

Prior to this assignment, Ms. Walker served as Assistant Director of Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery from August 2014. She completed the National Cemetery Administration's comprehensive, year-long Cemetery Director Intern Program in August 2014.

Jeny is a pillar of her community and has brought much peace and comfort to Veterans and their families in the entire Northeastern Tennessee region. She has led significant improvement and expansion efforts at the cemetery to include an expansion project that doubles the size of the cemetery and will provide an additional 50 years of gravesite availability for veterans and their families. She also led her team to a recent National Cemetery Administration Organizational Assessment and Improvement award for exemplary performance in key management and operational areas such as customer service, cemetery service, and access to information. Jeny's enduring legacy includes a book she published about Mountain Home National Cemetery entitled, *A Book of Heroes: Discover Their Story, Honor Their Sacrifice*. In her three years as the Cemetery Director at Mountain Home, Jeny was driven to serve veterans and their families. She was a VA ambassador in the community and was led by the principles of servant leadership. When several headstones and monuments were vandalized at Old Gray Cemetery in Knoxville, Jeny organized a group of employee volunteers to spend a Saturday afternoon to share their expertise and repair the broken monuments and reset the headstones. This is a testament to the special kind of person Jeny is.

I include in the RECORD a message Jeny wrote her colleagues upon retirement:

Long ago and far away, working in my first cemetery as an intern, I found this on a headstone. I've kept it and read it often because it eloquently states exactly what I feel: Remember me. Think of me. Love me as you do now. Essentially nothing changes by my leaving. If I were to ask anything of you, it's that you pray I will have more time than I think I do. More time with family. More time having fun. More time to live. Much love for each of you, Jeny.

I am grateful for Jeny's service to veterans and wish her peace. She is in my prayers and in the prayers of so many. I'd also like to thank the National Cemetery Administration for sharing Jeny's background.

HONORING ELMER JOSEPH "ALMO" LORENZI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elmer Joseph "EJ" Lorenzi, an upstanding member of the Merced community, who has been recognized as "Man of the Year" for the 2018 Harvest of Hope by Catholic Charities of Merced.

EJ was born on May 18, 1931 at Mercy Hospital in Merced to Giuseppe and Rita Bernardi Lorenzi. Within a few, short years, it became clear that EJ was destined for an extraordinary life of serving others. His life-long dedication to service began at the age of 10, when EJ played the accordion for the United Service Organization to help raise money for war bonds.

From that moment, EJ's service and dedication to the Merced community never wavered. While he established himself as a mainstay in the business community, EJ's focus continued to be service. He has been a member of the 3rd degree and 4th degree Knights of Columbus Council 2384 for over six decades. He has served Merced with integrity and honor through the Merced City Chamber of Commerce, Merced Little League, and as Ambassador for the City Council of Merced.

EJ also served on many advisory boards in Merced County. EJ's tireless leadership as chairman of the advisory committee for Measure C was instrumental in passing the measure, which is expected to raise millions for the police and fire departments in Merced.

EJ has also been instrumental in restoring several historic buildings in Merced that were slated for destruction. Historic sites such as Bob Hart Square and Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, still stand today because of EJ's unwavering leadership.

EJ's service to his community has always been backed by his lovely family. EJ married his high school sweetheart Evelyn Weres in June of 1950. Together, EJ and Evelyn have five children, ten grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren, who will carry on the family's great legacy.

At the spry age of eighty-seven years old, EJ continues to serve his community however he can, guided by the same three principles that have followed him throughout his life: God family, and his Catholic faith.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the exceptional life of Elmer Joseph Lorenzi. I wish him and Catholic Charities of Merced the best as he is recognized for his contributions to our community.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF BRIDGETT "BIDDY" MASON

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of Bridgett "Biddy" Mason and to declare August 15, 2018 to be Biddy Mason Day in California's 44th Congressional District.

Whereas on August 15, 1818, Bridgett "Biddy" Mason was born into slavery in Hancock County Georgia.

Whereas at the age of 15, Biddy was given to the Smith family as a wedding present and moved from Mississippi to Utah, and eventually San Bernardino, California;

Whereas with the help of friends in California and despite challenges, Biddy Mason gained knowledge of her rights and fought to be freed from slavery;

Whereas 10 years after obtaining her freedom, Biddy Mason became a midwife, earning enough money to purchase her first piece of property on north Spring Street in Downtown Los Angeles where she served her community;

Whereas Biddy Mason became one of the first real estate moguls in Los Angeles and a stellar businesswoman;

Whereas in 1862 Biddy Mason, along with John Ballard, Jeremiah Redding, Charles

Owens, Louis Green, John Hall and Samuel Johns founded the historic First African Methodist Episcopal Church in her living room;

Whereas the date of August 15, 2018, marks the 200th Birthday of this remarkable woman; and

Now Therefore I declare and hereby recognize August 15, 2018 to be Bridgett "Biddy" Mason Day in the 44th Congressional District of California.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE AND JOHN HART

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Louise and John Hart of Winterset, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As the years pass, may their love continue to grow even stronger and may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many more years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

SALUTING SPC. CLAUDIA BRODEUR FOR HER DEPLOY- MENT WITH THE U.S. ARMY RE- SERVES

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Spc. Claudia Brodeur as she deploys to Africa as a member of the United States Army Reserves.

Spc. Brodeur, well-known by her community as a cheerful manager at the Pearl Street Pub in Watertown, New York, is off to Africa for her deployment as a proud member of the U.S. Army Reserves. A true patriot dedicated to both her local community and to her country, Spc. Brodeur will join the Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). Under the CJTF-HOA, the United States works with its African partner nations to counter violent extremist organizations in East Africa, as well as build defense capability among its East African partners. Spc. Brodeur will support this important mission as a member of an attachment to the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion in support of the Combined Task Force's mobilization and deployment efforts.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I want to join Spc. Brodeur's family and friends in wishing her well in Africa, and extend my thanks for her dedicated service to the United States.