

RECOGNIZING MUSHROOM HOUSE
AUTOMOTIVE OF COLORA, MARY-
LAND ON ITS 30TH ANNIVER-
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HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mushroom House Automotive, a veteran and family-owned business out of Colora, Cecil County, Maryland, as it approaches its 30th anniversary on October 1, 2024.

Originally a mushroom farm operated by the Webb family for over 40 years, the business transitioned into an automotive repair and sales center after being pushed out of the industry. In 2006, Mushroom House survived a devastating fire that destroyed the shop and several classic cars. It was rebuilt and reopened only with the support and dedication of the local community.

Today, Mushroom House Automotive continues to serve Cecil County and provide top-notch, honest automotive services under the leadership of Victor "Butch" Webb Sr., his son Steven Webb and with the expertise of Archie Singleton II. Together, they have raised over \$300,000 through their vehicle donation program for various non-profit organizations and consistently support the community, including participating in Career Day at Rising Sun Middle School and the CCPS Summer Work Program, where they pair students with local businesses. Mushroom House Automotive also partners with the Cecil County School of Technology's Automotive program to teach and support the next generation of mechanics and car enthusiasts.

In the last three years, Mushroom House Automotive has placed in the top three of Cecil Whig's Community Choice in Automotive Salesperson—Used Cars, Auto Repair, Oil Change, Pre-Owned Vehicle Sales and Tires. In addition, Steven Webb and Archie Singleton II were honored as business leaders and inducted into the National Technical Honor Society, a recognition spearheaded by Scott Coutu, the Automotive Technology instructor at the Cecil County School of Technology.

I am proud and grateful to Mushroom House Automotive for its continued service of over 30 years to the community. Small, family-owned businesses like these constitute the backbone of American economy and provide essential services to local communities.

RECOGNIZING THE MERCED COUN-
TY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
(MCCAA) ON THEIR 60TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Merced County Community Action Agency (MCCAA) in celebrating sixty years of service. MCCAA began serving Dos Palos in 1964 and opened its first Head Start center in 1965. MCCAA is part of a nationwide movement that began with the signing of the

Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. MCCAA's mission is to serve, advocate, and collaborate for those in need by developing innovative strategies for self-empowerment.

MCCAA gainfully employs nearly 200 people and serves over 17,000 unduplicated customers every month with a total of sixteen federal and state programs. The work MCCAA provides for the community would be impossible without our local community, who last year volunteered over 14,000 hours. Last year, MCCAA housed over 112 formerly unhoused community members with safe, affordable homes. Over 400 children utilize their free preschool programs for early learning and education. MCCAA provides 1,500 families with utility assistance, keeping families safe during scorching Valley summers.

The MCCAA maintains over sixteen other locations in Merced County, and partners with over 200 local service providers, government agencies, and families to help with outreach, referrals and access to needed services. The D Street Navigation Center is open year-round, twenty-four hours per day to meet the needs of Merced County's most vulnerable living on the streets. Last year, over 514 unhoused individuals stayed at this Center.

MCAA continues to expand. MCAA recently added a diaper bank, a summer food program, and expanded support for at risk pregnant and new mothers.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the MCCAA for 60 years of service to our Valley.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DANNY
KATZ, THE WORKERS' CHAMPION

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a constituent who devoted his extraordinary life to the fight for worker justice. From the restaurant workers of Washington, D.C. to the staffers who keep Capitol Hill running, all of Daniel Katz's clients found in him a champion for dignity, fair wages and working conditions. On July 25, 2024, Danny's loved ones lost a treasured husband, father, and friend and the world lost a principled, persistent and brilliant public servant.

Danny was driven by his conviction that worker justice is the foundation of a just society. He believed in the fundamental principle that a dignified workplace for even the lowest paid workers raises the standards all for all workers. After working for a private practice specializing in employment law, Danny founded the District of Columbia Employment Justice Center, becoming its first director. It also didn't matter which court heard one of his client's cases; over the course of his career, Danny represented clients before every one of the federal, state and local courts in Maryland and D.C.

