

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREERS OF THREE RECENTLY
RETIRED KVOA JOURNALISTS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the remarkable careers of three distinguished journalists who have recently retired from KVOA, one of Tucson's premier news organizations: Lupita Murillo, Frank Velasco, and Al Mazeika.

Lupita Murillo joined the KVOA team in 1978 as a general assignment reporter, specializing in crime reporting. A pioneer in her field, Lupita was the first Hispanic female in broadcasting in South Texas before moving to Tucson. Her career at KVOA spans an impressive 46 years, during which she has garnered numerous accolades, including awards from the Arizona Press Club, United Press International, and the Associated Press. She has also been honored with several Edward R. Murrow awards and has received national recognition from the American Women in Radio and Television. Lupita's commitment to community service is exemplified by her involvement with organization such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson and Santa Cruz County, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, and the University of Arizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Her dedication extends beyond the newsroom, making her a cherished member of the Tucson community.

Frank Velasco has been a steadfast presence at KVOA since 1965, starting with janitorial work and rising to become the station's first official news photographer in 1973. Over his extensive career, Frank has witnessed and adapted to significant technological changes in the industry. His passion for videography and production has left an indelible mark on the station, and his creative contributions have shaped many of the station's memorable broadcasts. Frank's deep-rooted connection to KVOA is evident in his long tenure and his role in helping the station evolve over decades.

Al Mazeika joined KVOA in 1975, initially as a part-time booth announcer and eventually transitioning into roles such as audio technician, technical director, and commercial producer. With nearly 50 years at the station, Al's versatility and dedication have made him an integral part of the KVOA family. Known for his engaging voice and behind-the-scenes work, Al has not only contributed to commercial production but has also made occasional on-air appearances. His enduring commitment to KVOA and his personal connection to the station, including meeting his wife Cathy through KVOA, highlight the deep ties he has with the organization.

Together, Lupita Murillo, Frank Velasco, and Al Mazeika have exemplified excellence in journalism and broadcasting. Their careers have enriched the Tucson community and the field of journalism through their unwavering dedication, innovative contributions, and deep connections to their work and audience.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to Lupita, Frank, and Al in their retirement and life after journalism. Their legacy of service and excellence will continue to inspire

and influence the next generation of journalists and broadcasters.

RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES MARTIN

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James Martin, a Hoosier hero of the Vietnam War who has dedicated so much to our country and to Indiana. Drafted into the U.S. Army on St. Patrick's Day of 1965, Mr. Martin took on multiple roles in the Army, including mailman, fireman, battery clerk, and supply clerk. In Vietnam, he was a critical element to the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, within the notorious 1st Cavalry Division.

Mr. Martin's unit was vital to the war effort, often serving as a lifeline to fellow soldiers and the South Vietnamese Army via cover and support. He and his fellow men were known as "Shining Star" by those they saved in combat.

After returning home in 1967, Mr. Martin continued to serve in a different way—working in finance with Northwestern National Bank, which later became Wells Fargo, and eventually shifting to computer work in the final 20 years of his career.

Since moving to Noblesville in 1998, Mr. Martin has been actively involved in Memorial Day and Veterans Day services, contributing his time and passion to honoring fellow veterans.

We are forever thankful to the service of Mr. Martin, and so many others who answered the call and sacrifice so much for our Nation. From me and on behalf of the people of Indiana's 5th District, I thank Mr. Martin.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF COLONEL JACOB HELGESTAD

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Colonel Jacob Helgestad, who recently passed away after a valiant battle with cancer.

Col. Helgestad was born and raised in Lonsdale, Minnesota. He attended New Prague High School where he played football, hockey, and baseball. His life of service started earlier than most—before he even graduated high school, he joined the National Guard as a private. He continued to serve in the National Guard while he attended college at Mankato State University, where he met his wife, Karry.

