

for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Erika Lopez is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Erika Lopez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Erika Lopez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAI POGROMS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise as I do every year in recognition of the anniversary of the pogroms against the people of Armenian descent in Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On February 27, 1988, anti-Armenian forces began killing Armenians and driving them from their homes. Scores of Armenians were killed, hundreds were wounded, and thousands were left as refugees without their homes or livelihoods. The violence went on for three days as Armenian women and girls were viciously raped.

Days before this massacre, the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh began peacefully protesting against the Soviet Azerbaijani oppression and discrimination. From this peaceful protest and the fires of the pogroms arose the spark that started the democracy movement that ultimately brought down the Soviet Empire.

Sadly, anti-Armenian rhetoric and cross-border attacks continue at the hands of the Azerbaijani government. Azerbaijan has consistently obstructed the peace process, walked away from its own agreements, and continued to threaten war. This is unacceptable, and the violence and harmful words must come to an end.

Today, I ask my colleagues to stand with me in remembrance of the Sumgait pogroms, in support of a true and lasting peace in the region, and in recognition of the contributions of Armenian Americans to the San Joaquin Valley I call home and the entire Nation.

REMEMBERING MAYOR M. JANE SEEMAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember a dear friend, Mayor M. Jane Seeman, who selflessly served the Vienna, Virginia, community for more than a decade and passed away on February 23, 2014, at the age of 76.

Jane was born on June 1, 1937, in Hays, Kansas. She graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in economics and business. While in college, she met her husband, Rodger, whom she married in 1959, and in 1968 the couple moved to Vienna so that Rodger could pursue a job with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Seemans shared a passion for public service, with Rodger serving on the Vienna Town Council for nearly two decades. When he passed away in 1996, his wife completed his unfinished term, going on to win two terms of her own before successfully running for Mayor in 2000. Jane was well-respected and much-admired by the Vienna community, winning reelection six times.

While greatly involved in the community, Jane understood well the importance of enjoying life to its fullest. She was passionately devoted to her children and grandchildren and, as a travel enthusiast, made a point to include her family on her many ventures. Jane was a longtime sports fan, cheering on the Washington Nationals for many years. Of Jane's many commitments, perhaps her greatest was to her Christian faith, which motivated and sustained her throughout her life. She was a beloved member of the Vienna Presbyterian Church, which she attended for more than forty years.

Jane's son, Bill, perhaps said it best when he declared that 76 years was hardly enough time for his mother. She will be sincerely missed by her family, friends, and the Vienna community, but her legacy will long-endure. While we mourn her loss, we also importantly celebrate the exemplary life of love, faith, and humble service by which we will always remember her.

I submit the following article from the McLean Sun Gazette, which pays tribute to Jane's admirable life.

[Mar. 3, 2014]

VIENNA MAYOR EULOGIZED FOR DEVOTION TO FAMILY, TOWN

(By Brian Trompeter)

Vienna bade farewell to its longtime Mayor M. Jane Seeman in a Feb. 28 funeral service that drew hundreds of people and featured remembrances from her children and grandchildren.

Seeman, 76, who had served on the Vienna Town Council since late 1996 and as mayor since 2000, died of lung cancer Feb. 23.

Mourners filled the lower sanctuary level and some of the balcony area at Vienna Presbyterian Church, which Seeman had attended since fall 1968.

A broad swath of the Vienna community came to the service, including Seeman's Vienna Town Council colleagues, some Board of Supervisors members and at least one member of Congress.

"I think we shut down Vienna with all of us being here," said Pastor Peter James.

The mayor's daughter, Linda Colbert, said the family had been inundated with messages from friends following her mother's death and that those outpourings of support helped the family cope with their loss.

"My mother was my best friend. She was also my first friend," Colbert said. "We always loved to talk to each other."

The late mayor volunteered more than 3,000 hours of her time at Patrick Henry Library and loved chatting with patrons, asking them about the books they were turning in or checking out.

The mayor was keenly interested in people's lives and dedicated to serving others and the town, Colbert said.

"She served because she wanted to, not for a pat on the back or to be recognized," she said.

Madena Jane Seeman was born June 1, 1937, in Hays, Kan., to parents Madena and Herbert Seeman.

The future mayor wrote for a newspaper in that town of about 10,000 people, then attended Fort Hays State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in economics and business. She met her future husband, Rodger, at the university and married him on June 1, 1959.

Seeman became a rabid fan of the University of Kansas Jayhawks while the couple lived in Lawrence, Kan. The Seemans later lived in Kansas City, then moved to Vienna in 1968 after Rodger Seeman took a job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Seemans bought a house on Blackstone Terrace, N.W., for \$25,000 and lived there until their deaths. They had two sons and one daughter.

Rodger Seeman served on the Town Council from the early 1980s until his death in November 1996. His wife was appointed to fill his unexpired term and after being elected to full terms in 1997 and 1999, she ran for mayor in 2000, following the death of Mayor Charles Robinson Jr. The mayor won re-election six times, but had decided not to seek reelection this May.

One of her sons, Bill Seeman of Fairfax Station, said his parents were determined to give their kids "fantastic childhoods."

Seeman recalled his days of playing baseball on crude schoolyard fields and then getting to pitch at Yeonas Field, which had dugouts and other "big-league" amenities. He pitched disastrously there, though, and blamed his performance on the new experience of throwing from a raised mound.

That night, the boy's parents worked in their back yard to build him a raised pitching mound.

The mayor was a big sports fan, loved the Washington Nationals and had a crush on player Bryce Harper, Bill Seeman said.

She also enjoyed traveling and ventured to such places as France, Belgium, Russia and Greece. The mayor took her family on a cruise in Alaska a couple years ago and took Bill Seeman and his sons on jaunts to sports hall of fame facilities in Springfield, Mass., and Cooperstown, N.Y., as well as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, he said.

"Seventy-six years really was not enough for my mom," Bill Seeman said. "She lived about 10 normal people's lives. She was a rare gift to all of us."

Music played a central role in the memorial service. Pat Talamantes played the organ and those in attendance sang the hymns "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee."

One of Seeman's granddaughters, Hannah Colbert, sang "Amazing Grace" while her father, Michael Colbert, accompanied her on guitar.

Colbert choked up on the final stanza and had to be comforted. Pastor James later told her she never needed to apologize for being emotionally moved by that song.

After the service, a funeral procession led by Fairfax County and Vienna police motorcycle officers went from the church down Maple Avenue to Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton, where Seeman was buried near her late husband. Following the burial, mourners attended a reception back at the church.

Vienna Town Hall closed early that afternoon so town employees could attend the 2 p.m. funeral. Flag were flown at half-mast at the Vienna Town Green, the creation of which Seeman considered to be the Town Council's biggest accomplishment during her tenure.