

Bob was influential in expanding Brickell Avenue and Coconut Grove, areas which I proudly represent and are central residential communities that also attract thousands of visitors every year. He also led efforts for the development of the Florida Grand Opera and Performing Arts Center Foundation, among many other enterprises.

Bob constantly fought for the best interests of his clients and our communities, and the mark he left on south Florida is evidence of his remarkable passion. Bob Traurig's work to develop Miami-Dade County, in addition to his charitable and philanthropic spirit, will become the lasting legacy of this dedicated leader.

Farewell, my friend.

□ 1015

HONORING CONNIE KURTZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Connie Kurtz, an LGBT rights activist who passed away recently at the age of 81.

Connie was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, where she met and fell in love with the woman who would become her wife, Ruthie Berman. Ruthie and Connie became a couple in 1974, long before same-sex couples were afforded equal rights.

Ruthie was a school counselor, and, in 1988, they found themselves at the forefront of the gay rights movement when they joined two other couples and sued the New York Department of Education for domestic partner benefits for same-sex couples. Their advocacy led to the city extending healthcare benefits to same-sex couples in 1994.

Ruthie and Connie's activism did not stop there. They continued to fight for LGBT rights, including rights for older LGBT Americans. They recognized the unique healthcare, social, emotional, and housing needs of our aging LGBT population, and they sought to help minimize these disparities.

I am honored to have introduced the Ruthie and Connie LGBT Elder Americans Act with my colleagues Congressman TED DEUTCH and Congressman CHARLIE CRIST. This legislation defines LGBT seniors as a vulnerable population, requires the Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary of Aging to collect data on the unique needs of this population, and provides grants for service organizations that are working to improve the health and long-term outcomes of the aging LGBT population.

Since Connie's passing, Ruthie has vowed to continue her activism. Ruthie said of her wife: "Connie took on responsibilities as an activist with the belief that her role had a beginning, a middle, and an end. Working to pass the Ruthie and Connie LGBT Elder Americans Act was Connie's last political action before she passed away on

May 27, 2018. I hope Congress will honor Connie by passing this law so, like Connie, all LGBT older adults can age with the dignity and respect they deserve. Let's make this happen."

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree with her more. Today, in honor of Connie's life, I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation. Together, we can take another step toward equality for LGBT older Americans.

HONORING CORPORAL JOSEPH MACIEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corporal Joseph Maciel of the Third Infantry Division, who died in the line of duty in Afghanistan on July 7.

Corporal Maciel was an excellent soldier who had served in the Army for 2 years in the Third ID. He had been stationed in Afghanistan since February of this year. His quality work ethic, positive attitude, and honorable service earned him a number of accolades, including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon. He was highly respected by his fellow soldiers.

Corporal Maciel's passing occurred during an insider attack in Afghanistan in which two other soldiers were wounded. As our soldiers risk their lives in Afghanistan and other nations to spread the values of democracy, we must keep our soldiers and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING CAPTAIN MICHAEL MCFADDEN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Michael McFadden of the Savannah Fire Department, who lost his life in the line of duty earlier this year at 44 years of age.

A life dedicated to public service, Captain McFadden served in the United States Marine Corps for 8 years before joining the Savannah Fire Department. His high level of training and successful missions allowed him to rise through the ranks from master firefighter to, eventually, captain.

Captain McFadden collapsed suddenly one day with a heart problem. Unfortunately, firefighters are at high risk for severe cardiac problems because of their strenuous physical activity, emotional stress, exposure to pollutants, and smoke inhalation.

With more than a million firefighters across the U.S., I hope that everyone will keep these brave men and women in their thoughts as they go to work each day to keep us and our communities safe.

Captain McFadden's family will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING RONNIE THOMPSON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of

Mr. Ronnie Wayne Thompson, who passed away Sunday, July 8, at the age of 71.