In 2001, Col. Helgestad deployed to Saudi Arabia as an enlisted chemical reconnaissance specialist. A few months later, in the wake of the tragic events of 9/11, he made the selfless choice to dedicate his life to serving our country. He attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in Ft. Benning, Georgia. He was then deployed to Kosovo and later Iraq as a company executive officer of an infantry company in the Al Anbar province where he spent two

years leading the soldiers of Charly Company in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For his final deployment, Col. Helgestad served as the Battalion Commander of the 1-194 Armor Regiment. He led a historic deployment for Operation Spartan Shield based out of Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Under his leadership, 425 soldiers participated in the evacuation of Kabul, Afghanistan in August 2021 by securing vital sectors of Hamid Karzai International Airport and providing humanitarian assistance. His battalion was awarded the Army Presidential Unit Citation, the U.S. military's highest unit award, for their work. Col. Helgestad's life and career were characterized by great personal sacrifice and exemplary service. He represented the best that this country has to offer.

I offer my deepest condolences to Col. Helgestad's family—his wife, Karry, and his two children, Lucy and Sam. And I thank him and his family for their service and dedication to our country.

CELEBRATING CHAIR JHEANELLE
WILKINS, THE PEOPLE'S POLICY-
MAKER

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Maryland leader who is a visionary when it comes to policymaking and the epitome of Black excellence. Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins is a commanding trailblazer in our state who is currently serving as the Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland.

Delegate Wilkins was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and moved to the United States at just five years old. She was raised in neighboring Delaware and attended the University of Delaware before concluding her studies with a master's degree from American University.

Chair Wilkins has always been steadfast in her lifelong mission of enacting policy change that makes a substantial difference in people's lives. Before she ever held public office, Wilkins began her professional career as an intern at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. She would impressively develop within the organization from her position as an intern all the way to her current full-time role as the Director of State and Local Government Affairs working fiercely in the realms of immigration reform, education equity, and civil rights legislation.

Wilkins' first steps into the political arena were through her positions on the board of the Montgomery County Association of Black Democrats and the Montgomery County Young Democrats. In 2014, she was elected to the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee.

Then, in 2016, she was appointed to fill the vacant state delegate seat in the Maryland House of Delegates 20th District—becoming the first African American woman to assume this position. From the moment she took office, Delegate Wilkins has been a passionate and powerful voice in the House of Delegates on behalf of all of her constituents in Montgomery County, Maryland. She is respected by so many of her peers for being unapologetic in her fight for what is right.

Delegate Wilkins masterfully embraces the spirit of legislating and swiftly transforms her legislative ideas into law. As the Vice Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, she has used her standing within the legislature boldly to lead the passage of election policy and expanding voter access—including the passage of Maryland's permanent mail-in ballot list, voting access for incarcerated individuals, and expansion of early voting sites.

Her other legislative pursuits have encompassed other consequential policy areas including the passage of legislation pertaining to racial profiling and justice reform, maternal health, and increasing educational outcomes for all students. Wilkins' monumental record in the House of Delegates resulted in her being elected Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland in 2022.

Without question, Chair Wilkins displays steadfast resoluteness with the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland as she paves the path forward for Maryland's diverse communities at the helm of the nation's largest state Black Caucus. Her tenure as the Caucus Chair has been forward thinking, dedicated, and triumphant fighting every day to improve the quality of life for Marylanders everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pen these words to commend Chair Jheanelle Wilkins for her pride, determination, and spirit. I am eager and enthusiastic for her future, and Maryland's future, with Chair Wilkins at the forefront of our historic State House.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF KANSAS CITY'S UNION MISSION CHURCH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I jubilantly rise today in celebration of the centennial anniversary of Kansas City's Union Mission Church. For the past century, City Union Mission has valiantly and faithfully dedicated itself to its Godly mission of serving the Fifth Congressional District's community. As a public servant, I am eternally grateful for its tireless work and endless sacrifice in service of our community. As a pastor, I am awestruck by the institution's relentless devotion to God and unwavering faith in His mission. Please join me as we take a moment to recognize City Union Mission's one hundred years of service to the Fifth congressional district and to the Lord.

