

Gates." The show features some of Houston's favorite praise and worship artists. I can't think of a better way to start a Sunday than lifting up God.

For the past 25 years, Tim McDermott has worked to bring followers of Jesus Christ together. Serving as KSBJ President and General Manager since 1992, he is the longest running general manager at any major Houston radio station. It is the mark of a good manager when an organization shows growth, and that's exactly what KSBJ has done. In 1992, when Tim started, the station had only 11 employees and drew around 45,000 listeners each month. Today, the station has close to 100 employees and draws over 800,000 listeners from not just Houston, but all over the west coast.

It is often said that if you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life. The same could be said for Tim. He says he's never considered his role at KSBJ a job. Instead, he considers it a passion and a calling. The station's core value system promotes a passion for Christ, a love for people, a servant's heart and the belief that we are better together.

Under Tim's leadership, KSBJ has received various recognitions in the radio broadcast industry, including National Religious Broadcaster's Radio Station of the Year, Christian Music Broadcaster's Station of the Year and Best Christian Workplace. Not only does time strive to make KSBJ an outstanding Christian radio station, he also mentors other radio stations both around the U.S. and internationally.

Congratulations to Tim McDermott and KSBJ on 25 years of service to Houston Communities.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MR. SCOTT C. GRAVES

HON. TED S. YOHO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work, commitment, and character of Scott C. Graves, House Agriculture Committee staff director. Scott is my kind of man—intelligent, understanding, and a straight shooter. His rise from an intern on the House Agriculture Committee to the committee's staff director over 10 years speaks to his strong work ethic. Raised on a cattle ranch in Texas, his commitment to rural America is unquestioned—a view shared on both sides of the aisle. His work as a steadfast advisor to Chairman CONAWAY solidified his role as a leader who is both fair and firm.

But it's Scott's character that I notice most. As a member of the Agriculture Committee for the past 4 years, I have had the privilege to witness that character as he balances not just the demands of committee members, staff, and interest groups; but of a growing family. Scott, thank you for your guidance, your example, and your friendship. I wish both Scott and his lovely wife Haley all the success in the world as they turn the page onto a new chapter in their lives.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT CHESTER GRAVES

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Scott Graves, Staff Director of the House Committee on Agriculture. After 10 years of dedicated service to agriculture policy on Capitol Hill, Scott is leaving his position on the Committee at the end of this month.

As Staff Director of the House Committee on Agriculture, Scott has helped develop a strategic vision for the Committee and its forty-five Members that has directly shaped American agriculture policy. Working directly alongside Chairman MIKE CONAWAY, Scott has also dedicated himself to working for the best interests of all members of the agriculture community.

Having worked with Scott personally, I have seen firsthand the level of expertise and commitment that has made him an invaluable asset to the Committee. His hard work has benefited not only the staff he works with daily, but the Members on both sides of the aisle that he has loyally served.

In today's age, it is a rarity to find the combination of character, ability, and professionalism that Scott exemplifies. On behalf of the House Committee on Agriculture, I would like to thank Scott for his service and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

OPPOSING THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong opposition to the President's unjust and un-American executive order that blindly bars individuals from entering our country. This action, and the situation that resulted from it, has hurt an enormous number of families, including several in Washington state. In fact, a constituent of the district I represent, a man who risked his life and the lives of his family by selflessly volunteering as an interpreter in support of U.S. forces in Iraq, was affected by this travel ban.

I demand the Statue of Liberty Values Act—the SOLVE Act—be voted on and passed by the House. This legislation would rescind and defund this ill-considered and harmful executive order that hurts refugees and many others who are arbitrarily denied the ability to travel to the United States. By sowing confusion in a thinly veiled attempt to ban an entire religion from entering our country, the President has clearly shown his inability or unwillingness to govern in an reasoned and inclusive manner.

KRISTINA BURGOS EARNS GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kristina Burgos of Sugar Land, TX, for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. To earn this distinguished award, Kristina had to spend at least 80 hours developing and executing a project that would benefit the community as well as have a long-term impact on girls. For her Gold award project, Kristina built a granite pathway in the Jardin de La Vida located at the Boys & Girls Club of Richmond-Rosenberg, TX, to make the garden more accessible for people with disabilities. Kristina is a sophomore at Clements High School and aspires to study English or film in college.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kristina Burgos for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award. We are confident she will have continued success in her future endeavors. We are very proud.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES IMPACTED BY THE NATIONAL OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the personal stories of families from across the country that have been impacted by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire I have learned so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading change in Washington and I am proud to preserve their stories.

