

She was elected to City Council in 1981 and was elected Mayor in 1987.

As Mayor, Jackie understood that in addition to serving its residents, the City of Utica also plays a vital role in strengthening the region as a whole. She led the efforts to improve essential city services and responsiveness to constituents and businesses. Jackie spearheaded efforts to improve local roads including the widening of important roadways like M-59 and Van Dyke Avenue. Working closely with her on this project, I saw firsthand her dogged determination. Jackie also saw the value in establishing strong working relationships with her neighboring communities of Sterling Heights and Shelby Township as they shared services and resources. They even held their annual State of the City addresses together.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jackie and wishing her and her husband Jerry, and all their children and grandchildren the very best as they begin this next chapter. I am grateful to Jackie for her many years of dedicated public service, as well as for her friendship, and I am so pleased to join with the entire community in paying tribute to her, which is so deeply deserved.

BOND COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the bicentennial anniversary of Bond County in my home state of Illinois.

Bond County was created on January 4th, 1817 by an act of the Illinois Territorial Legislature. This event occurred nearly two years before Illinois was admitted into the Union as the 21st state.

The initial dimensions of Bond County were quite unique, as it was only 24 miles wide, but stretched over 600 miles north to include a portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The county gets its name from Shadrach Bond, who had been an army colonel in the War of 1812, and, given the county's initial layout, had farmed well north of present-day Bond County. Shadrach Bond also served as the first governor of Illinois.

Over time Bond County gave birth to numerous other counties in the state, and ceded some of its land to Wisconsin and Michigan as well, so that today Bond County is one of the smaller counties in Illinois. Yet its rich history, along with the spirit and pride of its people, has outlasted all of these changes.

This year Bond County has planned a grand celebration in recognition of its bicentennial. This celebration began on January 5th with a commemorative program and a special proclamation by the County Board. Later this year, on July 2nd, the main celebration will occur with tours, a parade, food and many other activities, climaxing with a fireworks show.

I ask that we all join in that celebration as we pay tribute to the history and the people that made Bond County, and to the pioneering spirit that lives today in all of its citizens.

I stand today to salute Bond County on its 200th anniversary and to wish it the very best in the future.

KATE FOGLEMAN EARNS SPOT ON KIDS SWEETS SHOWDOWN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kate Fogleman of Sugar Land, TX, for earning a spot on the Food Network show, Kids Sweets Showdown.

Kate is a 10-year-old girl who just loves to bake. She fell in love with watching kids baking competitions on the Food Network and was inspired to apply herself. After being turned down for the Kids Baking Championship show, she persevered and succeeded in earning a spot on the Food Network's new show, Kids Sweets Showdown. The show features talented kids preparing "merry sweet treats" in hopes of staying on the judges' "nice list." Kate was featured on two episodes of the show, Santa Express and Snow Day Doughnuts. When she's not baking, Kate spends her time on her schools yearbook committee and dancing competitively for Dance Works in Missouri City, TX.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kate Fogleman for earning a spot on Kids Sweets Showdown. We are extremely proud of her and look forward to her future success as a baker.

IN HONOR OF PATRICK J. MITCHELL

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of a great Arizonan and American, Patrick J. Mitchell, 61, from Yuma, Arizona, who worked in Washington for many years, on November 27, 2016. Pat was a trusted advisor and advocate for many in Congress and he will be missed as a powerful advocate (with an Arizona perspective) for education, environment and natural resources, and labor issues in Washington DC councils.

Born in Yuma, AZ, on April 13, 1955, Pat was an accomplished athlete at Yuma High School where he was elected student body president. He went on to his beloved University of Arizona where he was elected student body president and from which he graduated in 1977. He received his Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University in 1981. Pat spent the next 35 years in politics and government fighting to improve the lives of others. He served as a congressional aide to Arizona Senator Dennis DeConcini, chief of staff to Representative Louise Slaughter from New York, political advisor to Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano and the late Representative Mo Udall from Arizona, and senior advisor to two presidential campaigns, including serving with the Simon campaign in Iowa. Pat also was a special assistant attorney general for the State of Arizona. He went on to start his own government affairs firm, Strategic Impact

in Washington D.C., where he focused on appropriations, water and land management, and higher education issues. A beloved Arizona Wildcat fan, Pat was a member of the UA Bobcat Senior Honorary Society and served on the university's alumni board. He was also deeply involved with the Yuma community and in supporting Yuma's Catholic High School.

