

More than eighteen years ago, Steven began the American Cancer Fund for Children to provide vital patient psychosocial services to children undergoing cancer treatment at the Skull Base Institute at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Office Towers in Los Angeles, Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles as well as participating hospitals throughout the country.

One of the wonderful services provided through the American Cancer Fund for Children is the Magical Caps for Kids program. Hand-made caps and decorated baseball caps are given to children who want to protect their heads following the trauma of chemotherapy, surgery and/or radiation. The American Cancer Fund for Children also sponsors the Courageous Kid award ceremonies and hospital celebrations in recognition of a child's bravery and determination to fight the battle against childhood cancer.

As we know, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. This tragic disease is detected in nearly 15,000 of our nation's children each year. Steven Firestein and the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection are providing critical services and comfort to young patients battling cancer and their families. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing Steven Firestein for his tremendous efforts.

---

HONORING ROBERT SEATON, SR.

---

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a selfless man of the community, Mr. Robert Seaton, Sr.

Robert Seaton is a resident of Sharkey County, Mississippi. He was born December 2, 1944 in Blanton, Mississippi to the late Leola and Oscar Seaton. Mr. Seaton was raised by his grandparents, Ester and Joseph Kelly until 1954, the death of his grandmother.

Mr. Seaton graduated from Rolling Fork School. After graduation he moved to Los Angeles, California where he worked in a bakery downtown. In 1972, he returned to Mississippi. Since his return Robert worked for an auto mechanics shop, served 14 years as a volunteer firefighter in Cary, Mississippi, and served two terms as Alderman in the Town of Cary until he became the Mayor of Cary.

Robert is a member of New Hope M. B. Church in Blanton, Mississippi. He also is a member of the Deer Creek Watershed Executive Board. Mr. Seaton hosts Fire Prevention Week each year for the children of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Robert Seaton, Sr. for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the community he grew up in.

MCILHENNY COMPANY CEO PAUL  
MCILHENNY PASSES AWAY AT 68

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the passing of a great leader in the South Louisiana community who built his family business into a national brand and was known as "The Scion of Spice."

Paul McIlhenny, CEO of the McIlhenny Company and owner of the Tabasco sauce brand, was a true friend and advocate for the state of Louisiana, promoting tourism and Cajun culture abroad while fighting coastal erosion at home. He was passionate about food, an avid hunter, a generous philanthropist and always quick with a joke. He will be dearly missed by the entire community in South Louisiana and remembered as a steadfast advocate for our state. To commemorate Mr. McIlhenny's passing, I request to include an article from the New Orleans Times-Picayune, written by John Pope, in its entirety into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Paul McIlhenny, an ebullient executive who for 14 years led the family-owned company that makes Tabasco sauce and who reigned as Rex in 2006, died Saturday at his New Orleans home, apparently of a heart attack. He was 68.

Mr. McIlhenny, whom The New York Times once called "The Scion of Spice," became the company's president in 1998—the sixth family member to hold that title—and chief executive officer two years later. At his death, he still held the latter position and also was chairman of the board of directors, but a cousin, Anthony "Tony" Simmons, was named president last year.

The company, which was founded by Edmund McIlhenny in 1868 on Avery Island, near New Iberia, sells Tabasco sauce in about 165 countries and has 11 websites outside the United States, in North and South America and Europe.

During Mr. McIlhenny's years at the helm of the McIlhenny Co., he worked aggressively to expand the number of items to which the familiar Tabasco logo could be affixed. They include T-shirts, aprons, neckties, teddy bears and computer screensavers, as well as seven varieties of hot sauce.

In 2009, Queen Elizabeth II granted the company a royal warrant, which entitles it to advertise that it supplies the pepper sauce to the British royal family. In honor of the queen's Diamond Jubilee last year, the company turned out a Tabasco-sauce box for its British market emblazoned with drawings of dozens of diamonds.

In the United States, the company provides hot sauce for Air Force One.

Mr. McIlhenny entered the family business in 1967, shortly after earning a degree in political science at the University of the South in Tennessee.

Despite his passion for all things Louisiana, Mr. McIlhenny was born in Houston in 1944, along with a twin sister, Sara, because their mother was staying there with her mother while the children's father was in the military during World War II, said his daughter Barbara McIlhenny Fitz-Hugh.

