

1942. Neil was raised in the Rockville section of Vernon, Connecticut, where his father was very active in the community in town working for a local textile company, Amerbelle Corporation, and personally raising money for the super-sized Horowitz Community Pool that generations of Vernon kids have learned to swim at—including my two children. Abner's example made a big impact on Neil's outlook on helping people and being involved in efforts to improve life for his neighbors. Neil attended Rockville High School, and then pursued his passion to study medicine, attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Hahnemann Medical School. After this, Neil came back to Rockville to practice family medicine. As a trusted doctor in the greater Rockville area, he cared for many thousands of patients and families in times of crisis and healing.

Further down the East Coast, Sandi Silverman was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Lou and Mitzi Silverman on March 3, 1943. She grew up in the Philadelphia area, attending Germantown High School before studying at Temple University.

Although they grew up with lives in different places, the stars aligned when Neil and Sandi met at the wedding of mutual friends, and they were married on July 2, 1966. This was the start of a loving 58-year marriage. Neil and Sandi were partners in all aspects of life, and nothing was more important to them than spending time with family and friends. They were known as a loyal, dependable couple, always providing support in whatever way necessary. In their free time, Neil enjoyed golfing and watching movies with friends and Sandi was known as a fantastic cook who loved to feed and entertain family and friends.

Sandi joined Neil in Rockville, Connecticut, where he devoted his career as a physician to providing the highest standard of care to his patients and community. As if his work in family medicine was not all-consuming, Neil also served as the President of both the Connecticut and American Academies of Family Physicians, President of his synagogue, Medical Director at Vernon Manor, and in leadership roles at Rockville Hospital and the American Medical Association. His work involved lots of medical conferences and political work, which Sandi supported diligently, traveling all across the country.

Despite their busy schedules, Neil and Sandi always prioritized the relationships in their lives—between each other, family, friends, and anyone else who crossed their paths. I had the privilege to know them as friends and supporters in my political campaigns—which always came with lots of passionate ideas and opinions that I always learned from. Usually, those exchanges took place in a New York-style delicatessen in Vernon, with Neil and his morning coffee group solving the world's problems.

At both memorial services, their son David Brooks found the inner strength to speak powerfully and eloquently about the rich family life Neil and Sandi created. The crowds in attendance were visible evidence of the deep impact they made in so many lives. While we mourn the loss of these incredible individuals, we can take solace in the knowledge that they have been reunited with each other. And, as David stated, they left many memories that are blessings for those of us who knew them. Neil and Sandi are survived by their son David and his wife Jen as well as their granddaughter

Emma, who is following in Neil's footsteps and studying to be a physician's assistant. They are also survived by nieces, nephews, and grandnieces. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Neil and Sandi Brooks and their amazing life story.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MOTHER ALICE HILLIARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life and legacy of Mother Alice Hilliard, a remarkable woman who lived a life defined by faith, resilience, and selfless service. Born on March 24, 1921, her life was a testament to strength, love, and devotion to her family, community, and church.

Alice attended Wooden City School in Lewisville and accepted Christ at an early age, joining Union Hill Baptist Church under the leadership of J.H. Wyatt. In 1942, she relocated to Richmond, California, where she took on a historic role during World War II. Alice joined the workforce at the Kaiser Shipyard, stepping into roles traditionally held by men serving in the military. Her hard work and dedication earned her the distinguished title of "Rosie the Riveter," and she was later featured in the book "Staging Migrations Toward An American West" by Marta Effinger-Crichlow, highlighting her contributions during this pivotal time in American history.

After working at the shipyard, Alice continued her professional journey at the Dole Cannery and Aebi Nursery, where she eventually retired. However, her life's work extended far beyond her career. Alice had a passion for gardening, especially tending to her beloved rose bushes, traveling with her family, sewing, and cooking. She also faithfully served her community as a member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond for over 70 years. She was deeply involved in numerous church auxiliaries, including the Women's Mission Union and Baptist Training Union, and served as Chair of the Kitchen Committee. Her dedication to her church family was unwavering.

Mother Alice Hilliard's 103 years were marked by a life of faith, perseverance, and selfless love. She was an inspiration to all who knew her, and her legacy will live on in the hearts of her family, friends, and community. Today, I honor her remarkable life and extend my deepest condolences to all who mourn her passing. May her memory be a blessing to us all. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Ms. Hilliard's loved ones. I know they and the people of California's 8th Congressional district join me in celebrating her life and legacy.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VIETNAM VETERAN SERGEANT ROYAL EDWARD NEELEY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Army veteran Royal "Roy" Edward Neeley.

A former Green Beret with the 1st Special Forces Command, Airborne, Sergeant Neeley was born on April 8, 1948, in Los Angeles to Charles and Mary Neeley. He passed away October 12, 2024, at age 76.

Although he lost his mother at an early age, Roy enjoyed his youth growing up in Los Angeles with his two sisters. A graduate of Fremont High School, he was an avid sports fan and music lover.

On October 23, 1967, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan. As a radio operator and a Green Beret, his unique skill set made him and his fellow soldiers in the Army Airborne's 1st Special Forces Command one of the most adaptable and capable forces in the United States military, poised to protect the Nation's interest across the globe at a moment's notice.

Sergeant Neeley was honorably discharged from the Army in October 1970. Two years later he married Elaine McDonald on December 2, 1972, in a private family service in Las Vegas.

The wedding reception was memorable because the newlyweds and guests celebrated both the nuptials and Anthony Davis' six touchdown run that helped the University of Southern California clinch a 45–23 win over Notre Dame. The day was a win-win for Roy and Elaine, who would enjoy 52 years of marriage.

Roy was totally immersed in his work as an operations manager with Tanne Apparel, Value City Department Stores, Liz Claiborne, and Hybrid Apparel. These ventures took him and the family to Ohio and Alabama.

Service and loyalty were always part of his everyday life. At all of the McDonald-Neeley Family events, there wasn't a bid whist game he wouldn't play rise and fly. He never missed an opportunity to play golf with his brothers-in-law Bobby and Billy McDonald. Even if it meant being late to a family function, the links with Bobby and Billy came first.

Memories of Roy will be cherished by his family, including his wife, Elaine; sons Aaron Paul Neeley and Craig Edward Neeley; daughter-in-law, Alexis Neeley; grandchildren Nia Phillips, Nicolas Neeley, Ian Neeley, Brenden Neeley, Brennah Neeley, Maddox Anderson, Royce Neeley, and soon-to-be Scarlett Neeley; countless nieces and nephews; and his best friend Bud Feldman.

Roy will be remembered for his cheerful smile, strong positive attitude, and dedication to providing for his family.

Please join me in celebrating the life of Royal Edward Neeley, one of our Nation's most esteemed veterans, who lived a life of honor and service to his family, community and country.

RECOGNIZING EUGENE MITCHELL
AS OHIO'S 13TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE
WEEK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Eugene Mitchell as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Eugene recently earned the 2024 Lifetime Achievement award, presented by the Ohio Public Transit Association. This award honors those who have exemplified leadership and advocacy for public transit in Ohio.

Eugene has served our community as a bus driver for METRO for more than 30 years. He takes this responsibility very seriously, because he knows that when people get on his bus, their lives are in his hands.

He cares for his regular riders and takes pride in his service to his community. That pride is demonstrated by his interest in con-

tinuing to drive his bus with no plans to retire soon, even at the age of 76.

I congratulate Eugene on this award and thank him for his dedication to our community. I wish him the best in the years to come.