

Cheryl later worked at General Motors in Montgomery before buying their first farm and moving to Macon County, Alabama in 1972. Cheryl became involved in the community of Franklin and was part of the successful effort to incorporate the Town of Franklin in 1977. She served as the first town clerk under Mayor Robert Perry.

Later, Cheryl was hired by Alice Hendon, Tax Assessor of Macon County and by her successor, Ed Corbitt, Revenue Commissioner to serve in their offices as well as serving as Executive Secretary to Macon County Commission Clerk, George Austin in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Cheryl became very active in the Macon County Republican Club and served as County Chairman for several years. She also served as County Coordinator in Macon County for an unsuccessful run by Emory Folmar for Governor of Alabama. She was appointed by Governor Guy Hunt to serve as Chairman of the Macon County Board of Registrars and served many years under Gov. Hunt and Gov. Fob James. She also served as President of the State Board of Registrars for two terms.

In 2000, Cheryl was hired as a Field Representative for Congressman Bob Riley working for him until he was elected Governor of Alabama in 2002. She continued to work for the Third District in my office and will retire on July 31st.

Cheryl served as a member of the Alabama Federation of Republican Women and was later elected as District 3 Director. During her tenure, the first women's Republican club in District 3 was established, the Republican Women of East Alabama.

The Cunningham family loves farming and caring for animals. At present, they have two dogs, three horses, two cats and a pet goat, Bentley. In the past, they have had bob cats, deer, skunks, raccoons, an opossum, flying squirrels and a 650 pound pig named Blossom.

Cheryl attends First United Methodist Church in Auburn, Alabama, is a member of the Macon County Farmer's Federation, Alabama Forestry Association and serves on the Board of Directors for Sunset Point I Condominium Association at Lake Martin.

Cheryl and her husband continue to give back in Macon County. One of their biggest joys is running the Todd Cunningham Christmas Memorial Fund in honor of their late son. Last year they served over 38 families in Macon County that would have not had gifts for their children at Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing a great lady and thanking her for her public service, philanthropic spirit and the great work she did for the Third District. Cheryl, we will miss you, but congratulations on your retirement.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEO BRUNING ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2015*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Leo Bruning on the occasion of his 100th birthday, which will be celebrated on August 15, 2015.

After graduating from San Jose State in 1937 and working as a teacher and coach at Hayward High School until 1940, Lieutenant Colonel Bruning began his military service by joining the Army with the 7th Quartermaster Battalion stationed at Ford Ord in Monterey, California. After the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, he immediately took up training to become a pilot and served in that capacity on the homefront throughout World War II.

Once the need for Army pilots subsided and Lieutenant Colonel Bruning was discharged, he wanted to continue his military service to his country so he joined the Air Force. He was stationed in Vienna, Austria to provide support to U.S. embassies in Budapest and Bucharest in the years immediately after World War II, working under constant tension as his airbase was inside of the Soviet sector of the city.

In 1952 Lieutenant Colonel Bruning returned home and left active duty, but he enlisted in an Air Force Reserve program for troop transport. During the next five years Lieutenant Colonel Bruning led his squadron in compiling a total of 2,600 hours of flying on 23 different types of military aircraft. He remained in the Reserves until his 60th birthday with 35 years of military service.

In addition to his military service, Lieutenant Colonel Bruning has been an active member of the Dublin community for 52 years and was a successful business executive for a local ladder company.

I want to acknowledge Lieutenant Colonel Bruning and extend my sincere appreciation for his stellar career of service to our nation and wish him well as he celebrates this significant milestone of reaching his 100th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATROLMAN JOHN J. WILDING FOR SERVING AND PROTECTING THE CITY OF SCRANTON

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrolman John Wilding, whose faithful watch ended this past Sunday morning, July 12, due to injuries sustained while on duty, and those injuries tragically ended Patrolman Wilding's life the next day.

A native son of Scranton, Pennsylvania, John Wilding joined the Scranton Police Department in April 2014, after working for years to earn his place on the force. John's passion to serve and protect his city was exhibited in his work. A fixture in his community, John would regularly check in with local businesses and talk to West Scranton High School students on their way home from class as part of his policing duties.

Early this past Saturday morning, John responded to reports of a stolen vehicle in Scranton. During a pursuit, suspects exited this vehicle near the 300 block of North Main Avenue. Several officers, including Patrolman Wilding, pursued the perpetrators on foot. During the chase, John leapt over a wall not realizing that a fifteen-foot descent was on the other side. He suffered a serious head injury as a result of the fall. John succumbed to his injuries the next day at Geisinger Community Medical Center.

