

IN HONOR OF N. MICHAEL RUCKA

LOUDON COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
ROY H. BLEDSOE**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor N. Michael Rucka, an important community leader whose entrepreneurial spirit, tenacity, and ethical standards enriched the lives of his family, law partners, friends, and clients. Mike was a dear friend and wonderful mentor. He was the very essence of life, compassion, generosity, and curiosity. World affairs and domestic politics were always on Mike's mind and he was never shy about sharing his thoughts with me. Mike passed away on July 28, 2014, after struggling with cancer. His passing has left a huge empty space in those of us who knew and loved him. But what we will remember the most is the way he enriched so many lives and made the Monterey Bay Area, and indeed the world, a better place.

Mike was born on October 3, 1939 in Brooklyn, New York. His parents, Nettie and Arthur, soon moved to Los Angeles and then settled in San Francisco. Mike graduated from Lowell High School before attending the University of California, Berkeley. Following his graduation from UC Berkeley and the University of San Francisco School of Law, Michael relocated to the Monterey Peninsula in the 1970s. There, he worked ambitiously alongside his friends Emmet O'Boyle, Alfred Lombardo, and J. Andrew McKenna to develop the Rucka, O'Boyle, Lombardo, and McKenna Law Firm in Salinas, California.

Mike devoted every day to representing injured parties in matters of workers compensation and Social Security disability. Mike won the Granado Case before the California Supreme Court, thus establishing the rule that temporary disability and medical treatment are not subject to apportionment. Thanks to his work, this rule has benefited all injured workers since.

Michael co-founded and acted as one-time National Chair of the Workplace Injury Law & Advocacy Group. He also served as the President of the California Applicant's Attorneys Association from 1975 to 1976. In 1993, Mike received the Eugene Marias Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mike was uniquely respected both in this community, throughout California, and by his peers throughout the country. In a small block of marble in his office is a short handled hoe, presented to Michael in honor of his instrumental work and help in getting the back-breaking short handled hoe banned from the agricultural fields of California. He donated his time, resources and energy to organizations that are committed to advancing the rights of injured workers and others who need a voice.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in honoring Mike's lifetime of achievement and in extending our heartfelt condolences to his friends, and family members, including his wife Corry, daughter Brandy, sons Greg and Nick, and his grandchildren.

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Loudon County Commissioner Roy H. Bledsoe is a long-time friend of my family, and one of the most honorable men I have ever known.

He recently retired from 55 years of public service to Tennessee. During that time, he impacted the lives of thousands of people in many positive ways. Our Nation would be a much better place if there were more people like Roy Bledsoe.

Roy's public service began in 1959 as a member of the Soil Conservation District in Sweetwater Creek. He then went on to be elected to the Loudon County Commission in 1966 and become the first mayor of the county in 1968.

His remarkable 48 years of service on the Loudon County Commission is unmatched.

Recently, the state of Tennessee honored Roy's service with a Joint House Resolution, which stated that he "distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community," and that his "remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life."

Roy was a friend and supporter of my father, and I have been blessed to have his friendship and support over the years as well. I know even in retirement he will continue to impact the lives of many.

Mr. Speaker, Commissioner Roy H. Bledsoe is a patriotic and great American known for his work ethic and generosity. I bring his service to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD and wish my friend well on the occasion of his well-earned retirement.

HONORING STANISLAUS COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
MANAGER III DEBORAH  
THRASHER

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services Manager III Deborah Thrasher on her retirement. After 13 years of valuable service to the Emergency Operations Center and county, Mrs. Thrasher retired on September 5, 2014.

Mrs. Thrasher has been an integral part of the development and maintenance of emergency operations plans for Stanislaus County and nine other cities. She has developed and handled the annual maintenance and continuity of government plans and operations for the county and hosted workshops for local agencies. Mrs. Thrasher managed the local hazard mitigation plan and developed several programs for the county, including the agri-

culture plan, avian influenza plan, and functional annexes for emergency operations plans.

Over the last 10 years, Mrs. Thrasher was also responsible for management and administration of all related grant programs. During that time, she became one of the most respected operational area managers of Homeland Security Grants. Additional duties included, coordinating FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grants and Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant program.

Mrs. Thrasher served on several local and state committees representing Stanislaus County, including the Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committee, California Emergency Services Association, Stanislaus County Healthcare Executives, and the Stanislaus County Operational Area Council. Through her leadership, she developed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Stanislaus County and United Way. Mrs. Thrasher would also swear in volunteers as emergency service workers and participate in full scale exercises with the county & State of California.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services Manager III Deborah Thrasher on her retirement and in wishing her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

TO RECOGNIZE MS. ALEX HOLLEY

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize Alex Holley who has joined FOX29 as the new anchor of Good Day Philadelphia.

Ms. Holley is a native Texan and comes to the City of Brotherly Love by way of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina where she previously served as a local news reporter and anchor.

Philadelphia, and our region, has a rich history of journalism dating back to the founding of our nation, including the likes of Benjamin Franklin, and the signing of the Bill of Rights which ensure a free and open press. It is my hope that Ms. Holley continues this tradition and will loyally report on the latest news from around the Delaware Valley.

As the federal representative of Bucks and Montgomery counties, and part of Good Morning Philadelphia's broadcasting area, I look forward to her reporting on the issues affecting the people and communities of our region. I join my neighbors in welcoming Ms. Holley and wish her the best of luck in this new, exciting position.

HONORING MS. DORIS HAYNES  
MILLER**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding, highly driven professional, Doris Haynes Miller.

Doris Haynes Miller was born, raised and educated in Clarksdale, Mississippi where she