A lifetime resident of Savannah in Georgia's First Congressional District, Mr. Thompson is leaving a lasting legacy on the city. Mainly, he will be remembered for owning and operating the famous Mrs. Wilkes Boarding House restaurant, which serves some of the best home-style southern cooking in Savannah.

Founded by his grandmother-in-law, Mrs. Wilkes, Mr. Thompson did a seamless job of maintaining the quality of food and the southern atmosphere at the restaurant with which he worked for 40 years.

He was spotted often in downtown Savannah, enjoying coffee with friends, attending the St. Patrick's Day parade, and just generally making other people's days a little bit brighter.

He met his wife, Marcia, at the age of 12 on Tybee Island and spent a great deal of time there in his later years with his grandchildren.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, longtime Savannahian, small-business owner, husband, father, grandfather, and overall genuine person, Ronnie Thompson truly will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM RHODES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of regret that I cannot join family and friends of Jesse Thomas Rhodes, known as Tom, as he is laid to rest today.

Tom was, as he would often remind us, the first baby born on January 1, 1955, in Memphis, Tennessee. He is survived by his loving wife, Beth, and his children, Jessica and Robert.

Clarence Darrow once said: "Justice has nothing to do with what goes on in a courtroom; justice is what comes out of a courtroom."

Over the years, there has been many a lawyer in this great country who has dedicated his or her life to securing justice for their clients in courtrooms all across this land. Today, I pay tribute to those advocates and to Tom Rhodes, the lawyer.

Tom Rhodes was everything a lawyer should be. Tom Rhodes was a fierce advocate. Tom Rhodes was a compassionate counselor. Tom Rhodes was a consummate negotiator. Tom Rhodes communicated with a degree of clarity that always exposed the truth.

It was not his considerable courtroom presence, his skill as a lawyer, or the ferocity of his advocacy, however, that left such a lasting impression with most of the people with whom he crossed paths. Instead, it was his generosity and his infectious sense of humor that people will always remember.

He constantly made small gestures of kindness to total strangers. He went

out of his way to help family, friends, and the people who worked for him. He felt a constant need to give back to the community and to the world.

After the terror attacks of 9/11, he volunteered his services, representing the families of the victims. When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in Texas, he not only opened his wallet but donated his time, helping to get supplies to the people affected.

His firm has, for many years, sponsored the Respect Project in the San Antonio area, awarding monetary prizes to area elementary students based on essays regarding what it means to respect others.

He donated time and money to many other causes, such as halfway houses, women's shelters, and foundations providing a safe environment for children to reconnect with abusive parents.

For all of us, life is the final verdict. For the lawyer, there can be no better final verdict than that of his client, that he was a lawyer his client could always trust, that he was a lawyer his clients could always depend upon, that he was a lawyer his client always knew had his back. Without question, Tom Rhodes was that lawyer.

RECOGNIZING JONATHAN WALSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a conscientious young citizen in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who recently was named the Upper Bucks YMCA Role Model of the Year.

Jonathan Walsh of Quakertown received this award for his participation in the YMCA's Teen Fusion after-school program, where he stood out amongst his peers for his respect, his sense of responsibility, and his honesty. I commend Jonathan for this impressive achievement, and I look forward to seeing what this future leader will accomplish in the years ahead.

I also want to commend the Upper Bucks YMCA for recognizing Jonathan and wish this organization well as it celebrates its 50th year of service to the community. I would especially like to thank Upper Bucks YMCA Executive Director Pat Edwards and President of the Board of Directors Dale Westwood for all the work they do in our community.

RECOGNIZING JENNA RUFO AND TODD BAUER

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two education professionals in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, whose dedication to our community's students has led to their appointment as assistant superintendents for the North Penn School District.

Jenna Rufo and Todd Bauer were sworn in on July 9 at the Montgomery County courthouse and have recently accepted their new responsibilities.