Patrolman Wilding is survived by his wife, Kristen Tansits Wilding, his daughter, Lola Mae, his son, Sidney Wolfgang. He was a dedicated provider for his family, but, beyond that, he was a loving husband and a playful, devoted, and protective father to his children.

It is a great tragedy to lose such a highly regarded officer of the law and an honest, well-respected man. I am grateful for John Wilding's bravery, his public service, and his dedication to our community. His watch has now ended; may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MS. MADISON KING

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2015*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Ms. Madison King of Orlando, Florida, for her acceptance to the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. Ms. King was selected for her academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship.

The mission of People to People Leadership Ambassador Programs is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange. To this end, People to People offers domestic and international educational programs that promote cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and leadership. It is my hope that Ms. King benefitted greatly from her participation in the World Leadership Forum, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING JUAN FELIPE HERRERA

**HON. PETE AGUILAR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2015*

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Juan Felipe Herrera, the United States' newest poet laureate and the first Latino poet laureate. As the son of migrant farmworkers and as a Chicano civil rights movement activist, Mr. Herrera serves as an inspiration to Latino Americans everywhere. His poetry sheds light on the Mexican-American experience and allows people of all generations and backgrounds to appreciate his artistry and history.

Mr. Herrera was most recently the California poet laureate from 2012 to 2014. He retired in March from the University of California, Riverside where he worked as a professor. Mr. Herrera was a Redlands resident and we are so honored and proud to have had him play a role in the Inland Empire community. He brought our community into his world, engaging Redlands residents in his state project "The Most Incredible & Biggest Poem on Unity in the World." The 170-page poem included submissions from hundreds of people across the state, including those in the Inland Empire.

Today we thank Mr. Herrera for sharing his gift with all of us and for giving Latino Americans a voice in the world of poetry. We are so proud of what he has accomplished and commend him on the distinguished honor of being

the poet laureate of the United States, and the first Latino poet laureate in American history.

CONGRATULATING YADKIN VALLEY MOTOR COMPANY ON 100 YEARS

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2015*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Yadkin Valley Motor Company in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

It is the oldest Ford dealership in the Carolinas and 20th oldest out of about 3,100 Ford dealerships nationwide.

A.F. Kilby was the first of four generations of Kilbys to sell Fords at Yadkin Valley. His son, Andrew "Bud" Kilby, and grandson, John Kilby Sr., now own the dealership. At 89 years old, Bud still works at the dealership six days a week. John serves as general manager, and his son, John Kilby Jr., is a salesman and Internet manager.

In May more than 1,500 people turned out for a special car show marking the 100th anniversary. Several hundred vehicles, including a number of antique Fords, participated.

Congratulations to the Kilby family and everyone at Yadkin Valley Motor Company on this significant milestone.

CONGRATULATING MARY ELLEN KLINCK

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate a friend and stalwart in the town of East Haddam, Connecticut, Mary Ellen Klinck. This week she will be honored with the Frank Davis Award from the East Haddam Democratic Town Committee for her lifelong commitment to fairness and justice. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mary Ellen for her lifetime of service.

Mary Ellen's involvement in local government, state government and Democratic politics spans decades and has left a huge footprint of people she has helped and public officials she has helped elect. She has served as the Commissioner of the State Department on Aging, on the Connecticut State Environmental Committee, as an East Haddam Selectwoman, a member of the East Haddam Economic Revitalization Committee, the East Haddam DTC Chair and executive board member, as a member of the Democratic Women's Club, as a volunteer for countless Democratic campaigns, and of course, as a candidate herself.

The first time I met Mary Ellen she was a freshman state representative in 1987, when she worked with the new Democratic majority to permanently enact a state prescription drug program for seniors—known as the CONNPACE program. At the time, Medicare provided no coverage for outpatient prescription drugs and under Governor William O'Neill, and Commissioner Klinck, Connecticut became one of a handful of states to step up and provide affordable lifesaving medications. It took over 15 long years before Congress created Medicare Part D and followed Mary

Ellen's vision for strengthening the health care of America's elderly.

After her historic term as Commissioner of the State Department on Aging, Mary Ellen continued to be a force of nature in public life, advocating for small business, the environment, and helping aspiring candidates for public office, such as yours truly who will be eternally grateful for all her help in my election to Congress in 2006 by the slender margin of 83 votes.

A tireless advocate for seniors, the environment, local small businesses and the history and culture of East Haddam, Mary Ellen's energy and dedication is unmatched. The East Haddam community is fortunate to have her experience and enthusiasm as a constant force for good. Few know East Haddam as well as Mary Ellen, and even fewer have devoted as many hours of their time working tirelessly to improve community life for its residents. I once again ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mary Ellen for this well-deserved honor.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,879,901,274.20. We've added \$7,525,002,852,361.12 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.