Mr. McIlhenny grew up in New Orleans and spent much of his childhood shuttling between New Orleans and the family's compound on Avery Island.

Because of his interest in the wetlands around Avery Island, his passion for hunting

and his mother's membership on a committee concerned with coastal-zone management, Mr. McIlhenny became aware years ago of Louisiana's increasingly fragile coastline. Gov. Mike Foster appointed him to the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Restoration, Protection and Conservation, and he was a vice chairman and board member of the America's Wetland Foundation, whose logo appears on every box of Tabasco sauce sold in the United States.

Although Mr. McIlhenny was serious about coastal restoration and the preservation of Louisiana's wetlands, he generally was a merry man—one friend described him as "Falstaffian"—who strove to inject humor wherever possible.

A few days before he reigned as Rex in 2006, Mr. McIlhenny quipped that if, during the ceremonial toast to the mayor at Gallier Hall, the subject of hot sauce came up, "I'll say that's one form of global warming I'm totally in favor of. We're defending the world against bland food."

He took the throne six months after Hurricane Katrina roared ashore, the city's levees failed and 80 percent of New Orleans was flooded. The Rex den took on about 5 feet of water; watermarks were clearly visible on its floats when the parade rolled.

Because of the storm's impact, some people, including Carnival insiders, had questioned the wisdom of having parades in 2006. Mr. McIlhenny said in a pre-parade interview that the thought never crossed his mind. "If there was any time when we needed distraction, digression, diversion from the grind, it's Mardi Gras," he said, "and if there was any time we ever needed it, it's here. We need to let it all hang out and, in the sense of pre-Lenten revelry, make sure we relax and recreate."

Mr. McIlhenny was president of Bayou Corp., his hunting club in Vermilion Parish; a former president of the New Iberia Rotary Club; a founder and board member of Fuelman/Fleetman Cos. Inc.; a director of the Friends of the National Arboretum; a member of the Marine Military Academy board; and a lifetime sponsor of Ducks Unlimited. He also was a member of the Bohemian Grove, the Avoca Duck Club, the Boston Club, the Louisiana Club, the Recess Club and the Chattooga Club.

In 2010, Mr. McIlhenny was inducted into the James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food and Beverage in America. He was an author of a cookbook compiled to mark the McIlhenny Co.'s 125th anniversary.

Survivors include his wife, Judith Goodwin McIlhenny; two daughters, Barbara McIlhenny Fitz-Hugh of New Orleans and Rosemary McIlhenny Dinkins of Nashville, Tenn.; a brother, Gustaf McIlhenny of Maine; a sister, Sara McIlhenny Ringle of Covington; and four grandchildren.

---

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN IOWA PRESIDENT  
BEN ALLEN

---

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend Ben Allen on his retirement as the President of the University of Northern Iowa. On May 31st, President Allen will be retiring after six and a half years of service to the University of Northern Iowa (UNI).

Ben Allen was named the ninth President of UNI on April 28, 2006. Prior to serving at UNI,

President Allen served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Iowa State University. President Allen has been a hard-working leader for UNI and the Cedar Valley community. Under President Allen's leadership, UNI has established priorities for increasing student achievement in undergraduate performance, and providing statewide leadership in Pre-K through 12 education.

Ben Allen led UNI through exciting and challenging times. I have always respected Ben's love for the University and his contributions to higher education at both UNI and Iowa State. I'm proud to call Ben my friend and I wish Ben and his wife Pat all the best in their future plans and endeavors.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL HIGGINS  
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and some sadness that I rise to honor Mr. Michael R. Higgins, a Professional Staff Member of the Armed Services Committee, on the eve of his retirement.

For over forty years, Mike has dedicated himself to his country and the Armed Forces. He served in the United States Air Force for twenty years and retired as Lieutenant Colonel. For the next 23 years, it was our great fortune that he chose the Armed Services Committee as the home for his incredible talents.

Mike served 7 HASC chairmen and 8 subcommittee chairmen, helping to steer our committee through war and peace. His sage advice guided members out of the Cold War and through the sporadic conflicts of the 1990s, social changes both large and small, and a tough 11 years of war. For any analyst looking to answer the question, "How did the all-volunteer military survive those war years?," I would urge them to examine the contributions of Mike Higgins.