In 1924, Rev. David Bulkley, an inspired minister and veteran U.S. Army Chaplain created City Union Mission Church. Rev. Bulkley served in France during the First World War and was understandably shaken by the carnage and human cruelty he witnessed there. Upon his return, he and his wife, Beulah, made it their mission to prevent the suffering at home that David had seen abroad. The Bulkley family set up shop in Kansas City's West Bottoms neighborhood and immediately began serving free meals to the area's poor

and houseless. From there, City Union Mission only continued to grow, expanding to provide shelter, as well as food, in the 1930s, and eventually evolving into the citywide enterprise we know today.

City Union Mission's vision has stayed consistent with its original purpose: to meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of men, women, and children who are underserved. The problem the Bulkley family observed in our society is still prevalent today; in 2024, around 1,798 Kansas Citians are without a place to sleep on any given night. As relentless and persistent as poverty and homelessness have been in Kansas City, City Union Mission has been equally relentless in fighting these dire issues. Last year, the Church provided shelter for 210 people a day on average, providing a total of around 76,899 nights of safe shelter. Its work has not stopped there, however; last year, City Union Mission provided around 137,834 meals, administered 4,733 medical services, and taught 30,236 hours of job training and hands-on experience for Kansas Citians. In its full century of operation, City Union Mission has developed an inspired, multifaceted approach that successfully addresses the needs of Kansas City's most needy.

Our community's most vulnerable are also more at risk of substance abuse issues and mental health concerns, a harsh reality that the folks at City Union Mission were sure to recognize. The Church initially addressed this problem in 2018 by establishing the L. Minor Care Center, a safe living facility for men with barriers to care and special needs, including behavioral health challenges, mental illness, and emotional struggles. The L. Minor Care Center is a testament to City Union Mission's ability and willingness to adapt to the times and recognize that mental health is just as important as physical health and is similarly imperiled for those who already face the challenges of poverty and homelessness.

When I think about City Union Mission Church, I am reminded of Matthew 22:39: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," as I believe that City Union Mission embodies it so perfectly. City Union Mission has demonstrated unconditional love for its fellow Kansas Citians and their humanity. The organization has executed a such flawless vision for a century now to demonstrate the extent of Christian charity in its tireless endeavors to serve Kansas City's most vulnerable. On behalf of the United States Congress and Missouri's Fifth District, I applaud City Union Mission Church on 100 years of faithful service.

IN APPRECIATION OF COLONEL JOHN D. FOY FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and an exceptional leader in our U.S. Air Force.

Colonel John "JD" Foy has distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication by serving this Nation in uniform. For the past two years, Colonel Foy served admirably as the Director of Congressional Affairs for U.S. Transportation Command where he led his team to plan and execute over one hundred congressional engagements between the Commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Members of Congress.

Colonel Foy has had a remarkable twenty-three-year career after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy and commissioning as a Second Lieutenant. After graduating with honors from Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training and C-130 Navigator Qualification Training, Colonel Foy deployed seven times and accrued over eight hundred combat hours, earning the Air Medal six times in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2010, he won the U.S. Air Force's Cheney Award for leading thirty-six Airmen to establish an airfield in Pakistan providing aid and relief to over 20 million flood victims. From 2018 to 2020, as a Squadron Commander in Japan, he led over three hundred maintainers and aerial porters to support over twelve thousand missions throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

Later, the Commander of U.S. Transportation Command selected Colonel Foy to serve as her Director of Legislative Affairs after graduating U.S. Marine Corps War College. As the primary liaison between Members of Congress, our staffs, committees, and U.S. Transportation Command, Colonel Foy communicated the commander's legislative priorities and ensured appropriations for three sea-lift vessels valued at \$300 million into the Ready Reserve Force and enrollment of the first ten tankers into the Tanker Security Program. Colonel Foy also led the charge in coordinating the commander's support for appropriations of a digital U.S. Coast Guard credentialing system that will drastically improve accountability of our U.S. merchant mariners.

Mr. Speaker, next month Colonel Foy will assume command of the 621st Contingency Response Group at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. It has been a great pleasure to work with Colonel Foy during his time representing U.S. Transportation Command on Capitol Hill. On behalf of our grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Colonel Foy and his wife, Natacha. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in our U.S. Air Force. They have dedicated their lives to the service of our great Nation.

Together, We Deliver.