

As anyone who knows Jim is well aware, he is seen by most folks in Concord as one of the city's foremost historians. He was the Vice Chairman of the City's very successful 1996 Bicentennial Committee and has amassed an impressive collection of historic photographs of Concord that he regularly contributes to the Concord Independent Tribune. Additionally, Jim played a large role in the final design of the new Concord City Hall, which retains many qualities from the design of the 1902 city hall, including the unique tower with the words "City Hall" on the glass.

Jim's steady leadership has seen Concord maintain a low tax rate while its population has more than doubled from the 42,000 people who lived in the city when he was first elected in 1995. During a time that saw our area lose thousands of textile and manufacturing jobs while still increasing in population, Jim and the rest of the City Council were instrumental in continuing infrastructure development, growing city schools and recruiting new industry to Concord. Because of his hard work and dedication, Concord's future looks brighter than ever.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking James E. "Jim" Ramseur for his esteemed service on the Concord City Council and wishing him well as he opens the next chapter in his storied life.

HONORING ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS NEWTOWN DIVISION 2
25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the initials AOH may tell the story best. Some say the initials stand for, "Add One Hour"—describing the easygoing, no rush attitude of many of its members. Others believe AOH, "America's Only Hope" has been used to define the loyalty of the Irish to the principles of their adopted land. In either case, its members would certainly all agree, that to be Irish, is indeed, a blessing. To be a Hibernian is an Honor.

I offer my gratitude and congratulations to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Newtown, Division 2, for 25 years of working in harmony with the doctrines of the Catholic Church and fostering a sense of loyalty to country among its members.

AOH, Newtown Division 2, proudly hosts the "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Kilt Tilt Run, Warrior Walk and Festival", featuring the Annual Joe McGinnis Scholarship 5K in addition to the annual Celtic Kilt Night fundraiser for local food banks.

Past president of the Bucks County Board of the AOH and Newtown Division 2 member, "The Irish Godfather of Bucks County," Joseph W. McGinnis, Jr. would be proud of the work that has continued in his name.

Once again, thank you and congratulations to AOH, Newtown Division 2 for 25 years of friendship, unity and Christian charity.

HONORING THOMAS LEE
MITCHELL, SR.

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today we honor Thomas Lee Mitchell, Sr. for his service to his country and to his community.

Mitchell served with the 27th Marines while in Vietnam from December 1965 through December 1968. While in the employ of his country, Mitchell and his compatriots came under fire by North Vietnamese troops in the early morning of May 5, 1968.

A firefight ensued and, after a barrage of North Vietnamese mortar rounds, an American weapons platoon tent became engulfed in flames. Mitchell stormed into the conflagration amid exploding ammunition and carried a badly wounded Marine, who was trapped in the tent, to safety.

Later that same day, Mitchell's company was ordered to begin an assault on two villages. The platoon embarked on the mission and eventually encountered an open trench—which was riddled with North Vietnamese soldiers. North Vietnamese soldiers lobbed grenades at the American troops from the trench; in response, Mitchell and two of his fellow Marines fired their weapons into the trench, killing the entire line of North Vietnamese soldiers. With the trench cleared of enemy fire, the American platoon was able to proceed with the attack on the villages.

Mitchell was awarded a Bronze Star for his actions. In addition, Mitchell also earned, among others, a Purple Heart, a Good Conduct Medal, a National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbons, and a Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon.

Mitchell coached little league baseball from 1975 until 1985. He is currently a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Charlestown and the VFW.

It is a privilege to award Thomas Lee Mitchell with Congressional Commendation, and ensure his story is preserved for future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call numbers 657, 659, 660, 661, 662, and 663, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NO.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA
PIERCE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Barbara Pierce for her 16 years of outstanding

service on the City Council of Redwood City, including one term as Mayor and one term as Vice Mayor. Barbara is the consummate public servant, never tiring of looking for ways to improve the city and the quality of life of its residents.

During her four terms on the council, she served on many committees and represented Redwood City before many organizations—most of them as chair at one point—including the Peninsula Division of the League of California Cities, the League Housing Community Economic Development Committee, C/CAG's Congestion Management Environmental Quality Committee, the Bay Area Water Supply Conservation Agency, the Resource Management Climate Protection Committee, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Redwood City 2020 Coordinating Council, the Grand Boulevard Task Force and the Bair Island Task Force.

Conservation and environmental protection are core values of Barbara Pierce. She is the spiritual leader of Redwood City's purple pipes project that brought recycled water to Redwood Shores long before our drought made water conservation a necessity. At first, it wasn't easy educating the public about the need to use recycled wastewater, but Barbara's persistent and earnest efforts persuaded the public to choose wisdom in the use of resources over skepticism based upon ignorance. The experiment began in 2000 but really took off in 2007 when the city expanded the pipes throughout Redwood Shores through pump stations. The recycled water project saves hundreds of millions of gallons of drinking water each year, and leaves Redwood Shores as one of the few areas of green landscaping during the current drought.

Barbara has played a significant role in just about every modern decision and process that has shaped Redwood City and made its vibrant downtown a reality. She played a leadership role in the creation of Courthouse Square, the restoration of the entry to the San Mateo County History Museum, Theatre Way and the retail cinema complex. She was also instrumental in the building of the Redwood Shores Library and the Redwood Shores Child Care Center. She worked hard to address traffic congestion, housing, climate change, water supply, and public safety issues, and to build a successful and sustainable community. Her secret to success is collaboration. She strives to work with members of the community and to find a way for everyone to win.

Her ethic of conservation is a direct consequence of her concern about future generations. In addition to her council duties, Barbara led efforts for 25 years at the Redwood City Education Foundation and saved an outdoor education program and created a music program for 3,500 students.

She has served on the board of the San Mateo County Historical Association, the Community Emergency Response Team, the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Business Group and ARTS RWC. She is also a long-time Girl Scout leader, classroom volunteer and site council member. Barbara has a big heart and her love of Redwood City is only secondary to her love of her family.

She was born in Baltimore, Maryland and grew up in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. She graduated with a B.A. and M.A. in Psychology from Moravian College and Catholic University of America, respectively.