Before becoming assistant superintendent, Jenna was the North Penn

School District's director of special education, while Todd served as principal of the North Penn High School. In their new roles, Jenna will focus primarily on school safety, mental health, professional development, and cultural issues; and Todd will focus on accountability, athletics, summer school, redistricting, and school board policies.

We commend these fine public servants for their work and wish them the best of luck as they begin this new chapter in their careers.

I also thank former Assistant Superintendent Diana Holben for her service as well and wish her all the best in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING MATT PHELAN

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated public servant in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. On July 3, Matt Phelan was officially sworn in as police chief of Tinicum Township by Magisterial District Judge Gary Gambardella. He had been serving as acting police chief since January, upon the appointment of James Sabath to chief of the New-town Borough Police Department.

The Tinicum Township Police Department hired Chief Phelan in 1998 at the age of 22, after he studied at Bloomsburg University and graduated at the top of his class from Temple Police Academy.

His record of selflessness, courage, and professionalism speaks for itself. In 2015, then-Sergeant Phelan prevented an armed home invasion suspect from fleeing the crime scene, risking his life in the pursuit of justice.

We congratulate you, Chief Phelan, on this well-deserved appointment, and we are grateful for your service to our community, along with the entire Tinicum Police Department.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S COMMENTS IN HELSINKI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, viewing Monday's display in Helsinki as a devastating manner is not exaggeration. It is not hyperbole. It is not exaggerating.

Frankly, I think it is important for the Congress to adhere to its responsibilities in Article I, which indicates that all legislative powers herein are vested in this Congress.

We must do our job on behalf of the American people.

So let me read: "President Trump, you first. Just now, President Putin denied having anything to do with the election interference in 2016. Every U.S. intelligence agency has concluded that Russia did. My first question for you, sir, is: Who do you believe?"

This is a reporter from the AP.

"My second question is: Would you now, with the whole world watching, tell President Putin—would you denounce what happened in 2016, and would you warn him to never do it again?"

The answer of the President of the United States: "So let me just say that we have two thoughts. You have groups that are wondering why the FBI never took the server. Why haven't they taken the server? Why was the FBI told to leave the office of the Democratic National Committee? I've been wondering that. I've been asking that for months and months, and I've been tweeting it out and calling it out on social media. Where is the server? I want to know, where is the server, and what is the server saying? With that being said, all I can do is ask the question."

"My people came to me. Dan Coats came to me, and some others, and they said they think it's Russia. I have President Putin; he just said it's not Russia. I will say this: I don't see any reason why it would be."

"But I really do want to see the server. But I have confidence in both parties. I really believe that this will probably go on for a while, but I don't think it can go on without finding out what happened to the server."

□ 1030

He goes on to say:

So I have great confidence in my intelligence people, but I will tell you that President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today.

And what he did is an incredible offer.

He offered to have his people working with our people. Thank you.

In response, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, a POW, said these words: "Today's press conferences in Helsinki was one of the most disgraceful performances by an American President in memory. The damage inflicted by President Trump's naivete, egotism, false equivalence, and sympathy for autocrats is difficult to calculate. But it is clear that the summit in Helsinki was a tragic mistake."

"President Trump proved not only unable, but unwilling to stand up to Putin. He and Putin seem to be speaking from the same script, as the President made a conscious choice to defend a tyrant against the fair questions of a free press and to grant Putin an uncontested platform to spew propaganda and lies to the world."

Let me remind you that the question of the reporter was: My first question to you, sir, is, who do you believe, Mr. President? My second question is: Would you now, with the world watching, tell President Putin would you denounce what happened in 2016?

It is clear that the Russians invaded and altered the election of 2016. It has been stated by our intelligence community, Director Coats, that at least they invaded and impacted and that they are doing it now.

It is time for the Congress to ask or subpoena the translator's notes. It is time for us to have a detailed relaying to the Congress, in a classified manner, what were the contents, what were the discussions, what were the agenda items, what was said in the meeting singularly by our President and President Putin. Then we must pass legislation for extreme sanctions on anyone