JC CONNERS—MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

JC Connors came to his mother over five years ago worrying and wanting to get off of drugs. Unfortunately—by that time—he had little control over his addiction; his brain was shutting down and we didn't understand. On August 13, 2016 JC succumbed to the disease of addiction; he overdosed and died. He was 38 years old!

How does a hard-working, healthy man become severely addicted to drugs? It shocked us all. Some time ago, JC was introduced to oxycodone, a simple pill, that a friend told him would help with stress and make him

"feel good"—adding that the best part was that it wasn't easily detected and didn't get you in trouble like alcohol. Unaware, JC took the pill, not realizing the downfall that was about to happen.

JC wasn't your stereotypical addicted individual. He was high-functioning, worked hard at his job, and spent time with his family. He fooled them all by managing his everyday life so well. But slowly over time he started to deteriorate. JC eventually shared with his mother what he came to realize later: "This so called 'medicine' shouldn't be on the market. It's misused. I'm really sick. Something's wrong. My minds off."

After realizing this JC tried hard to stop but couldn't, with each attempted he was further consumed by his addiction. His family tried seeing doctors, therapists, etc., but they all seemed detached. JC was only a number in a long line of individuals also struggling with an addiction. We tried outpatient therapy but that didn't work either.

At another program, his family learned how this particular drug stops your brain from producing the "right" chemicals to function and if this continues part of your mind goes missing. We also learned that it can take years for the brain to recover and start producing these much needed chemicals again for health brain functioning. Meanwhile, the individual just wants to feel "okay" and as hard as they try the only way to function "okay" is going back on the drug.

JC overdosed Thanksgiving 2015 and survived. He overdosed for a second time this past June, again, he survived. He then spent five days in the hospital with complications related to this overdose. The day JC was released, neither the doctors nor the staff learned or inquired about his past history with addiction, they only sent him home with the suggestion he see a therapist. So, his family trusted the professionals. Two months later, JC was gone. He had fallen through the cracks and we didn't understand fully the depth of his struggles until it was too late.

My daughter asked me to write this so JC's story would be heard and to relate this message to everyone: we need to be aware and come to terms with the realization of what these drugs do to the human brain, yet these drugs are out there and way too easy to come by. Why is this happening? We need to sympathize, understand and help those struggling with addiction, not stigmatize them. JC was told by many professionals that, "he had to want help and had to want to help himself." The outside help he did try failed him, so he thought he was better off overcoming his struggles on his own. We, his family didn't understand the severity of his addiction, so we let him try. We came to realize this was a terrible mistake! Professionals need to make it VERY clear to both the individual and their families that overcoming addiction can't be easily done on their own. Additionally, they need to better help us, the families, understand that our loved ones might not be thinking rationally due to the addiction compromising healthy brain functioning.

Yes, JC chose to use, but had little knowledge of the effects these drugs have on the brain because they aren't being properly explained to the public. His last years were a hard existence and he paid the ultimate price, but my son was so much more than his addiction. He was a kind, sincere, caring person, who would do anything for anyone. A kid at heart, JC believed there was good in everyone and truly wanted to turn his life around. He was a great man who was loved by so many, who just made a terrible mistake, but so did the medical system.

ANTHONY FIORE—WARRINGTON,
PENNSYLVANIA

Growing up, Anthony tried to fit in with the "good kids," but was shunned on many occasions. He then began to change to fit into a group that would accept him. This group of friends started smoking pot in 8th grade, and transitioned to Oxycontin by 12th grade. Anthony always wanted to have friends and was very loyal to them.

Anthony was very intelligent—he never had to study but always had above a 3.5 GPA. He enjoyed making people laugh, and would joked around a lot. He got accepted into Penn State's Main Campus in State College, PA, based on his SAT scores and his GPA. In his sophomore year he joined a fraternity.

During Christmas break in 2009, Anthony told his family he was addicted to Oxycontin. He said he could detox at home, and would take some time off before returning to college. This was the first time his parents heard anything about this.

