

Brainerd, Minnesota, broadcasting legend Ken Thomas.

Ken's broadcasting journey began in 1978 at the WMIN radio station in Maplewood, Minnesota.

Ken then moved to the Brainerd Lakes area, where he spent the next four decades hosting the morning show on WJJY-FM.

Ken has had a number of different morning show partners, but for the past twenty years, he has shared the microphone with his current co-host, Tess Taylor.

Together, Ken and Tess have been the trusted voices that many in the Brainerd area listen to as they enjoy their morning cup of coffee and drive to work.

Ken's joyful and quick-witted commentary even made him a recipient of the National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award for Small Market Personality of the Year in 2017.

Ken's legacy goes beyond the microphone. He is a longtime supporter of the Brainerd Lakes Area Walk to End Alzheimer's and works as a member of the Sertoma service organization. Additionally, every Thanksgiving, he volunteers to serve meals at the local Legion.

As Ken enters retirement, I hope he finds time to enjoy everything he loves about Brainerd, which includes his loving family, his fellow members of The District cover band and Norman's Bait and Tackle Choir, and the tight-knit community he helped shape.

I congratulate Ken and he will be missed from the airwaves, but he has earned this next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCILMAN RICK BLACKWELL

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louisville Metro Councilman Rick Blackwell in recognition of his extraordinary leadership and decades of unwavering service to Louisville Metro Council District 12.

As a founding member of the Louisville Metro Council, first elected in 2002 and re-elected in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020, he has represented the neighborhoods of Pleasure Ridge Park, Riverport, and Valley Station with distinction.

Councilman Blackwell's dedication to leadership has been evident throughout his tenure, serving as President of the Louisville Metro Council, Democratic Caucus Chair, and in various leadership roles including Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Budget Chair, and as a member of the Firefighters Pension Fund Board of Trustees and Louisville Metro Revenue Commission.

His legislative achievements, including the Rental Registry Ordinance, Sunday Alcohol Sales Ordinance, and Kid's Meals Ordinance, reflect his commitment to improving quality of life for Kentuckians. Transformational projects like the Dixie Highway Corridor Master Plan, the \$50 million New Dixie Highway Project, and the Colonial Gardens Public-Private Partnership demonstrate his vision for economic growth and infrastructure advancement.

Through Councilman Blackwell's efforts, Riverview Park has become a cornerstone of

community life, featuring renovated boat docks, a splash pad, playground, pickleball courts, and more. The annual Riverview Independence Festival, which he founded, continues to unite Kentuckians with its celebration of music and fireworks, fostering a sense of community pride and connection.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Blackwell's enduring commitment to serving the people of Kentucky, his leadership in advancing meaningful legislation, and his dedication to fostering thriving communities stand as a testament to the profound impact of his service. I ask that the House of Representatives join me in expressing our profound gratitude for his steadfast commitment to public service and community betterment, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOOD DESERTS ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act of 2025 to help fight hunger and food insecurity in communities across the country.

I want to share just one example. In June of 2017, Marsh Supermarkets grocery stores announced the closure of many stores throughout the Midwest. Many of these stores were in my district. Many families lacked a car or reliable public transportation to the nearest grocery alternative, often over a mile away. Today, thousands of my constituents are still struggling to find the food they need, with many forced to rely on fast-food restaurants and convenience stores.

These options are neither healthy nor affordable.

Sadly, this situation is not unique. Over 29 million people, almost 10 percent of the U.S. population, live without ready access to affordable, nutritious food, and over 2 million people have no transportation to get to their nearest store. Many have seen their local stores close during the pandemic. Others lost access years ago and now face the severe long-term impacts of obesity, diabetes, malnutrition, and other diet-related ailments.

Unfortunately, residents in these low-income areas tend to spend less on groceries, leaving little financial incentive for traditional grocery chains to make costly investments for new locations.

In the world's wealthiest country, nutritious food should be an expectation, not a luxury. That is why I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act, which creates new avenues to fund stores in underserved communities. This bill will create USDA-funded, state-operated revolving funds that will issue low-interest loans for the operation of grocery stores in food deserts. The bill ensures that recipients of these loans, including for-profit, non-profit, and municipal entities, can provide affordable, healthy food, including fresh produce and staples like milk, bread, and meat. It will also ensure that USDA professionals are available to provide technical assistance to recipients who need it.

