

years of friendship and support. She has been a kindred spirit since we first met—she is more than a friend, she is family. I am grateful every day that she is always in my corner. Today, as she marks the end of one career and looks ahead to new opportunities, I am honored to stand and express my deepest thanks to Lyn Caliendo for her many invaluable contributions to our community. I wish her many more years of health and happiness as she embarks on this new chapter.

CONGRATULATING LTC(RET) NICHOLAS M. LAIACONA ON RECEIVING THE 2018 VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate LTC(Ret) Nicholas Laiacona on receiving the 2018 Veteran of the Year Award.

Each year, the Friends of the NYS Military Museum and the Capitol District of NY Chapter, Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) recognize an outstanding veteran from the local community. This year's awardee, LTC Laiacona, has made distinguished contributions to his country as a soldier and to his community as a veteran.

After entering the Army in 1966, LTC Laiacona served in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander in the Mobile Riverine Force of the 9th Infantry Division. He would later fulfill a number of assignments as a member of the Army's Ordnance Corps, and was selected as one of the first officers in the Army Acquisition Corps in 1985. By the end of his 24 years of service, LTC Laiacona had received numerous awards and decorations, among them the Purple Heart and Vietnam Service Medal with 4 stars.

LTC Laiacona's service to his country did not end with his retirement from the Army in 1991. His expertise has supported the work of the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, and he remains actively involved in several Veterans organizations, including the AUSA, where he formerly served as President of the Capital District Chapter and currently serves on its Executive Committee.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate LTC(Ret) Nicholas Laiacona on his well-deserved award of 2018 Veteran of the Year. We are thankful for his service and dedication to both his country and community.

HONORING ANNA SUTTON WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anna Sutton as a woman of the year. She is a healthcare professional who has dedicated her career to the care of mothers and children. From her work as a school nurse

to her current role as Director of Public Health Nursing at the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency, her goal has always been to improve the health and quality of life of families in her community. Ms. Sutton fulfills many roles, lending her time and expertise to the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program, the Yolo County Infectious Disease Programs, the Yolo County Help Me Grow Leadership Team, the Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Programs Benefitting Children Workgroup, Resilient Yolo, the American College of OB/GYNs Maternal Mental Health Expert Workgroup, and the Yolo County Maternal Mental Health Collaborative. As Chairwoman of the Yolo County Maternal Mental Health Collaborative, she has used her career expertise and firsthand experience as a mother to create an organization which promotes the health and wellbeing of new and expecting mothers. Under her leadership the organization has developed educational tools to create awareness of maternal mental health disorders and guide those in need to treatment. Her work gained recognition across disciplines and brought stakeholders together to create a common strategy for helping vulnerable mothers find help. Ms. Sutton dedicates her time, talent, and expertise to improving the health and wellbeing of mothers throughout Yolo County and works tirelessly to help particularly vulnerable mothers facing the stigma and isolation of maternal mental health disorders. Ms. Sutton is an integral part of Yolo County's outreach to mothers in need. She is continuously working to make a positive difference for mothers and children in her community and does so with unparalleled compassion and dedication.

HONORING TAMIE FRASIER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Tamie Frasier's retirement after twenty-four years in public service, ten of which she served as the Napa County Treasurer—Tax Collector.

Ms. Frasier is a fourth generation Napan, who is dedicated to our community. She has shown her commitment to Napa County throughout her twenty-four years working for the County, first as the Treasury Supervisor and then as the Assistant Treasurer—Tax Collector. In 2008, she became the Treasurer—Tax Collector. Throughout her tenure at the County, Ms. Frasier has worked to deliver the highest level of customer service for her fellow Napers. She has skillfully managed Napa County's funds, particularly during the Great Recession.

Ms. Frasier is always the first person to roll up her sleeves and help however she can, whether the person in need is a colleague or a taxpayer. She leads by example and never fails to pass up an opportunity to set an example of what professionalism and compassion in County Administration can, and should, be. Ms. Frasier has inspired her coworkers to provide a high level of service to their fellow residents of Napa County.

After working for Napa County for twenty-four years, Ms. Frasier has an impressive

breadth and depth of knowledge. She has taken it upon herself to share her insight by sitting on various panels whenever the opportunity arises. Ms. Frasier is also active in local and state-wide organizations. She is a past President and current Board Member of Soptimist International of Napa and the Bay Area Chair for the California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors. She is a member of the California Associations of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors and involved with the Government Investment Officers Association and California Municipal Treasurers Association.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Tamie Frasier has had a long and rewarding career in public service and Napa County is better for it. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

PRaising SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR, THE FIRST FEMALE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Among the 20th century trailblazers, Sandra Day O'Connor ranks among the greatest leaders.

It is a privilege to honor to this legal giant as we reflect on her career and commemorate her legacy as a path maker for women.

On October 23, 2018, Justice O'Connor courageously announced that she is suffering from early onset Alzheimer's disease and is retreating from public life.

Born in El Paso, Texas, on March 26, 1930, Sandra Day spent part of her youth on her family's Arizona ranch.

Her family instilled in her a love of education, but schooling options near the ranch were limited for a young woman so her parents sent her to live with her grandmother in El Paso where she excelled at the Radford School for Girls and graduated high school two years early.

After graduating from high school in 1946 and despite the probability that she might not be accepted because she was a woman, Sandra Day was accepted to Stanford University.

