

to four children: Sam, Dante, Philip, and Alexandria. He is a Licensed and Ordained Minister of the Gospel and currently serves as Minister of Membership Assimilation at Greater Fairview Baptist Church.

Reverend Williams is currently enrolled in Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College pursuing a Master in Christian Education. He earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Mississippi Valley State University in 1987 and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Mississippi in 1991. He is a graduate of the Mississippi Certified Public Manager Program, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Leadership Yazoo City's Inaugural Class in 1992, and the 2008 Inaugural Class of FOCUS—DMH's Succession Planning/Accelerated Leadership Development Program.

Reverend Williams organized and has facilitated T and T (Thad and Teresa) Food/Outreach Ministry since 2000 where they have received both national and local recognition for their service to the community including the 2014 "WJTV Jefferson Award" and the 2013 Southern Christian Services "Hands of Providence Award."

Reverend Williams has served as Chaplain for the Mississippi Valley State University National Alumni Association, employed with the State of Mississippi since 1992 and currently with Mississippi Department of Mental Health's Central Office where he was voted by his peers as the 2012 Employee of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY LOU LAVAL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Betty Lou Laval, who passed away on June 27, 2014, at the age of 79. Betty Lou's optimism and appreciation for life will be missed greatly by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Betty Lou spent most of her life in Fresno, California. She met her future husband, Claude Laval III, in kindergarten at Heaton Elementary School. For a short time, she left Fresno and attended the University of Southern California on a full scholarship. Betty Lou was a very active member of the Delta Gamma Sorority and recently attended their 50th reunion. She adored her alma mater and was one of the university's greatest supporters.

Betty Lou and Claude were married for 57 years. They raised two daughters: Melinda and Luann. Family was most important to Betty Lou. Her children and grandchildren—Nicholas, Chase, and Ellery—took priority over everything else in her life. Betty Lou will be greatly missed by Claude, her daughters, grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and relatives.

Staying involved in the community was always very important to Betty Lou. She was an active member of the Junior League of Fresno and served on the Board of Trustees for Children's Hospital Central California. She was

also a dedicated member of La Feliz Guild for over 40 years.

One of Betty Lou's greatest passions was music, and she was a very talented musician. Betty Lou could play any string instrument and especially loved the banjo and ukulele. In addition to her appreciation for music, Betty Lou also enjoyed traveling with Claude. They visited many different countries together, making friends from all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Betty Lou Laval. Betty Lou will be remembered as someone who always brought joy to others, and her commitment and dedication to the community she loved dearly will never be forgotten.

TONY GELDENS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Tony Geldens is known locally in Kingwood, Texas for being a community and political activist and strong patriot. There is much more of a heroic story to tell.

It gives me great honor to tell you about Tony Geldens' courageous account of resistance under Nazi Germany's control of the Netherlands. Throughout World War Two, Tony courageously fought Hitler's Nazis as a member of the Dutch Underground. He helped to feed, hide, and protect Dutch Jews.

Born in the 1920s, Tony grew up in Hertogenbosch, Netherlands where his dad owned a brick factory. Like most of the world in the 1930s, the Netherlands, suffered from a Depression.

Tony grew up belonging to the Boy Scouts, like most Dutch teenagers, camping with fellow Scouts, riding bicycles along canals and by old brick buildings. Tony remembers a close circle of friends consisting of both Christians and Jews. After school, like most young boys, they all enjoyed hanging out together.

However, on May 10, 1940, most of Tony's world suddenly changed. Sixteen year old Tony was camping in the woods, close to his dad's factory, when without warning the German Army invaded the Netherlands. His dad came and retrieved Tony from his camping site, and the family quickly evacuated to their home ahead of the invading forces. The Dutch resistance held out for three days before surrendering; marking the beginning of the Nazi Germany's occupation of the Netherlands.

The Nazi occupiers soon imposed anti-Jewish measures on all Dutch Jews. As was throughout Nazi Germany, Dutch Jews were required to wear a yellow Star of David at all times. Strict curfews were enforced, Jews could not own businesses, and students were forced to transfer to segregated Jewish schools.

In January 1941, Hitler required all Jews to register themselves as Jews. A total of nearly 160,000 Jews in the Netherlands registered. They were issued ID cards stamped with the letter "J" for Jew.

Unlike many, Tony remained in the Netherlands during World War Two, even after having the opportunity to leave. Remaining because he felt compelled to stay and fight

against the injustices occurring in his country. After Germany invaded, he withdrew from high school due to the war, and then much later attended Architecture school in Tilburg, Netherlands. It was there he met his wife, Anna.

As time went on, the harshness of the Nazi occupation grew. Notice was sent to all Dutch Jews that they would have shipped to work in Germany—forced labor.

Tony was outraged towards the Nazi's treatment of Jews, he and fellow Scouts decided to join the Dutch Resistance effort. Although, the Nazis had immediately disbanded the Boy Scouts, Tony and his friends would always remember the Scout promise, to do their best to do their duty to God and Country; and to other people.

Under Nazi control, resistance was forbidden and often quite dangerous. All resistance happened illegally and occupiers were ruthless.

Captured members of The Dutch Underground were usually shot, imprisoned, or sent to concentration camps.

Nonetheless, Tony and his loyal band of Scouts were not deterred from joining the resistance movement.

Without an organized leader, Tony began a covert four year fight against the Nazis, saving Jews from starvation, torture, imprisonment, and death.

Like a war time Robin Hood, Tony fed hundreds of Jews by holding up German food stamp offices to obtaining food ration books. Drawing from his hobby building radios, he also operated a radio transmitter which transmitted to England information about downed British pilots and Nazi movements.

He would also help downed allied pilots by hiding them among different homes of Dutch citizens until they were able to reach safety in France.

As a result of his actions, he was arrested and imprisoned numerous times. When imprisoned, the Nazis beat and tortured him for information concerning the Dutch resistance cells, or Dutch Jews.

Several times they administered "truth serum"—it never worked! Sometimes they let him go and sometimes he escaped—just to be rearrested again. The last few days before the war ended were the hardest for Tony. One day, Tony came home and discovered an empty house. He ran next door to his priest to find answers. After investigating, the priest informed Tony that the Nazis were holding his family and they would give him three days to turn himself in.

After the third day, Nazis shot his mother first, then his sisters and then his father.

Wanted posters with Tony's picture began to be circulated on trees around Hertogenbosch. In order to save his family, Tony resolved to turn himself in to the authorities. He said his goodbyes to his priest, friends and family. He hid at a bombed out railroad station; sleeping between the railroad ties. On his way to turn himself in, he saw the Canadian Red Cross working the area.

According to Tony the hardest moment throughout everything, was to see liberators but knew he had to turn himself into the Nazis.

Halfway during his trial, shooting broke out between the Canadian soldiers and the Nazi police.

Once again, Tony was able to escape. However, while Tony was at his trial, German Nazis had evacuated his family along with