

Robert Franklin Ray was born in Crawford County, Georgia to the union of William McCrary Ray and Thelma Crutchfield Ray on their family-owned farm. Robert's passion for farming and agriculture began during his childhood, as he helped his family plant and harvest crops on their farm, which is now a pecan orchard.

Robert's passion for farming and agriculture motivated him to build an impressive career which began at the age of 19 when he was elected President of the Crawford County Farm Bureau. By age 22, he had served as a member of the Crawford County Board of Commissioners before going on to serve two terms on the Crawford County Board of Education. He also served as the Assistant Commissioner for Marketing for the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Manager of the State Farmers Market in Macon, Georgia. In 1982, Robert was elected to the Georgia General Assembly, where he served 12 terms and represented Crawford County and portions of Bibb, Houston, Lamar, Monroe, Peach, and Upson counties.

During his 24 year tenure, Representative Ray served as a member on the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Appropriations, Industry and Rules, House Journals, and Small Business Committees as well as the Chairman of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee. Representative Ray made agriculture his first priority as he worked diligently to ensure that the interests of farmers were supported and protected and led the charge to give poultry farmers rights in contract negotiations. His legacy also includes spearheading legislation and funding to support education and economic development, which was instrumental in the establishment of Georgia's system of tourism routes and the creation of toll-free calling zones in the Middle Georgia area.

In addition to his political career, Robert was actively involved in the communities that he served. He presided on a variety of boards, served in a number of organizations at the local and state levels, and received numerous awards and commendations.

Robert accomplished much throughout his life, but none of this would have been possible without his enduring faith in God and the love and support of his wife, Jennifer; his children, Lisa, Robin, Bob, and Adam; and his siblings and grandchildren.

On a personal note, Representative Ray and I served in the State House together and I was blessed with his friendship, counsel, and support over the years. Representative Ray was a great representative for Middle Georgia and a stellar example of how a public servant should serve his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, along with my wife, Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in paying tribute to former Representative Robert F. Ray for his remarkable leadership in our great State of Georgia. He shall be remembered as an outstanding statesman, a champion of education, and an advocate for hard-working farmers. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and, loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DELAWARE & LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remark on a notable milestone in the history of the Pennsylvania 17th Congressional District. Thirty years ago, a group of thoughtful and committed citizens took the region's case for national historic significance to Congress. The result is the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L).

Today, the D&L Corridor is a lively, vibrant place to live. Towns and cities are revitalized, and their historic districts have been preserved. Technology, culture, and innovation have replaced the industrial past, while agrarian roots are still visible in the surrounding countryside. The D&L Trail connects people to our industrial heritage, health and wellness, economic development, and nature and the environment.

The D&L's unique combination of industry and natural resources helped it fuel America's 19th Century Industrial Revolution. The discovery of anthracite, and later the manufacturing of iron ore and its historic transportation path from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol, catapulted the region into an internationally-recognized hub of production. Without a doubt, the Delaware and Lehigh Canals and the Lehigh Valley Railroad were essential in this process. It is their history that the D&L works to preserve and celebrate as a Smithsonian Affiliate through the National Canal Museum and aboard the Josiah White II mule-drawn canal boat.

With the support of the National Park Service, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the William Penn Foundation, countless volunteers, and like-minded partner organizations, the D&L is continuing its commitment to inspiring connections by revitalizing towns, restoring its beautiful landscape, celebrating and preserving its heritage, and planning its future for generations to come in Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks County. The history of the D&L is still in the making.

THANKING BART DEWITT AND DOYLE SWINDELL FOR THEIR SERVICE ON THE ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Bart DeWitt and Doyle Swindell for their service on the Alvin Community College Board of Regents.

Bart and Doyle worked a combined 82 years of service on the ACC Board of Regents, a school where they are both alumnae. Bart joined the board as a trustee in 1972, while serving as a math teacher in Houston and Friendswood school districts. Doyle spent

nine years as chair of the board. During his time, he helped ACC acquire the Nolan Ryan Center and pushed for the expansion of the Science/Health Science Center. These two men have been described as tireless workers with a genuine passion for their community. They have been valued members of the Alvin Community College team.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Bart DeWitt and Doyle Swindell for their long period of service on the Alvin Community College Board of Regents. I thank them for their dedication to furthering education in our Alvin community. We are grateful to have such hardworking public servants in our district. Best wishes in their next endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH (ED) KERMOADE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ralph (Ed) Kermoade of Council Bluffs, Iowa on his induction into the Thomas Jefferson High School Hall of Fame. Ed is a 1974 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs.

Ed earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska Omaha and graduated from Drake University with a degree in secondary education administration. Ed has been a teacher and coach in the Council Bluffs Community School District. His career has taken him to Longfellow Junior High School and Wilson Middle School and he has taught driver's education for 41 years at 13 different high schools across the Council Bluffs metro area. Ed remains active in the Council Bluffs community volunteering with the West End Optimist Club and the Cobra Optimist Sports Club. Ed said he always tries to pass on to his students that, "it is always the right time to do the right thing and if you are early, you are never late."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Ed Kermoade as a member of the Hall of Fame at Thomas Jefferson High School. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ed and wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. JUNE FOSTER SANCHEZ

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. June Foster Sanchez, a retired educator, who died on May 24, 2018 at the age of 86.

Mrs. Sanchez was a retired educator who taught in the Orleans Parish Schools for 42 years, primarily at John W. Hoffman School. She was also an instructor in the Department of Education at Dillard University for seven years.