For Danny, his duties to his clients extended beyond the courtroom. He advocated for legislation at the D.C. City Council on worker pay issues and testified before the U.S. Congress on the rampant menace of wage theft. He lent his considerable talents pro bono to clients

seeking assistance from the Public Justice Center in Baltimore, the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, the Woman's Law Center of Maryland and the Sexual Assault Legal Institute. He was dedicated to sharing his wealth of knowledge with his fellow attorneys, frequently teaching continuing education courses for lawyers on litigating claims under wage-and-hour laws and how his colleagues could most effectively represent immigrants and low-wage workers.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Danny maintained his focus on the most vulnerable workers in our communities. After establishing accessible legal clinics for workers across the DMV, he ensured that the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs could keep these clinics open virtually and continue providing services. The clinic didn't miss a single week as Danny and a team of like-minded lawyers served workers seeking legal aid when they needed it most. Danny used his membership in the National Employment Lawyers Association to build both solidarity and expertise among members of the labor bar.

By the time he reached the House of Representatives as Senior Counsel at the Office of Employee Advocacy (OEA), Danny had 25 years of experience advocating for workers. He had earned numerous accolades, including the Maryland Employment Lawyers Association "Excellence in Advocacy" award and the "Visionary Award" in 2018 for his work with the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Just as he had done in every job prior to the House OEA, Danny acted as a dedicated mentor to his colleagues and aspiring attorneys and a fierce advocate for his clients.

His loss is profound and sharply felt in our community. I join the people of Maryland's beautiful Eighth District in honoring the life of Danny Katz, a titan in the fight for workers' rights, and in sending my condolences to his wife Lael, his son and his daughter Lucia. May Danny's memory be a blessing.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE CITY OF
PEKIN

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the City of Pekin, Illinois, which I'm proud to represent in Congress, as it celebrates its 200th anniversary.

Pekin's history began with Pioneer Jonathan Tharp building a small log cabin in 1824 on the high east bank of the Illinois River in what would become Pekin, Illinois. The families of Gideon Hawley, William Haines, Nathan Cromwell, Dr. John Warner, William Brown, Thomas Snell, Isaac Perkins, William Carpenter—among others—joined the Tharps in settling and establishing the new community.

Pekin, fondly referred to by its early inhabitants as the "Celestial City", embraces the inspiration its founders received by Chinese culture and geography in its namesake (Peking, current Beijing), with Pekin and modern-day Beijing existing on or about the same latitude.

Since its earliest days, Pekin's proximity to railroads and the Illinois River has made it

ideal for agribusiness and manufacturing—providing for its abundant growth and early establishment as the largest city and the current county seat in the County of Tazewell.

Abraham Lincoln freed his first slave, Nance Legins-Costley of Pekin, in Tazewell County, and Pekin is the birthplace of such prominent national figures as U.S. Senate Minority Leader Everett McKinley Dirksen; U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense and Advisor to Robert McNamara, John T. McNaughton; Journalist Richard Stolley of LIFE Magazine, and Astronaut Scott Altman.

Today, Pekin remains a closely-knit and primarily service-oriented community, with dozens of churches, civic and service organizations, and nonprofit agencies striving to make a difference in the Pekin community and beyond. The founding pioneer settlers of Pekin believed strongly that it was imperative to provide their youth with a strong education, and the Pekin Public Schools have diligently nurtured the children of the Pekin community since its first school opened in 1830.

Pekin is perhaps best known today for its annual Marigold Festival that draws visitors from all over the state and the nation, gathering primarily in its iconic Mineral Springs Park. Community members have successfully led an 18-month endeavor to raise over \$1.2M in private funds and to build a performing arts venue in Mineral Springs as a major Bicentennial gift to the City, its residents, and many future generations.

Pekin continues to make exceptional efforts to preserve and understand its past while embracing its future, led by organizations such as the Pekin Public Library and the Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical Society: Its year-long 2024 Bicentennial celebration has been among the highest of such achievements.

Today, we celebrate the City of Pekin and its residents for their passion and dedication to their community. I extend my sincere congratulations to the City of Pekin, Illinois for a successful 200 years, and I wish them even more success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING PHILIP GIBBONS ON 50 YEARS OF BROADCASTING

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a name—and voice—known to countless Tennesseans. Philip Gibbons is celebrating 50 years in radio, most of which having been spent as host of the midday show on 94.7 The Country Giant. The station reaches more than 120,000 listeners across 19 counties, spanning Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky. That's a lot of people who look forward to hearing him day after day.

His broadcast career started at 15-years-old, before he was old enough to drive. The year was 1974 and the gig was part-time janitor and disc jockey for WPTN in Cookeville, Tenn.

Fifty years later, Gibbons is a member of the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame. He's been selected as a regular stage host at the CMA Music Fest and a guest announcer at the Grand Ole Opry many times in recent years.