In January 2010, Anthony returned to school and started using again. When he came home at the end of the semester, his family sent him to a relative's house for the summer—far away from anything that we thought could trigger his addiction. The entire summer they kept in touch with Anthony; he was passing drug tests, and everything seemed to be going well. Anthony wanted to go back and finish college, so his family let him return that fall.

It was not until early 2011, that Anthony's family found out he was using again. They then pulled him out of school on medical leave, but this time he went to a 28 day inpatient treatment center. When he returned, everything seemed fine. Anthony had a friend pick him up to go to Narcotics Anonymous meetings and he would show his family the various chips he received for being clean for a certain amount of time. It appeared that he was clean and again, his family allowed him to return to Penn State.

At some point, Anthony switched to heroin because it was significantly cheaper. Two of his best friends, one day, came to Anthony's parents house and told them Anthony was injecting heroin. Because of their courage, his family had more time with Anthony. Anthony was then referred to an inpatient rehab facility in Pennsylvania. At the time his family didn't have insurance, so they only kept Anthony for about five days; just long enough to detox. While there, Anthony was diagnosed with depression but his family were never informed of this diagnosis. That summer Anthony stayed home, worked, and seemed to be doing fine. His family refused to let him go back to Penn State's main campus; so Anthony enrolled at the Abington campus, which was about 30 minutes from our home.

What his family later came to find out was that Anthony made a copy of his dad's car key and was sneaking out in the middle of the night to get heroin. At some point he added cocaine to the mix. On May 23, 2013, Anthony overdosed in his parent's basement. One of the boys he was with came and got his mother, and she called 911. Anthony was given Naloxone, which saved his life.

In the emergency room the nurses tried to give him another Naloxone shot, but Anthony wouldn't allow it—he wanted to enjoy what was left of his high. This shows how powerful of a hold heroin has on its victims; less than an hour earlier Anthony had almost died but he still wanted the drug. Because his heroin usage depressed his breathing so much, fluid built up in his lungs, and Anthony developed pneumonia.

Anthony then tried Vivitrol, another relapse prevention medication; this was given as a shot every 28 days by a doctor. When

Anthony started receiving his shots, it worked. Then one day, Anthony told his family he wasn't going to get the shot anymore. They did everything we could to convince him and in the end they told Anthony he could no longer live them if he wasn't going to get the shot.

In the summer of 2013, Anthony and some other boys robbed a drug dealer, thinking that a drug dealer wouldn't go to the police. A warrant was issued. Months later, Anthony was stopped for possession of heroin, and when police found out about the warrant for the robbery, he was sent to prison. His family refused to bail him out, despite Anthony's constant pleas. They felt, at the time, prison was where he needed to be; at least we knew he would be safe and clean.

After about a month in prison, a private criminal defense attorney was hired; who was able to arrange Anthony's release on his own recognizance, on the condition that he immediately enter an inpatient rehab facility. By this time, we had insurance but the program only guaranteed 21 days. His family begged them to keep him longer, but they said that's all our insurance would cover.

When Anthony was released, he truly wanted to stay clean. He started cooking dinner for the family and hanging out with his younger brother, which he never did before. "It was great to see my two boys together," writes Anthony's mother. "They went to movies, to the gym, and did various things brothers do together. I finally had my Anthony back and we felt like he had won. He looked good, acted fine, and was not argumentative and agitated as he was when using. Anthony was doing well and saving to move out on his own."

While Anthony was living with his family, they told him none of the boys he previously hung around with could come over again and he should find new friends. This lasted about four or five months, and one day he told us one of his old friends was coming over. Anthony said he was the only other person he knew who was also clean; but in reality, this friend was not clean and was still using. This friend was with Anthony the entire night and morning when he died. He said he didn't have any idea what happened, however, he did find time to steal Anthony's debit/credit card from his body, and proceed to spend \$2,500.00.

"I found my son's body," writes his mother. "What an awful thing for a mother to go through. We are broken. Anthony is not defined by his addiction. He was a loving and caring son, brother, grandson, nephew, and cousin. He was very intelligent, kind, thoughtful, and funny. He was a hard-working young man with a bright future."

MEGAN ROSE KELLEY—APPLETON, WISCONSIN

Megan Rose Kelly, forever 22, was the youngest of four siblings. From a young age, Megan was helpful and always nice to people—she was a joy to be around. Growing up, Megan was involved in soccer and Girl Scouts. She was well-liked by everyone who met her.