Access to healthy food is something that most of us take for granted. But despite our

own experiences, we must remember that millions of our constituents struggle daily to feed their families. With this market-driven approach, I aim to complement existing federal programs and efforts nationwide by ensuring a stable lending stream for struggling grocery stores and sustainable access to food for communities in need.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to support this vital bill.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROY "TANK" COLBRUNN

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the life and service of Roy Colbrunn, known affectionately by his friends and family as "Tank," who suddenly passed away at the age of 68. He was a close friend and an outstanding public servant, who will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Tank was raised in Vienna, Ohio and attended Youngstown State University. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps. During his enlistment, he was selected to serve as one of two USMC representatives on the honor detail, and as a pallbearer of an unknown Revolutionary War soldier.

Tank began his lifelong career as a firefighter as a volunteer with the Vienna Township Fire Department. He accepted a full-time firefighting position at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1985 and quickly rose through the ranks to Captain. He was elected and served several terms as president of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Local F-88.

Beginning in 1997, Tank took his mission of public service beyond the walls of the fire station by serving his community of Xenia Township in multiple roles as a volunteer and part-time firefighter, and as a member of the local zoning board. Tank retired from Wright Patterson in 2013, and from the Xenia Township Fire Department in 2016.

Tank served many roles as an IAFF leader: president of Local F-88, 16th District Field Service Representative to the District Vice President, Air Force Materiel Command IAFF Union Liaison, and Federal Joint Council Vice President.

As a union leader, Tank negotiated six Command Labor Agreement Contracts, numerous local union contracts across the country, and fought for the Interests of Department of Defense firefighters. He was instrumental in moving IAFF Local F-88 to a 48-72-hour schedule, significantly improving the quality of life for firefighters.

Tank was a driving force behind the requirement to staff aircraft rescue firefighting vehicles with three personnel, prioritizing not only the safety of firefighters but also our Nation's air crews. His vast knowledge, leadership, dedication, charismatic personality and unwavering care for those he met earned him much deserved admiration and love from those who are his "Brothers and Sisters."

Tank was a big man, with an even bigger heart, known for his kind and gentle nature,

and his wonderful sense of humor. These attributes served him well as a labor mediator. He had an unwavering love for his family, his friends, and his community.

I had the pleasure and opportunity to meet and work with Tank on important fire services issues. I admired his dedication to his profession and to his fellow firefighters, and his tireless work on their behalf. He will be greatly missed, but certainly not forgotten.

I offer my sincerest condolences to his wife, LuAnn, daughter Kaleena, and their entire family.

HONORING PETER YARROW

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of an extraordinary man, Peter Yarrow, of the legendary folk trio, Peter, Paul and Mary. Peter passed away at home in New York City on January 7, 2025, at the age of 86. He is survived by his spouse, Mary Beth McCarthy Yarrow, children Christopher Yarrow and Bethany Yarrow and his beloved granddaughter, Valentina.

The son of Ukrainian Jewish Immigrants, Peter was born and raised in New York City, attended New York's High School of Music and Arts, and graduated from Cornell University in 1959. While at Cornell, Peter took an American Folk Literature course in which singing and guitar playing were prerequisites. Thus began a career that would span the ages. Upon graduating, Peter moved to New York City and began a successful run in the Greenwich Village folk movement with the purpose of creating community through music. Peter, Paul and Mary debuted in 1961, enjoyed huge success with six top 10 hits on the Billboard "Hot 100" and five Grammy Awards. Peter's gift for songwriting produced some of the most poignant songs Peter, Paul & Mary have recorded, including "Puff, the Magic Dragon," "Day is Done," "Light One Candle," and "The Great Mandala."

Peter had a firm and devout commitment to activism and organizing. He devoted his time and talents to the Civil Rights Movement which brought Peter, Paul and Mary to Washington in 1963, to participate in both the historic March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the historic Selma-Montgomery March in 1965. Peter was a founding board member of the Newport Folk Festival and used his organizing skills to shine light on merging folk performers and songwriters to a wider audience. He was a leader in the Peace/Anti-Vietnam war movement, the equal rights movement, deeply committed to protecting the environment, gender equality, ending homelessness, supporting the hospice care movement, public broadcasting and education.