In 2020, Philip was awarded Small Market Personality of the Year by Country Aircheck, the leading trade publication for the industry. Philip was also nominated by the Academy of Country Music for Small Market Personality of the Year.

When asked why he never left Cookeville behind for a larger radio market, he responded, "this is where my heart is. This is my community." He not only spent his entire career in that community, but he also gives back to it every chance he gets.

Since 1983, he's served as the public address announcer for Tennessee Tech University football and basketball games. He's also volunteered his time and used his platform to support many causes over the years, including Habitat for Humanity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Alzheimer's Tennessee, and the American Cancer Society. Gibbons is known by some as the 'pink tie guy' in the Upper Cumberland for his dedication to bringing awareness in the fight against breast cancer through wearing a pink tie. Following the devastation from Hurricane Michael, Philip used his airtime to ask listeners to fill an 18-wheeler with supplies to help the folks of Panama City Beach recover.

From interviewing up-and-coming artists to the legends, Philip has built a name for himself in Cookeville, in Music City, and throughout the County Music family. He's seen a lot of change in the business throughout his career. Today, automation and pre-recorded announcements are commonplace in radio, but Philip remembers well the days of live-only broadcasts and actual turn tables.

I want to congratulate Philip on 50 years in radio and wish him many more years of success ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE SAMARITAN'S PURSE FLOOD RECOVERY RE- SPONSE IN EAST KENTUCKY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express immense gratitude on behalf of the people of Eastern Kentucky who have received flood recovery assistance from Samaritan's Purse during two back-to-back disaster relief missions, starting in 2021.

Breathitt County has essentially become a second home to some team members of Samaritan's Purse, who first arrived in our region after a major flood in March 2021. They have provided the most comprehensive response efforts, rallying volunteers from across the country to help muck-out damaged homes, provide cleaning supplies and food to flood victims, and resources to help rebuild homes. The crew dedicated an entire year of service to our region and had only been gone for a few days before a second catastrophic flood hit the heart of our region in July 2022, taking the lives of 45 Kentuckians. Without hesitation, the Samaritan's Purse tractor trailer reloaded supplies and turned around to head right back to Breathitt County. Our region was briefly crippled by the widespread impact of that overnight flood that took out power lines, washed out critical roadways and bridges, damaged thousands of homes and vehicles,

leaving hundreds of Eastern Kentucky families homeless in an instant.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of individuals across the country, donations flooded into our region, giving flood survivors a glimmer of hope for the long journey ahead. Many organizations, like Samaritan's Purse, also dispatched recovery teams to our region, helping sustain families through their darkest hour. As various crews expended as many resources as possible to aid Eastern Kentucky, there has been one constant team remaining long after everyone else had to leave—and that is Samaritan's Purse. For every meal provided, every mop distributed, every bucket of mud carried out, every nail that has been driven and every prayer that has been prayed in our region, I want to personally express my gratitude to Samaritan's Purse.

This organization has carried out the vision of the late evangelist Bob Pierce for more than 50 years, which he established "to meet emergency needs in crisis areas through existing evangelical mission agencies and national churches." Rev. Franklin Graham took up the mantle over 40 years ago, spreading the same kindness, generosity and steadfast hope around the world.

We are blessed that Samaritan's Purse found our small corner of rural America and made our people a priority when they needed it the most. As a result of their dedication, we are now celebrating with flood survivors in Breathitt County who now have a safe, new house to call home. On behalf of Eastern Kentuckians in Breathitt and surrounding counties, we thank them for standing with us through the flood and long after the flood waters have receded. May God continue to multiply the efforts of Samaritan's Purse as they rebuild hope in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky and beyond.

COMMENDING ROBERT SUNSHINE

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert Sunshine on his retirement after 48 years of stellar service to the Congressional Budget Office, the Congress, and the country. I'd like to take a few minutes to honor this truly exceptional public servant.

Bob's tenure at CBO has been extraordinary, not just for its longevity, but for the outstanding work he has produced and the people he has so deeply affected. Throughout his distinguished career, he has served as a mentor to countless members of the CBO staff (and to CBO's directors) who have valued his wisdom, work ethic, and experienced perspective. Bob truly exemplifies the values of dedication and leadership—of upholding CBO's mandate to be objective, impartial, and non-partisan.

Before coming to CBO, Bob was a senior associate at a transportation consulting firm. He joined CBO in 1976 when the agency was in its infancy. His first job was as principal analyst, covering transportation issues in what is now the Natural and Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit of CBO's Budget Analysis Division.