

the military despite the prejudice of the times and great personal danger to himself, and who went on to serve his community so admirably, died before receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal he so deserved.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Lt. Schoon for his record of bravery, indomitable spirit and remarkable service to his community and to our nation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JERRY A.
VITTARDI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Jerry A. Vittardi.

Jerry was born on January 18, 1925 to Matio and Anna Vittardi. He was a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Jerry was married to his wife, Marianne, for 60 years and they had six children together: Richard, Renee, Gerianne, Marty, Mickey and Ed. Jerry and Marianne raised their family in Parma, a city in which they would remain and where he began a lifetime of public service.

In 1960, he was elected to the Parma City Council to represent Ward 2, serving as a councilman for 5 years. While serving the City of Parma, he gained a reputation as a trustworthy partner for others who were running for seats within the Democratic Party. He campaigned for Governor Richard Celeste, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, Congressman Ron Mottl, Attorney General Lee Fisher, Parma Mayor Michael Ries, for his son Councilman Martin Vittardi and for myself.

Jerry's dedication to public service continued throughout his life. In addition to serving as a Democratic Ward leader and Democratic Precinct Committeeman, he served as an electrical inspector for the City of Parma for 2 years from 1958–1960, and later served as a building inspector for the city from 1967–1980. From 1980 through the late 1990s, he worked for the State of Ohio, Ohio Lottery as a field representative. Heavily involved in the community, Jerry was also a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Cleveland and coached local baseball and softball teams. He strongly supported the local sports teams and loved watching the Cleveland Indians and the Cleveland Browns.

Jerry is survived by his children and 13 grandchildren: Joy, Greg, Amy, Vincent, Kristen, Jamie, Allison, Jessica, Mark, Leah, Michael, Holly and Eric. In addition, he was a beloved great-grandfather to 17. He had a very special place in his heart for his great-grandchildren baby Jack and baby Blake.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Jerry A. Vittardi. May his life of public service and his role as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather serve as an example to us all.

HONORING GIL WATERS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gil Waters of Sarasota FL, born in 1927 and raised in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York. By 1955, Gil graduated from Yale University, moved to Sarasota, married Elizabeth Boylston, served in the Navy during the Korean War, and started a family. Over the next 58 years, Gil left an indelible mark on Sarasota/Manatee County and the State of Florida. All while being a loving father to three children, Christopher, Robin, and Michael.

Gil founded the FCCI Fund in 1959. Upon his retirement in 1985, Florida Trend ranked FCCI as one of Florida's largest private companies. It was Florida's largest self-funded workers-compensation companies and one of the largest in the nation. Gil created WIMCO (Waters Insurance Management Company) in 1979 and FEISCO a, NASDAQ-listed, captive "reinsurance" company in 1980. In 1982, he founded Keep-Well Health Insurance. Gil, is an entrepreneurial visionary who revolutionized the workers-compensation insurance industry.

From 1956 to 1970, Gil served as Executive Secretary for Sarasota/Manatee County Gulf Coast Builders Exchange; Executive Secretary for Consulting Engineers Counsel of Florida; Public Relations Counsel for New College; and served as a Sarasota City Commissioner.

In 1970, Gil ran a successful State Constitutional Amendment regarding mobile home taxation. From 1977 to 1984 he became a statewide lobbyist for workers compensation in Tallahassee. Gil organized and served as first president of Florida Self Insurance Association, producing a wide ranging bill that passed the Florida State Legislature, providing wage-loss protection for injured workers.

Between 1987 and 2003, Gil spearheaded grassroots efforts to replace the Ringling Bridge. The Florida State Legislature honored him by renaming the bridge, "Gil Waters Bridge" on the Ringling Causeway. He was honored and humbled, and instead, requested a plaque be placed at the bridge paying tribute to every citizen who supported the construction of the fixed-span bridge.

In addition, he dedicated 40 years to developing condominium, single family, retirement and nursing communities. He also impacted municipal planning and growth, served his community and state as a philanthropist through public and private schools, Florida State's Asolo Repertory Theater, Florida West Coast Symphony Association, New College Music Festival, Sarasota Opera, Hermitage Artist Retreat, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, and others. He received environmental awards from the Audubon Society, Save Our Bays, and Sarasota Garden Club.

At 85, Gil enjoys traveling with his second wife, Elisabeth; however, he is never far from his 55-year vision to complete Sarasota's 1959 Architectural Plan—connecting Island Park/Marina Jacks to Main Street over U.S. 41, with a safe-walkable overpass; and, Main Street becoming a walkable city-center, daily attracting 1000's of visitors and residents. Gil likes to say, "Come for an hour, stay for the day!"

One of Gil's greatest honors occurred on December 27, 1999, when The Sarasota Herald Tribune named Gil one of "The 10 Most Influential Businesspeople of the 20th Century."

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S
RECIPIENTS OF OPERATION RECOGNITION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of individuals—heroes—who are receiving the recognition and honor they deserve for their service to our country. Operation Recognition is operated by the Riverside County Office of Education with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. The program awards high school diplomas to veterans who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or due to internment in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

A recognition ceremony was held on November 7, 2012, for the following individuals who received their high school diplomas through Operation Recognition:

Edward A. Alfaro; Anthony John Amoroso; Edward Barr; Leroy Burbidge; Justino Castillo; Harry J. Dillon; James N. Ellis; James Albert Finch; Irving G. Fowler; Robert Ray Gooch, Jr.; Herb Levine; Donald George Marion; Marvin Odell Pace; Anastacia P. Panarites; Thomas James Plouffe; Michael Loren Rittenhouse; Robert Rodriguez; Edward L. Ryan; Robert Irwin Stover; Glenn C. Waggoner Jr.; Robert Lee Williamson; James Verne Olson; and Thomas Eugene Butler.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to all the above recipients for their service and sacrifice. I salute all the above individuals and congratulate them on receiving their high school diploma.

IN HONOR OF MR. RICHARD
GRIMMETT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Richard Grimmert, who is retiring after 38 years of dedicated service with the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

An Ohio native, Mr. Grimmert attended Kent State University, where he earned a Ph.D. in American history and focused on U.S. national security policy. Since joining CRS in 1974, Mr. Grimmert has been a specialist on defense and foreign policy issues. Specifically, his expertise lies in international arms trade, overseas U.S. military bases, war powers and intelligence. Throughout his time with CRS, Mr. Grimmert has worked intimately with Senate and House Select Intelligence Committees and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Grimmert has proven time and again that he is a vital asset to the U.S. Congress. His support and intelligence are evident in the