

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE LYON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Maxine Lyon on her retirement as the organist at the First United Presbyterian Church in Atlantic, Iowa. Maxine recently retired after serving over 66 years as the church organist.

Maxine directed the children's choir, adult choir and bell choir for many years. She is well known in the Atlantic area for performing with other area musicians and accompanying community choirs. Maxine taught piano lessons for 40 years primarily to advanced students. After graduating from Parsons College in 1939, she began a distinguished career teaching music in several different school districts. Maxine and her husband, Walt, moved to Atlantic in 1948 and raised two daughters, Pat and Judy.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Maxine for her many years of dedicated and devoted service to the First United Presbyterian Church and to the Atlantic community. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Maxine and wish her and her family nothing but the best moving forward.

HONORING STEVEN HALL

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Patterson Fire Department and West Stanislaus Fire District Chief Steven Hall, who announced his retirement after serving 25 years in Patterson.

Chief Hall's career in firefighting started in 1990 when he came on as a volunteer firefighter. He worked full-time at Costco throughout his 11-year tenure as a volunteer for the Patterson and West Stanislaus fire departments. During that time, he took emergency medical technician training, served as an engineer and became the local training officer. In 1998, Hall became the area's first sworn-in arson investigator, which was still a volunteer position at the time.

During Steven's 11 years as a volunteer firefighter, he was also earning an education. He obtained his associate's degree in fire science from Modesto Junior College and, shortly after, attained his bachelor's degree in occupational studies from CSU Long Beach. Through the Grand Canyon University in Arizona, Steven earned a master's degree in leadership, with an emphasis in emergency preparedness and executive fire leadership.

In 2001, Hall finally accepted a paid position with the Patterson Fire Department as the Fire Marshall/Division Chief. At that time, then-Chief Richard Gaiser, Division Chief James Kinnear, and Hall were the only career staff of the West Stanislaus district and Patterson Fire. The Patterson department later doubled in size in 2005 when Mike Ambrosino and Mi-

chael McLaughlin joined as the first career firefighters.

In 2011, Steven was promoted to Fire Chief. As Chief, he helped guide the department from a fully volunteer organization to one that now has both career and volunteer men and women. His priority as chief has been personnel development as well as establishing a new way of promoting the men and women from within the department. Under Chief Hall, Patterson Fire Department has seen many advances such as its first strategic plan which instituted a community emergency response team and fire prevention programs, all while staying under budget for the last four years. With the advancements and improvements of the Patterson Fire Department, the city's public protection classification has been reduced from a Class-4 to a Class-2, with a Class-1 being the best, by the Insurance Services Office.

Chief Hall may be resigning from the Patterson Fire Department but his career is far from over. He has accepted the assistant fire chief position at the Central Fire Protection District in Santa Cruz County. This move will give him and his wife April, the opportunity to spend more time with their children and new grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to the Patterson Fire Department and West Stanislaus Fire District by Chief Steven Hall and hereby wish him continued success.

TRIBUTE TO INTERSTATE 35
TELEPHONE COMPANY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Interstate 35 Telephone Company of Truro, Iowa. The company has reached an important milestone this year and I join them in celebrating their 50th anniversary of providing communication services to Iowa's 3rd Congressional District.

The Interstate 35 Telephone Company was incorporated in 1965 when Dale Mauer repurchased the Truro exchange from Continental Telephone Company. In 1965, St. Charles was added to the exchange, and in 1970, St. Mary's was added. Changes have been constant in this company since then as digital service, cable services and cell phone technology has improved. As a result, the number of employees has increased from 6 in 1980, to over 50 today. In many of the small towns they serve, the telephone company is one of the main businesses and a hub for a number of community projects.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to represent Interstate 35 Telephone Company and its hard working employees in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on their 50th anniversary and wish them nothing but continued success.

HONORING AND CELEBRATING JAZZ LEGEND LUQMAN HAMZA ON HIS 84TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, the 1930s and 1940s produced the names of jazz legends like Count Basie, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, and Mary Lou Williams, who either began their careers or played in Kansas City's storied 18th & Vine District, which I proudly represent. Among those legends was Luqman Hamza, who honed his musical skill listening and playing alongside these extraordinary musicians.

Originally born in St. Louis, Missouri on September 15, 1931, Hamza's mother passed away when he was only 6 years old. He was blessed to have been raised by foster parents, Isaiah and Elizabeth Cummings, a Christian minister and his wife, in Kansas City, Missouri. Hamza once related how impactful his foster father was, comparing his life to a history book. Cummings' father had been a slave and his mother a Native American Indian, which helped shape Hamza during his formative years.

Hamza grew up in Kansas City's 18th and Vine District, surrounded by music. Just a stone's throw away lived Charlie Parker and dozens of clubs were located within the district's six-block area. Hamza began singing for pocket change around his home when he was only a young child. From age 11 until he was 17, Hamza studied voice and piano under the Reverend John S. Williams. Williams, a minister and choir director at the Bethel Church, was also a music teacher at Lincoln High School and is known to have helped educate many of Kansas City's finest musicians. At the age of 12, Hamza, along with boyhood friends Sonny Kenner, Lucky Wesley and various other artists, formed a group known as the Four Steps and later renamed to the Five Aces. This group would play at several clubs in the 18th and Vine District, including Scott's Theater and the Chez Paris. The young band won a statewide high school talent contest in 1948, which allowed them to play on the Bob Hope show at Municipal Auditorium Music Hall. They would also land a live radio broadcast on KIMO every Sunday for several weeks. Hamza co-wrote his first chart-hitting release, *When You Surrender*, with Ted Battaglia when he was only 19 years old.

Hamza's experiences included playing with Charlie Parker when he was in town, and later with Miles Davis. By 1954, Hamza would venture out of Kansas City to continue his professional development. He returned to St. Louis, where he found work at the Glass Bar and the Toast of the Town. He then moved on to Chicago, where he thrived while the jazz scene was at its zenith. He lived and "gigged" in Chicago for over a decade, playing at numerous established clubs, such as the Black Orchid and the Playboy Club.

Although Hamza was raised in a Christian household, he began to explore Islam while in Chicago and became a Muslim in the mid 1960's. He grew up with the name of Larry Cummings, but adopted the name Luqman Hamza during this time. He held that name in