Pat cherished his family and he is predeceased by his parents, Henry and Helen (Curry) Mitchell of Yuma, and is survived by his brother Bryan Mitchell, sister Kathleen Dyer, nephews Ian and Dan Mitchell, and grandnieces Erin and Emily Mitchell. He often spoke of his father's military service to the nation.

Pat worked hard to ensure that the working families of Arizona had a voice when it came to national policy and debates, whether related to access to higher education or the natural beauty of the Nation. Pat was among those that rose to the challenge in a Republic that needs the best to engage in these national discussions. Few in this world loved their state and its people more.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENEVIEVE M. KUZIA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Genevieve M. Kuzia, who is turning 100 years old on January 5, 2017.

Gerry, as she is known to all, was one of seven daughters born to Stephanie and Anthony Kazmierzczak in Boston, Massachusetts. As a child Gerry moved with her family down to Delaware for three years so her father could work on the railroad. In 1923, they moved back to the Commonwealth and settled in Hyde Park. After finishing at Hyde Park High School in 1935, Gerry worked for a law firm in Boston for several years.

It was at the wedding of a family friend that Gerry met Francis A. Kuzia, who had just been honorably discharged from the Marine Corps. Francis, or Frank as he was known, and Gerry fell in love and were married on July 13, 1942 and settled in Hyde Park to have three children—Paul, Susan and Robert. After raising three wonderful children and spending her time as a fulltime caring and loving mother, Gerry went back to work for the Hyde Park branch of the Boston Public Library where she worked for 16 years till her retirement in 1982.

After losing the love of her life, Frank, in 1993, Gerry moved to Braintree, Massachusetts before moving to the Cape Cod Senior Residences in 2009 due to failing eyesight. Always armed with a smile and a kind word, Gerry is beloved at Cape Cod Senior Residences.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Gerry on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of good health and continued happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ERICA
SARGENT

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mrs. Erica Sargent for her service to my office and the people of California's 21st Congressional District.

Mrs. Sargent was born on May 30, 1990 in Los Banos, California, where she grew up on her family's dairy farm with her parents, Joey and Charlotte Mello, her sister Trisha, and her brother Michael. As a child, Erica took part in Future Farmers of America, where she showed dairy cows, Holsteins, Jerseys, and swine.

After graduating from Los Banos High School, Mrs. Sargent went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Business at California State University, Fresno in 2013. While in college, Erica was a member of Delta Gamma Sorority and worked as a nanny part-time. On September 3, 2016, Erica married her husband Brandon Sargent.

Mrs. Sargent has held several positions with my office, in both Washington, D.C. and California over the past 4 years. She first joined my team as Staff Assistant in my Washington, D.C. office in July 2013. As Staff Assistant, she was instrumental in supporting others in daily tasks and helping the office run smoothly. In December 2013, she was promoted to Scheduler. Mrs. Sargent relocated from Washington, D.C. back to California's Central Valley, where she remained on my team as a

Field Representative in Fresno County. Mrs. Sargent was known for her hard work and excellent community outreach. She was respected by her peers and was able to create and foster connections with constituents, business leaders, and public officials, all of which are integral skills of congressional staffers.

Outside of work, Erica enjoys spending time with her family, especially her husband, sister, and niece, Sofia. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree from National University and hopes to become a school counselor.

Mrs. Sargent's time with my office will come to a close today, January 5, 2017, when she leaves to begin an internship in Laton, California, as a school counselor. Knowing Mrs. Sargent, her character, and her work ethic, I have no doubt that she will achieve many great things in her future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in commending Mrs. Erica Sargent for her public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing her well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

**HOUSTON METHODIST SUGAR
LAND HOSPITAL EARNS AN "A"**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital for earning an "A" for patient safety for the sixth year in a row.

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital prides itself on the dedication of its physicians, nurses, technicians and staff to keep patients as healthy and safe as possible. Twice a year the Hospital Safety Score, part of The Leapfrog Group, grades hospitals based on how well they protect patients from errors, injuries, accidents and infections while in the hospital. Houston Methodist Sugar Land was one of 844 hospitals across the nation to earn an "A" grade in the fall 2016 survey.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital for earning an "A" for patient safety. We all benefit from their commitment to quality healthcare and we thank them for their hard work to keep Houstonians healthy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Roll Call Votes 12 through 23 on the evening of January 5, 2017.

I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 26, the Regulations in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2017. I would have voted against all amendments that would weaken the underlying legislation, would have voted in favor of amendments that strengthen the underlying legislation, and would have voted in favor of final passage of this important legislation.