

staunch, lifelong advocate of education, she was instrumental in founding this innovative and highly successful community college tailored to address the multiple academic, social and service needs of the East Palo Alto community. The college began with 120 students and grew to 200 within a few years. One year before its founding, Dr. Martin Luther King had been killed. As the war in Vietnam raged and several American cities went up in flames, Mavis Knox joined with visionary leaders to offer an alternative to fires burning within and without: the light and hope of a quality college education. Her love of education would distinguish Mavis Knox in years to come, and her community leadership was built upon this bedrock commitment.

Mavis began her career with San Mateo County in 1982 and retired in 2005 after spending much of her county career in Children and Family Services as a social worker and supervisor. When she supervised the Long Term Placement unit she was the driving force in enhancing the Independent Living Skills program and the Moving On ceremony.

Mavis was elected to the Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees and served the community from that position for 12 years during the 1970s and early 1980s. This was a time of tremendous change in the district, with historic segregation and its legacy being challenged regularly.

Newspaper reports of the time indicate that students and parents demanded equality of opportunity, and they demanded that the district overcome the impacts of decades of racial segregation. Mavis Knox was a vocal advocate for equality. This required hiring staff that would set high standards and be held accountable to the community. Press reports from that time indicate that such routine decisions as hiring a superintendent were sometimes contentious, but the stakes were also high. While she demanded accountability by the staff to the community, Mavis Knox also held herself accountable. She successfully advocated for better school financing, and strongly urged the community to unite in creating a first-rate system.

Mr. Speaker and members, Mavis Knox was a dedicated member, committee chair, and leader in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, earning the Bertha Pitts Campbell Award in 2011, the Chapter's highest honor for outstanding service to the sorority and community. Among other distinguished community service, she served as Foreman of the Grand Jury of San Mateo County and charter board member of the East Palo Alto Girls' Club of the Mid-Peninsula. She was a prolific fund raiser for at-risk youth. She is survived by her son Anthony D. Jones, daughter Brenda Destiny Knox, brother Ronald Knox, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A leading advocate for social justice has now passed from our midst. In our sorrow, it is important to note that the lessons she taught by example will offer guidance and comfort for years to come. Ultimately, this is the greatest gift to us all of Mavis Knox, a mother, educator, community advocate, and an outstanding American.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALFRED
D. COWARD

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the life of Alfred D. Coward, who passed away on July 10th, 2015 with his beloved wife, Verlene, by his side. Alfred was a community leader in Youngstown, Ohio of the utmost caliber and influence. Over 35 years of distinguished service to the Mt. Calvary Pentecostal Church, Alfred "The Rev" Coward served in multiple leadership positions. These included Superintendent of the Sunday school, Head of Pastoral Affairs and Bereavement, and Chairman of the Brotherhood Department to name a few.

Alfred's leadership skills were also employed outside of the walls of Mt. Calvary Church. Reverend Coward's civic involvement included four years as Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Crime and Violence Prevention, five years on the Steering Committee of the Youngstown Weed & Seed Initiative, as well as an appointment by Mayor Jay Williams to the Youngstown Civil Service Commission, where he served as Vice-President. Alfred was also the recipient of the Crisis Intervention Unit for Domestic Violence Award.

Alfred was preceded in death by his parents; an aunt and uncle, Naomi and John Carpenter, who reared him; and a sister Darlene Carter. He leaves behind the love of his life Verlene "Sweet Verl" Coward, his wife of nearly 46 years; the pride of his life, his three children, Alfred D. (Nicole) Coward II of Youngstown, OH; Teri J. Coward of Austintown, OH; and Aaron (Veronica) Coward, of Boardman, OH; the joy of his life, nine grandchildren, Kandace Coward, Kamille Coward, Ashley Joseph, Kayla Coward, Courtney Joseph, Gabrielle Joseph, Alfred Coward III, Aarion Coward and Addisyn Coward; a sister, Brenda Townsend of Tulsa, OK; and a host of loving family, church family, and friends.

I am deeply saddened by Alfred's passing, and extend my most heartfelt condolences to his entire family. Reverend Coward was an exemplary spiritual and civic leader who, through his unwavering dedication and service to his community, left Youngstown and Northeast Ohio a better place than when he found it.

IN HONOR OF SAINT JUNIPERO
SERRA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my California colleagues, Rep. ANNA ESHOO, Rep. JANICE HAHN, Rep. JARED HUFFMAN, Rep. NANCY PELOSI, Rep. MIKE THOMPSON and Rep. JUAN VARGAS, to welcome His Holiness Pope Francis to Washington and to celebrate his actions yesterday in canonizing Father Junipero Serra.

Yesterday we were all witness to a sacred ceremony validating the holiness of Father Serra as a leader of the Catholic faith in early

California. But Father Serra is also a major historical figure in California's settlement and expansion. As important as his contribution to the faith is, his effort to unify and connect north and south California laid the groundwork for the state it came to be.

As most people know, Father Serra is responsible for establishing the first 9 of what would eventually be 21 missions up and down the coast of California all the way from San Diego in the south to north of San Francisco. In today's world, those 21 missions are tantamount to social media. They represented a network of community and connectedness that brought order to a wilderness and established common links between myriad towns and villages. Those missions were so important to the framework of community, commerce and government that eventually coalesced into a state, that every school child in California must construct a mission diorama in the 4th grade as part of his/her history lesson. The majority of those missions still stand today and are still vibrant centers of faith and community. They also serve as strong tourist attractions and bring to life the story of California's early settlers to millions of visitors every year. So pivotal was Father Serra to the rise and prosperity of California that the state elected to have his statue exhibited here in Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol.

Father Serra's presence is especially felt strongly in Carmel, California where he established his headquarters and actively administered the expansion of the Catholic faith in California. From here he also helped manage relations between local peoples and Spanish government officials in Mexico as well as with the local military officers who commanded the nearby presidio in Monterey. Father Serra is buried at the mission in Carmel and neighbors of the mission, city residents and all who visit the mission venerate his beneficence to the people and the state.

During Pope Francis' visit to Washington this week my California colleagues and I were happy to welcome a good number of Californians to the city to celebrate the Pope's visit and Father Serra's canonization. In particular I was proud to have nearly 100 constituents from the Carmel area come to town to honor our "home-town saint." Among the distinguished visitors was Bishop Richard Garcia, Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey and his predecessor, Bishop Sylvester Ryan. I was pleased that they could be with us as for this momentous occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the House was moved this week by the Pope's visit and his actions regarding Father Serra. I am sure the House joins me in thanking the Pope for his leadership, his holy presence and his blessing of Father Junipero Serra.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF LARSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jeff "Huck" Larson for his recognition as Citizen of the Year in Casey, Iowa.

Jeff was awarded Citizen of the Year at the Casey Fun Day celebration on July 11, 2015.