When the Pentagon struggled to attract quality recruits, Mike helped improve military recruiting and retention programs. When issues arose with outdated military pay and retirement policies, Mike modernized those systems. When the strains of combat brought in Wounded Warriors to rehabilitate, Mike helped guarantee attention to their needs.

Mike encountered an historic array of challenges to the Armed Forces. Some were structural, some were strategic, and some were social. But Mike's consummate professionalism, commitment to the military people that he loved, and perseverance in the face of the toughest political and policy debates helped us meet each issue with wisdom and experience. For that, I am grateful and in his debt.

His legacy is unmistakable. Whenever the military and Congress found themselves at odds, whenever there was a shared obstacle to overcome, and whenever a member of our committee—Republican or Democrat—needed advice or counsel, Mike was there.

Mike Higgins is a giant. He shaped the service of every man and woman of the Armed Forces over the last two decades. Every mili-

tary retiree, their survivors, and each military family benefited from Mike's commitment to them. Mike will cast a long shadow far beyond his retirement.

His humility is matched only by his intellect, his ability to listen and a fearsome ability to see to the heart of an issue. When oversight is your business, sharp eyes are your sword. And no sword was sharper than that of this modest, unassuming Airman, who served his country with the tenacity of a lion, yet would today be surprised that so much is being made of all that he accomplished. Thank you, Mike.

TRIBUTE TO THE SHAW VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NUMBER ONE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable volunteer fire department in the Mississippi Delta.

The Shaw Volunteer Fire Company Number One was established on November 15, 1921 with Chas F. Hill as Fire Chief, R. V. Farmer as Assistant Chief, and N. L. Chapman as Captain and twenty firemen. Recently, the Shaw Volunteer Fire Department became a part of the Bolivar County Fire Department and is known as District 5. This has increased their service area to surrounding communities and they currently serve 4,000 residents.

Since its establishment, the Shaw Volunteer Fire Department has been a great benefit to the citizens of Shaw by saving many lives, businesses, and personal property. The fire department has been the first responders and rescuers at numerous incidents like automobile, school bus, and natural disasters.

The Shaw Volunteer Fire Department was one of the first departments to have female firefighters. Under the direction of its current Fire Chief, Timothy Caninco and Captain Bernice Boone and 12 firefighters, they have established the Shaw Fire Academy to educate and train youths and adults on fire safety. The fire department has received numerous outstanding performance certifications and awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the City of Shaw Volunteer Fire Department for its dedication to serving the citizens of Shaw and responding to call for help within the surrounding area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TULSI GABBARD**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, on February 4, 2013, through February 6, 2013 I was unable to record my votes for rollcall No.31–No.38. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 31: Yes—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 225.

Rollcall No. 32: Yes—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 297.

Rollcall No. 33: No—Ordering the Previous Question.

Rollcall No. 34: No—On Agreeing to the Resolution.

Rollcall No. 35: Yes—On Agreeing to the Takano Amendment.

Rollcall No. 36: Yes—On Agreeing to the Schrader Amendment.

Rollcall No. 37: Yes—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

Rollcall No. 38: Yes—On Passage.

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE OXFORD HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2013 Annual Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce Awards. Representing over 400 area businesses and organizations, the Oxford Hills Chamber has been instrumental in advocating for economic growth throughout the greater Oxford County region.

Each year, the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce honors local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy economic environment. These honorees embody the kind of entrepreneurship and resourcefulness which has helped the state to weather one of the harshest economic climates in American history.

This year's award recipients include Business of the Year, Oxford Casino; Employee of the Year, Steve Holbrook, teacher at Oxford Hills Christian Academy; Rising Star of the Year, ServiceMaster Fire and Water Restoration of Oxford. Additionally, the staff at Responsible Pet Care will receive the Community Service Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and to the region, Maine is a better place to live and to do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Oxford Hills Region Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

WASHINGTON FIRE COMPANY

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Washington Fire Company No 1. which will celebrate 155 years of service to the Borough of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and the surrounding counties.

The Washington Fire Company is one of the oldest operations of its kind still servicing Cumberland County. Named after our country's first president, the company was formally constituted on February 22nd, 1858. The town hall was used to house equipment and hold meetings until 1860, when a firehouse was built on East Main Street, a facility the Washington Fire Company still uses to this day.

The Washington Fire Company has been an important force against many historic fires in