

wish the staff and patients of the Ravenswood Family Health Center a long and healthy future.

HONORING SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL OF ST. HELENA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Soroptimist International of St. Helena, the recipient of the St. Helena Chamber of Commerce Non-profit of the Year Award.

Founded in 1921 in Oakland, California, Soroptimist International is a worldwide volunteer service organization for women who work to improve the lives of other women and girls in local communities and throughout the world. The organization seeks equality, peace, and international goodwill for women. Over 95,000 members in more than 125 countries and territories worldwide contribute time and financial support to community-based and international projects.

The St. Helena Chapter of Soroptimist International was founded in 1954. Since then, the chapter has raised and distributed more than a million dollars in local scholarships and grants. This money was entirely raised by volunteers, many of whom also work full-time. Their fundraising has helped send numerous St. Helena students to college and summer camps, as well as educational trips to national parks and Washington, D.C.

The organization also provides support and stability to single parents in our community with education and career opportunities. Dozens of mothers throughout the Napa County region have been able to return to school or complete vocational training with the help of Soroptimist professional grants.

Mr. Speaker, Soroptimist International of St. Helena has worked to make our community and our world a more equitable place for over five decades. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the organization here today and congratulate the group on this well-deserved accolade.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SERGEANT (SGT) ROBERT SHANE PUGH

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) Robert Shane Pugh who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on March 3, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SGT Pugh was a combat medic with the Mississippi Army National Guard's 155th Brigade Combat Team. He was mortally wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Iskandariyah, Iraq also wounding Sergeant First Class Ellis Martin. SGT Pugh posthumously received the Silver Star, the third-

highest decoration for valor in combat, as well as the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Mississippi Medal of Valor.

SGT Pugh's Silver Star citation states, "Although in extreme pain, Sergeant Pugh directed treatment instructions to the members of his platoon for both himself and Sergeant First Class Martin. He remained calm and continued to give instructions until the medical evacuation helicopter arrived. Sergeant Pugh passed away on route to the hospital; however his courage and disregard for his own welfare resulted in saving the life of a fellow comrade who was severely wounded."

SGT Pugh was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard, headquartered in McComb, Mississippi. He enlisted in the Army in 1999 because he wanted to be a combat medic. In the civilian world, SGT Pugh was a licensed paramedic and worked as a phlebotomist for United Blood Services in Meridian.

SGT Pugh's mother, Wilma Allen, said her son was her pride and joy. "I am very proud of him. He was happy, outstanding, and outgoing. He would do anything for anybody," said his mother.

In a fitting tribute to this brave and caring soldier, the National Guard Readiness Center in Morton has been named in his honor.

SGT Pugh is survived by his parents, Glen and Wilma Pugh, his stepfather, Gary Allen, and his siblings Tiffany Johnson, April Pearson, Jennifer Reed, Brad Allen, and Dale Allen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 116 and 121 on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on roll call votes 116 and 121.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ED GARVEY

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ed Garvey, a progressive icon in Wisconsin who founded the Fighting Bob Festival, championed the underdog and fought the good fight for equality, justice and true representative democracy.

Ed Garvey's unwavering support of working people was evident in his career as a labor attorney, including early years as executive director of the National Football League Players' Association. Before that he was a civil rights crusader as president of the National Student Association, who in the 1960s traveled south with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

In his legal work, his advocacy, his writings and speeches, Ed championed progressive causes from women's rights to environmental

protection to LGBT rights to protecting voting access and getting big money out of politics. He sought, in founding Fighting Bob Fest, to bring together groups from diverse walks of life that shared in common our values and beliefs, so we could all see we are more alike than different. Bob Fest always offered the chance to talk, debate, socialize, argue and, at the end of the day, join together to take on the powers-that-be.

He united progressive causes with a populist bent, a dry wit and a rabble-rousing spirit. He laid out an admirable path for all of us who believe in fighting for the underdog and staying involved in our democracy as informed and vocal citizens.

Ed Garvey kept the spirit of Fightin' Bob LaFollette alive and passed it along so generations of Wisconsinites will continue to honor that Wisconsin legacy.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the life of Mr. Ed Garvey today.

FAREWELL TO MICHAEL L. HARRISON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, please allow me to note the retirement of my Chief Counsel on my House Administration Committee staff, Michael L. Harrison. After 32 years of service to the House of Representatives, half of them with the Committee, Mike has decided to close out his Capitol Hill career in favor of other pursuits in the Sunshine State. His staff colleagues and I will greatly miss him, his experience and especially his clever sense of humor, which enlivened many meetings and discussions.

Mike first appeared in these precincts in 1980 as an undergraduate intern for one of his home-state senators. To this day, he often refers to the Senate as the Upper Chamber. I'm told that as a teenager, Mike harbored plans to study law and eventually run for a seat. He was reportedly the only resident of his college dormitory with a mail subscription to the Congressional Record.

While working as a Senate intern, Mike had lots of spare time which he put to good use. He explored the Capitol and the capital city thoroughly. Among his other discoveries during the winter of 1980, Mike was fortunate to find another intern, whose good looks and willingness to take a chance led to their eventual marriage which endures to this day. Everybody who knows his wife, Laurie, agrees that she is a saint with a great sense of humor of her own.

Following law school in St. Louis, Mike returned to Washington in pursuit of a career not as a senator but on the staff. Mike served three House committees, one joint committee, and three individual Members. He worked on budget-process, reconciliation, campaign-finance reform and on a measure to clarify when a President can use the pocket veto. At the House Administration Committee, Mike worked on sundry legislation and oversight of the Government Publishing Office, the U.S. Capitol Police, the Architect of the Capitol and the Library of Congress.

Mike, an ardent Democrat by birth, worked in the majority and, to his chagrin, the minority. But whether in the majority or minority,