Megan, who was a kind and beautiful girl, had a lot of insecurities. In the eighth grade, to better fit in with her peers, Megan started hanging around with people who were drinking to have fun. As things progressively got out of hand, Megan's mother turned to a social worker for help. Megan was put in counseling and an outpatient drug treatment.

At 14, Megan met a guy who was seven months younger and had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Through this destructive relationship, Megan turned to shoplifting and began experimenting with more drugs. By sophomore year of high school, Megan started skipping school, which resulted in truancy charges.

Throughout high school, Megan got into enough trouble where she had to serve time in jail and was court ordered to be on probation for three years. After two years, her probation officer decided to take her off of probation. Things then started to settle down for Megan, until the summer of 2013, when her mother was told that Megan was addicted to prescription painkillers. She confronted Megan, but denied it. Later that summer, Megan and her boyfriend of four years got into huge argument and broke up. Soon afterwards, she started seeing another guy.

Megan's mother spoke with Megan multiple times about her addiction, and each time she blew her off. On November 2, 2013, her mother spent the entire day with Megan and her new boyfriend cleaning her house. Around 4:30 PM Megan and her mother both left; Megan went to work and her mother drove home.

Around 10:10 PM that night, Megan's mother received a phone call from her sister telling her that Megan's boyfriend was dead. It was found out that Megan's boyfriend had been snorting Percocet throughout the day, and died as a result. Shortly afterwards, two of his friends showed Megan how to inject heroin. By March 2014, Megan came to her mother and asked her for help, sending Megan to a rapid detox facility in Detroit. Megan's mother was reluctant to spend the \$7,800, but Megan begged and said it was a matter of life or death.

After Megan completed detox, she got so sick she ended up having to go to the hospital and was hooked up to an IV. She was diagnosed with pancreatitis, caused by heroin use. This was when her mother first found out Megan was using heroin, and the nightmare had only just begun.

Three days later, after being discharged from the hospital, Megan was arrested and charged with four felony counts involving heroin. The next day at court, Megan's mother paid \$10,000 to bail Megan out.

Over the next five months, Megan's mother thought she was doing great; Megan was passing all of her drug tests. One night, Megan was stopped by the police because her car windows were too darkly tinted, and was rearrested when they found syringes on her.

Megan spent four months in jail before she was sentenced. During her sentencing, the judge said that heroin was a powerful drug, only to deny Megan a nine-month court-ordered inpatient treatment program for a drug that kills. Four months into her sentence, Megan relapsed, overdosed, and died. "My life forever changed that day," writes Megan's mother. "Her sentence became a death penalty."

KIRSTYN KING—RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Kirstyn King was born in the early afternoon on December 8, 1990. She was a perfect baby and everything her family had hoped for in an infant daughter. The first time they saw her tiny, sweet face, they were overwhelmed with love, hope and emotions they had never experienced before. Her mother saw her own future and past in Kirstyn's eyes and cried with joy, she knew she'd do everything to protect her child and new family.

As the years went by, Kirstyn's mother worked hard and elevated their financial status to a six-figure income. A lot happens over the passage of time and in that particular period there were mostly beautiful memories, but, unfortunately, there were also agonizing ones that still haunt her today. Despite her every attempt to shield her family from life's worst, Kirstyn was harmed and sexually exploited when she was a young teenager. This started a slow avalanche as she rebelled and struggled. Her

mother tried to help her but she felt so powerless. Kirstyn's despair was evident and her mothers attempts to make it all go away were futile.

"Around this time, I injured my back falling down the stairs," writes Kirstyn's mother. "The physical pain was unlike anything I had ever experienced. This led to a prescription pill addiction that bottomed out in a horrible way. After layoff and foreclosure, I began writing my own prescriptions to support my escalating habit. I ended up in jail. I had never been in trouble in my life and suddenly I was a felon, effectively homeless and jobless, after being a homeowner twice over with a promising career."

"My children never used drugs more than the occasional sampling. Kirstyn suffered from anxiety and once I went to jail, the mom that had always saved the day was powerless to help her. Her fiancé transferred with a government contractor to England and her brother, nearly 18, moved with his father to California. She felt alone and began heavily and carelessly self-medicating."