In 1999, Peter founded the non-profit education and advocacy organization, Operation Respect. Operation Respect's classroom based "Don't Laugh at Me" curriculum was created to combat school bullying, promote tolerance and provide children with the tools necessary to express their feelings constructively, resolve conflict peacefully, celebrate diversity and engage with each other coopera-

tively and compassionately. Operation Respect's success has reached over 22,000 US schools and expanded globally, including Ukraine, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Hong Kong, Croatia, Canada and Japan with the aim of fostering dialogue and understanding around the world. Operation Respect has found that schools committed to establishing a respectful, safe and compassionate learning environment, experience improvements in academic achievement, student attendance and staff retention, at the same time reducing bullying, violence and other behavioral issues.

It was an honor to call Peter a friend. I'm grateful for his kindness, compassion, commitment to peace, promotion of human rights, and boundless talent which has been an inspiration for me and will continue to inspire many for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable life and the visionary work of Peter Yarrow.

RECOGNIZING PRIVATE CHARLES T. NORWOOD AND THE CHARLES T. NORWOOD AMERICAN LEGION POST 157

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Private Charles T. Norwood and to recognize the significant contributions of the Charles T. Norwood American Legion Post 157.

Private Charles T. Norwood served with distinction in Company H, 365th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division during World War I. On November 11, 1918, mere hours before the Armistice, Private Norwood was wounded in action. He succumbed to his injuries and Lobar Pneumonia on January 17, 1919, becoming the first African American soldier from Raleigh, North Carolina, to make the ultimate sacrifice in World War I. Private Norwood was laid to rest with full military honors in the Raleigh National Cemetery on August 1, 1921. He rests in Section 8, Site 1226.

The Charles T. Norwood American Legion Post 157 was chartered on December 19, 1924, to honor his memory and service. At a time when American society was segregated, including Veterans Service Organizations, the charter members of Post 157 were African American veterans of World War I. These founding members represented a cross-section of Raleigh's African American community, including medical professionals, businessmen, educators, administrators, and community leaders.

For more than 100 years, the Charles T. Norwood American Legion Post 157 has served as a beacon of community service, veteran support, and civic engagement in Raleigh. Its establishment and ongoing legacy stand as a testament to the contributions of African American veterans to our nation's history and to the enduring spirit of service that defines the American Legion.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the heroism of Private Charles T. Norwood on the 106th anniversary of his death and commending the Charles T. Norwood American Legion Post 157 for its commitment

to veterans and the Raleigh community for more than a century. May this legacy continue to inspire future generations to serve our nation and support our veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, due to travel restrictions related to my pregnancy, I was unable to travel to D.C. to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 10; YEA on Roll Call No. 11; and NAY on Roll Call No. 12.

RECOGNIZING CATHERINE SCLAFANI LONGABUCCO'S 102ND BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Catherine Sclafani Longabucco, an amazing constituent from my district who will be celebrating her 102nd birthday on January 29, 2025. It is a distinct honor to pay tribute to Mrs. Longabucco on this joyous occasion and to highlight the extraordinary life and contributions that endear her to so many in our community.

Throughout her life, Catherine has exemplified a spirit of resilience, generosity and dedication and has been an integral member of our community. Prior to moving to Doylestown in 2021, Mrs. Longabucco raised her three children, Amelia, John, and Frank Jr., with her beloved husband Frank in New York.

Catherine has six great-grandchildren and enjoys learning more about what they are doing in their daily lives. She is an avid sudoku player and challenges herself to complete one puzzle every day in between her volunteering at the Central Bucks Senior Center and playing Rummikub, mahjong and bingo. If you need to find Catherine, she is likely helping to set up for the bingo festivities.

As we celebrate her 102 years of life, we are incredibly grateful for the positive impact she has made on all who know her.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF PATRICK O'BRIEN

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick O'Brien for his service as Fire Chief to the Town of Massena.

Mr. O'Brien has dedicated his life to public service and has served his country and community from a variety of positions. He has worked as a safety and compliance regional manager for MESA Air Group, an information systems technician for the U.S. Navy Reserve, a State Fire Instructor for the Office of Fire