from the Altar Guild, she was presented with a Lifetime Achievement certificate.

Laura could not be prouder of her growing family. She has 3 doting children, 3 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren in addition to numerous nieces and nephews and their children. I am very grateful for her incredible life of service to her family, community, and country. As Laura "Babe" Sidman celebrates the first century of her life and 102nd birthday, I wish her nothing but the best in the coming years and a heartfelt Happy Birthday.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WIER HARMAN

#### HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Mr. Wier

Harman who sadly passed away on December 11, 2023, at age 57. Wier leaves behind a legacy as a champion of arts, culture and civic engagement in Seattle, Washington.

Wier grew up in Virginia, attended the University of Pennsylvania and studied directing at the Yale School of Drama. In the early 1990s, he directed plays and was the marketing manager at Seattle's Annex Theatre. He left Seattle for jobs in Atlanta and New York before returning to serve as Executive Director of Town Hall Seattle for 17 years. In 2015, Seattle Metropolitan Magazine named him one of "15 People Who Should Really Run Seattle."

Wier will live on through his contributions to Seattle and the Pacific Northwest. His passion was evident in his love for community, commitment to arts and culture, and tireless efforts to shape Town Hall Seattle into an inclusive and welcoming space for everyone in the region. Wier's enthusiasm and dedication to providing a platform for the people of Seattle to come together and forge a deeper understanding of one another garnered the trust and admiration of so many of us who experienced his work at Town Hall. Not only did he expand the landmark Town Hall's event offerings to include civics, arts, music, and sciences, but he also insisted on keeping ticket prices affordable and making attendance free for many young people.

Wier positioned Town Hall at the intersection of so many different communities and conversations. He was a connector—Wier seemed to know everyone, and everyone seemed to know Wier—and he used this capital to encourage new bonds and friendships to the benefit of our entire region. Wier was an advocate for young artists and cross-disciplinary collaboration. He championed civic participation, bold ideas, conversation and debate, empathy, kindness and generosity.

Wier's dedication to a robust civic life and his support of arts and culture will serve as a model for years to come. As he put it in describing Town Hall's essential work: "Our role is simple and profound—to remind us that some things must be experienced together, and that 'coming together' is often its own reward." His enduring spirit will live on in his wife, Barbara Sauermann, his children Stella and Ruby, and all of us who admired him so greatly in his community.

#### HONORING TEXAS RANGER MAJOR GROVER HUFF

#### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of longtime Texas lawman, Major Grover Franklin Huff. Since 2018, Major Huff has served as the Company Commander of Company "A," which encompasses a thirty-five-county area bordered to the east by Louisiana, to the south by the Texas Gulf Coast, and to the north and west by Companies "F" and "B." On January 31, 2024, Major Huff will hang up the signature cowboy hat and un-pin his fifty-peso Ranger badge for the last time.

Major Huff was born to Allen and Beatrice Huff on February 2, 1962, in Orange, Texas.

He graduated from West Orange-Stark High School in 1980 and attended Lamar University. He then enrolled in the Jefferson County Jail Academy and the Lamar University Police Academy, graduating in 1985. Before joining the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Major Huff began his lengthy career in law enforcement, serving with the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Bridge City Police Department.

In 1989, Major Huff attended DPS Recruit School as part of Class A-89 and was inducted as a state trooper on February 16, 1990. On June 1, 1997, Major Huff joined the prestigious Texas Rangers, the oldest law enforcement organization on the North American continent with statewide jurisdiction.

His fellow Rangers have characterized Major Huff as a "Ranger's Ranger." He is known as an expert in crime scene processing and has taught advanced criminal investigation courses to state, local, federal, and even foreign law enforcement officers. Over the past four decades, his work has resulted in the conviction of numerous violent criminals, justice for countless families, and safer Texas communities. Major Huff, however, has said that his greatest accomplishment has been overseeing the development of new Rangers and their promotion through the ranks of the storied law enforcement agency.

Mr. Speaker, in its two-hundred-year history, only the finest law enforcement officers have had the honor of calling themselves Texas Rangers. I am proud that Major Grover Franklin Huff is among them. I wish him, his wife, Diane, and their family all the best in the next chapter of their life.

#### HONORING SHERIFF DEAN GROWDON

#### HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Rep. TOM MCCLINTOCK, to honor the nearly 30-year public safety career and service of Lassen County Sheriff Dean Growdon.

Sheriff Growdon's career began in 1994 as a Correctional Deputy for the Lassen County Sheriff's Office. He would serve there briefly before being promoted to Deputy Sheriff where he would serve as the resident Deputy in Big Valley and in the main office in Susanville. In 1998, Dean received the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award from the Susanville Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) No. 2381.

Dean was then promoted to Sergeant, supervising the jail, as a Patrol Supervisor, Commanded the Interagency Narcotics Force, and was appointed as team leader for the Sheriff's SWAT team. In 2005, Dean was recognized with a Certificate of Valor, the highest law enforcement award for valor in the State by the California State Attorney General Lockyear for his actions during a domestic violence incident.

Dean has been a vocal advocate for our first responders serving on many different Statewide boards where he impacted public safety policy. As a member of the California State Sheriff's Association, Dean served on

the legislative committee, influencing new laws. Dean was appointed and served as the Chair of the Detention and Corrections Committee and served on the Corrections Standards Authority and then the Board of State and Community Corrections.

Dean's public service career will be remembered fondly for his dedication to improving the Lassen County Sheriff's Office and the community. His commitment to mentoring his fellow employees, his compassion, his knowledge, and leadership have been impactful and will be greatly missed by our community.

On behalf of the people of Northern California, I thank Sheriff Dean Growdon for his service, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 25, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed a vote on February 1, 2023, on the Motion Or-

dering the Previous Question on H. Res. 83. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 101. I missed a vote on November 3, 2023, on Amdt. 127 offered by Mr. ROY (TX). Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 595. I missed a vote on December 14, 2023, on the Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 722.