Kirstyn was shy, gentle and gorgeous. She adored animals and wanted to save all of them. She would find the least attractive, the most broken of the bunch, and that would be the cat or dog she wanted to take home. From tadpoles to earthworms, there wasn't a creature that she was afraid of and didn't love. She had an infectious belly laugh and always saw the best in others. She complemented other girls and gave the most she could of her wonderful soul. She was the life of the party and a risk-taker with a childlike spirit. Her light wasn't reciprocated. In fact, it was abused. On October 16, 2011, Kirstyn lost her life to her brief addiction. I was in jail and could do nothing. All I can tell you is that it is a grief I'll never be able to fully comprehend or articulate.

"As a recovered addict and grieving mother of a 20 year old who lost her promising life to addiction, I know we must do more," writes Kirstyn's mother. "Those in recovery who are able to speak must be heard and represented in this fight to find solutions for this crippling American epidemic. We can't continue to villainize and hunt for the dealer or "that bad kid" that influenced our child. We need to dig deep, open our eyes and ask, why does America hurt? We are a nation in crisis."

MATT KLOSOWSKI—BEAR, DELAWARE

Have you ever met a guy whose smile could light up a room? Who made you feel like you had found a long lost friend? The kind of guy who would give you the shirt off his back? That guy who brings every stray dog home and makes it a member of the family? That was Matt Klosowski. He had that happy-go-lucky personality that drew people in and made them fall in love. Unfortunately for Matt, he never loved himself enough. He experimented with marijuana in high school and after graduating to pills, ended up in his first 30 days inpatient treatment facility.

Matt went on to become an excellent mechanic. He moved to the beach, bought a home and opened his own business. His adult life appeared successful and drug-free. Matt's family took a deep breath and started to relax, only to discover soon after that Matt was hiding his addiction. At first it was just casual use—a Saturday night party or coming down from a busy week of work. But he was slipping back into the deadly mindset that made him believe he was in control.

The beginning of the end began when Matt suffered a back injury—he had been lifting an engine when he felt a pop. The next day he could barely walk. Matt called his mother to let her know that the doctor gave him Percocet. Matt struggled with an addiction to Percocet for seven years. During that

time he lost everything he had worked so hard to gain. He tried to continue working on cars while he was abusing pills, but it was obvious to his steady customers that something was terribly wrong and they took their business elsewhere. His business closed six months after his injury. After missing too many mortgage payments his beach house was repossessed by the bank. Everything he loved now gone.

During those seven years Matt was in and out of treatment. Due to his insurance, however, Matt was never permitted to stay for the length of time he needed to learn how to handle life without pills. He would come home clean and his family would look into his clear eyes and thank God that Matt was back. He was such a joy to be around. He didn't want to be tortured by cravings. Our life would start to feel normal again but his family's joy was short-lived when, within a matter of weeks, Matt returned to his world of numbness and the cycle began again.

Matt's last attempt to get clean took place at a treatment center close to home. As his mother watched Matt struggle with demons that had plagued him for most of his adult life, she was proud and hopeful. Matt was coming back. Each time she visited she was greeted by his clear eyes and beautiful smile. She remembers sitting together looking out over the water. Matt was headed to a recovery home in Florida. She was unsure about his decision but remembered every book she read always talked about how different people, places and things are the best choice to support new sobriety. When Matt left for Florida on June 2, 2014, he wrapped her up in a big bear hug and told her he was so happy to have the monkey off his back. Little did she know that monkey would find him in Florida.

Matt was starting a new life and Once again he was living by the sea—his happy place. He found a job, his self esteem returned, and his mother believe that this was his "ah-ha" moment, that finally he was in a good place.

For reasons her heart will never understand, Matt relapsed and died. He lost his battle on January 3rd, 2015.

CAROL HODGES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carol Hodges for being honored by the Arvada Chamber with the Chairman's Choice Award.

The Chairman's Choice Award is selected annually by the Chairman of the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to recognize a member of the community who has shown leadership and outstanding support to the Arvada Chamber.

Carol Hodges serves the Arvada Chamber and her community with a sense of pride, energy and commitment. She is always willing to step up when called upon and works diligently to see each project through to the end. Carol's kindness and service has made a difference in Arvada and helped make it a great place to live, work and play.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carol Hodges for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,