

birthplace of Newport News, Virginia, and I hope that it continues to inspire well beyond her 100th Birthday.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR DAVID K.
PENDERGRASS

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize David Pendergrass, the Mayor of Sand City, on his retirement after serving as mayor for thirty-five years. As an outstanding citizen and public servant, Mayor Pendergrass made a significant impact on the lives of citizens and the business community in Sand City in his four decades of public service.

As Mayor, he has achieved high praise for his accomplishments in the local, regional and business community on the Central Coast. In addition to his time as mayor, David was a professional artist and illustrator. He also had a thirty-two-year tenure working for the United States Army Training Division, in the Directorate of Plans, Training, and Mobilization Support Center.

Mayor Pendergrass entered public service in 1978 and twice served as Chair of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. Further, he served on the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, the Monterey-Salinas Transit Board of Directors, the Regional Taxi Authority, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority and the Association of Monterey Area Governments.

During his tenure, Mayor Pendergrass has turned Sand City into a hub of economic and commercial activity. The accomplishments he has made to the Central Coast community will be felt for generations. His involvement in local and regional governance has provided a positive economic impact to the local business sector.

As Mayor, he has worked diligently on the challenging issue of water supply quantity and quality for the Monterey Peninsula. He also provided leadership in the community effort to deal with the closure of Fort Ord and establish CSU Monterey Bay. Mayor Pendergrass has deep roots in the community by raising three children, fourteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. I am proud of the mayor's many personal and professional accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the dedication and hard work Mayor Pendergrass has given to Sand City and the Central Coast region. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Pendergrass and to congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.

IN HONOR OF DETECTIVE BRENT
AKIN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to recognize and thank Brent Akin for his selfless commitment to the safety and

well-being of the Montgomery County community.

On April 30th, Detective Akin of the Montgomery County Sheriffs Department will enter a well-deserved retirement after almost thirty years of dedicated public service.

A native Texan, Brent was born and raised in Houston by his parents, JoAnn and Rowland Akin. Together with his five siblings: Joe, Ricky, Bill, Deronda, and Rowland, Brent grew up in the Houston community. In 1983, Brent married the love of his life, Catherine Parada and, two years later, packed their belongings and moved to The Woodlands, TX where they have resided ever since. In 1987, Brent and Catherine welcomed a beautiful daughter, Emily, who has blessed them with a son-in-law, Stephen Richards, and a grandson, Noah.

Brent officially began his career in law enforcement when he graduated from the police academy in 1987. Just one year later, he joined the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, where he has served for nearly thirty years, working under five sheriffs. Most recently, Brent works as a Detective, but during his many years of distinguished service, he held various positions within the department as a Patrol Officer and Internal Affairs Officer.

Throughout his career, Brent has helped countless members of our community conducting criminal investigations, providing security for community events, and patrolling the cities and roads of Montgomery County. Brent has worked to solve many high profile cases, including the 1999 Wanda Pitts murder case. His close attention to detail, perseverance, commitment to the law and serving his community is evident in every case he has worked on.

Brent has honorably dedicated himself to Montgomery County as is evidenced by countless first-hand accounts and the many commendations he has received, such as the Public Safety Hero Award in 2009.

I am pleased to join Brent's family friends, the citizens of Montgomery County, and the entire Eighth Congressional District of Texas to give thanks and wish him well as he begins his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAY
TAMSI

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Jay Tamsi for his dedicated community service and to congratulate him for being selected as the Grand Marshal of the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta in Delano, California.

Mr. Tamsi was born August 17, 1978 in Bakersfield, California to his parents, Olivia and Jimmy Tamsi. Mr. Tamsi has strong Kern County roots, having attended Cecil Avenue Middle School in Delano, Delano High School, and later the California State University, Bakersfield, where he graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Marketing.

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and a successful business owner of his own company, Tamsi Consulting Serv-

ices, Jay has been generous in giving back to his local community. A strong man of God, Jay serves as a member at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Delano and was responsible for organizing the induction of rites celebration for Father Loji Pilonas as the new priest of St. Mary's. Jay was an organizer for the St. Mary's Thanksgiving Community Feed, where he helped provide meals for less fortunate families during the holidays.

His community service extends past his parish; Mr. Tamsi works as the Director on several community boards including the Greater Area Delano Youth Foundation and the Philippine Weekend Executive Committee. He is also a Lifetime Member of Delano Harvest Holidays. Mr. Tamsi's love of service and community involvement extended into his creation of the only Filipino Hall in the State of California, which works to promote Filipinos' needs in the community.

Mr. Tamsi is being honored as the Grand Marshal of the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta of his home city of Delano, California, which holds one of the largest and oldest celebrations in the United States. This high honor is being bestowed upon a great man who has spent countless hours helping his community and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mr. Jay Tamsi for his years of community service and congratulating him on being the Grand Marshal of the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta in Delano.

HONORING MILLS ACADEMY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, Mills Academy.

With Mississippi schools mandating fundamental tests for kindergarten through third grade students to pass in order to advance to the next grade, one woman has made it her mission to help the children in the Greenville Public School District. Airmecia Mills, founder and director of Mills Academy, an after-school tutoring program for students in pre-K all the way through college, has started a free third-grade reading comprehension program in an effort to prepare area children for upcoming state tests. "We're encouraging students to read passages and comprehend what the questions are asking them with the same strategies they will be tested on," Mills said.

Last year, all of Mills' third-graders passed the reading gate and many of her students showed exceptional growth in their star literacy and reading test, she said. Aside from the reading program, Mills Academy provides after-school help for students in pre-k through 12th grade from 4:00–8:00 p.m. every weekday. While helping students to enhance their educational experience, the academy focuses on promoting academic achievement, developing stronger academic skills, test-taking and studying skills. Homework assistance, test prep and tutorials are given to students after school to help eliminate the illiteracy in the community.

Mills started this program towards the end of 2015 and her family was super supportive