

raised two children, Deborah and Brian. Though Faye passed, he and his wife Audrey have been married since 1980.

Al developed Forest City Enterprises, Inc. into a cornerstone company and currently serves as Co-Chairman of the Board Emeritus. He has guided his company throughout the decades to become a respected and well-known corporation. At the same time, Al has served on more than two dozen boards and commissions, where his leadership is legendary.

His philanthropy, civic-mindedness and business acumen have earned Al Ratner numerous accolades. Some of these include Downtown Cleveland Recognition Award, Builders' Magazine 20th Gold Nugget Award, the Charles Eisenman Award, the U.S. Department of HUD's Agora Award, Harvard Business Club of Cleveland's Business Statesman of the Year, Financial World Magazine's CEO of the Year and Bronze Medal, Cleveland Business Hall of Fame, Urban Land Institute's J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development, and Michigan State University's Distinguished Alumni Award.

I have been privileged to work with Al Ratner on several initiatives and have appreciated his wise counsel. He epitomizes "a life well-lived." He is a corporate and community leader with boundless energy who has made an indelible contribution to the greater Cleveland community. Not known to mince words, his insights, advice and counsel are sought broadly. He is always willing to assist, to lead and to care. I join his family and friends, his employees and the residents of Cleveland in wishing Al Ratner the happiest of birthdays, with a wish for many more. Onward!

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
MARY KERWIN'S LEADERSHIP IN  
THE COMMUNITY OF TROY,  
MICHIGAN

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Kerwin, my friend and a leader in the community of Troy, Michigan. This year, Mary has been recognized as Leadership Troy's Distinguished Citizen of 2012.

Each year, Leadership Troy recognizes a single community member as its Distinguished Citizen for their volunteer contributions to Troy that have gone above and beyond the requirements of their employment, improving the quality-of-life in Troy. Mary, with her twenty-four years of service in both the non-profit and public sectors of Troy, has on countless occasions demonstrated courage and leadership that has moved her community forward.

Mary's passion for building a stronger, more vibrant and better connected community has been a guiding force that has permeated every facet of her life. It is seen in her volunteer work for countless community organizations like the Troy Community Coalition, The Friends of the Troy Library, the League of Women Voters and the Troy Historical Society. Mary's passion has also reached into the community of her Parish at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church where she serves as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and part of its Women's Fellowship program.

The one area where Mary's enthusiasm for the Troy community has been so poignantly felt is in her work with young people. Mary has served in a variety of positions both volunteer and elected within the Troy Public Schools. She dedicated personal time to being a mentor to youth, served as President of the PTA at Hamilton Elementary and served on the PTA President's Council as its Parliamentarian. As a twice-elected Troy School Board member, she brought the knowledge of her experiences and pragmatic problem-solving approach to improving the educational experience of the District's students.

Mary later brought this same approach to Troy citizens while serving on the Troy City Council. During her four-year term, she served as Mayor Pro-Tem and as President of the Michigan Municipal League's Elected Officials Academy, a program which helped local elected officials improve and perfect their leadership skills to better serve the communities they represent.

Today, Mary continues to be an active participant in the Troy community and the broader Southeast Michigan region. In her professional capacity, she serves as the Development and Special Events Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Troy, which is actively engaging youth to identify and develop the skills of future leaders. This is a pursuit that Mary also supports through her work at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Institute for Local Government, which is helping the future elected leaders of our region to hone their abilities.

Mr. Speaker, our local leaders are an integral part of the fabric of our Nation, and this is witnessed by the passion Mary has injected not only into building a stronger community in Troy, but also ensuring that we are working to build a brighter future with more opportunity for future generations. It is again a great honor to congratulate her on her award as Leadership Troy's Distinguished Citizen of 2012. I know that Mary's passion will continue to be a driving force in her work within the Troy and the Southeast Michigan communities to build a stronger and more secure future for the region.

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP JAMES  
CLINE

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, alongside my colleague, Congressman KEVIN MCCARTHY, we rise today to honor Phillip James Cline, District Attorney of Tulare County, on the occasion of his retirement.

Mr. Cline is a Tulare County native, having graduated from Exeter Union High School, College of the Sequoias, California State University Fresno, and San Joaquin College of Law. He also served in the United States Air Force as a Staff Sergeant.

After joining the bar and working briefly in private practice, Mr. Cline joined the District Attorney's Office in 1978. He served as a prosecutor for more than 30 years, specializing in homicide cases and winning numerous high-profile death penalty cases.

In 1992, Mr. Cline began serving as District Attorney. Re-elected three times, he initiated

programs to address workers' compensation and automobile insurance fraud, domestic violence, major narcotics, sexual assault and child abuse, welfare fraud, auto theft, gang violence and child abduction, among others. He created the state's first Rural Crime Program, designed to protect the agricultural industry, and developed other programs addressing consumer fraud, career criminal prosecution, victim's services, elder abuse prosecution and the safe neighborhoods program. Mr. Cline and his staff also implemented programs designed to strike at the root causes of crime. These included a program to reduce teen pregnancy, which received statewide recognition, as well as a Veterans' Court to address the needs of combat veterans.

Mr. Cline is a member of many professional and philanthropic organizations. He is past president of the Tulare County Bar Association and is an active member of the California and National District Attorney's Associations. He is the only District Attorney ever elected president of the Tulare County Police Chiefs' Association. Mr. Cline has also served on the boards of the HEART after-school program and the Tulare County Library Foundation, among others. He has been active in Pro Youth Walk Run, the Justice Run and the annual Victims of Homicide Memorial Quilt Ceremony.

Please join Congressman MCCARTHY and me in congratulating Mr. Phillip James Cline on his retirement from his position as District Attorney of Tulare County.

HONORING MR. CHUCK BANKSTON

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come to you today to honor Mr. Chuck Bankston. Chuck has been elected to chair the National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association.

Chuck has proven himself to be the man for the job over the years. A native of Barnesville, GA, Chuck attended Georgia Southern and graduated with a degree in marketing. He then became the fourth generation owner and president of his family business, Bankston Lumber. Under Chuck's leadership, Bankston Lumber is debt-free and has remained profitable every year in spite of these tough economic times. Chuck believes in enjoying life and his work, so much so that he has a sign in his warehouse that reads: "If you're not having fun, you're fired."

Prior to his recent nomination, Chuck served as the chair of the Construction Suppliers Association, as well as the Georgia Senate Lien Law Advisory Committee. Having owned my own construction business, the work Chuck has done to protect and represent the interests of independent building dealers throughout Georgia and Alabama is not only appreciated, but well respected. In 2008, he was honored with the National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association's Grassroots Dealer of the Year Award for his participation in legislative matters.

Having visited Bankston Lumber and seen its operations, I know that Chuck will put the same amount of dedication, passion, and hard