Sandra Day graduated in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in economics and was admitted to Stanford Law School where she was an editor of the Stanford Law Review.

Sandra Day graduated at the top of her law school class, finishing third in a class of 102 students, which included William Rehnquist whom she would later join as a colleague on the U.S. Supreme Court.

While a law student at Stanford, Sandra Day met her future husband, John Jay O'Connor III and the two were married shortly after graduation.

That union lasted for 57 years and produced 3 wonderful children: Scott O'Connor, Jay O'Connor, and Brian O'Connor.

After graduating from law school, Sandra Day O'Connor busily went about applying to law firms in San Francisco and Los Angeles,

but because of the sexism against women, could not get a paying job as a lawyer.

After turning down a paid position as a legal secretary, Sandra Day O'Connor began her legal career working as an unpaid attorney for the San Mateo County Attorney's Office, where quickly she proved her merit and eventually was promoted to Deputy County Attorney.

In 1954, Sandra Day O'Connor left California to work in Frankfurt, Germany as a civilian attorney for the Quartermaster Masker Center, a site abroad for the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps.

In 1957, she returned to the United States, settled in Arizona with her husband, and started a private practice with another attorney.

Eight years later, she began working as the Assistant Attorney General of Arizona.

In 1969, Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Arizona State Senate to fill a vacated seat and was elected to that seat in her own right in 1970.

Sandra Day O'Connor was reelected twice and was chosen by her colleagues to become the first female majority leader in any state senate.

In 1975, Sandra Day O'Connor won election to the Superior Court of Maricopa County, and was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court of Appeals four years later.

Sandra Day O'Connor served as an Arizona State Supreme Court Justice for only two years before President Ronald Reagan nominated her in 1981 to become the first female justice to serve on the United States Supreme Court.

Politically, she was canny—and exhibited it well during her Senate confirmation hearings.

She gracefully navigated politically precarious questions from senators but made her points, on national television, of noting her commitments to reduce crime and fix overloaded federal courts.

She was confirmed unanimously by the Senate.

Despite her breast cancer diagnosis and a mastectomy, Justice Day O'Connor did not miss a day of court.

Over the course of her 24 years on the court, the conservative justice became known as a moderating voice of reason.

Sandra Day O'Connor was known for being a majority builder whenever possible, but also for being a swing vote in critical cases such as *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 306 (2003).

It truly can be said that Justice Sandra Day O'Connor served as an inspiration for women around the world.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor broke down barriers for women in the legal profession to the betterment of that profession and the country as a whole.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor serves as a role model not only for girls and women, but for all those committed to equal justice under law.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable career and achievement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, an extraordinary American who was and remains an inspiration to millions of people all over the world.

RECOGNIZING THE 185TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JAMES AT SAG BRIDGE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LEMONT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor St. James at Sag Bridge Catholic Church on the parish's 185th anniversary. The oldest functioning church in northern Illinois serves almost 500 families who "bear witness to Jesus Christ by loving and serving one another to bring about the Kingdom of God."

St. James at Sag Bridge Church in Lemont is the sole country parish of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. In 1833 a rough log cabin served as the church building where Chicago's first resident priest John Mary Irenaeus St. Cyr held mass for both Irish immigrants and 300 local Potawatomi Native Americans. Twenty years later in 1853, with the congregation growing in size, Bishop James Oliver Van de Velde laid the cornerstone of a new building built with limestone from a nearby quarry. From there, St. James at Sag Bridge operated as a mission church until 1882, when Reverend Joseph A. Bollman became the first permanent pastor. Numerous additions have been made to the church and the parish grounds over the years, but the 1853 stone church building stands proud and tall today, a testament to the faith of all the parishioners who have worshipped here for all these years.

The church has survived numerous dangers, including not only harsh winters but also dynamite blasting of the nearby canal and a 1991 tornado that did serious damage to the church building. In doing so, the parish has established itself as a symbol of endurance and the church stands as an important heritage site. St. James at Sag Bridge and its neighboring cemetery are registered as parts of the Illinois and Michigan Canal Heritage Corridor, and in 1984, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

St. James' current pastor, Fr. Thomas Koys, maintains not only strong, faithful leadership of the parish, but has also founded the St. James Historical Society to celebrate the history of the church as well as the American history that the church has lived through. In July 2014, I had the honor of welcoming Fr. Koys as the Guest Chaplain in the House of Representatives where he delivered the day's opening prayer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. James at Sag Bridge Church and its parishioners on the 185th anniversary of the parish's establishment. I look forward to joining in the celebration.

ALAMO: PRESERVING HISTORY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Alamo is the most important place in Texas and in Texas History.

It is the definition of all things Texan.

It is about the people.

The Texians—The Tejanos who gave their last full measure of devotion to a cause greater than life itself—Liberty.

It is about the beginning of our 9 years as a sovereign Republic.

It is a symbol of the fierce independent streak that runs through our veins.

Behind those crumbling church walls of the Alamo, there is a spirit that has forever shown the world shown who we are as Texans—our character: defiant, bold, fearless, fighters for freedom.

The Alamo instills yet today an almost mystical spirit in all Texans native, and recent arrivals of pride.

187 Volunteers of all races; frontiersmen, lawyers, farmers, shopkeepers; men from Spain, Mexico, Germany, Scotland, England, most of the states and native Texians who were led by my hero Colonel William Barrett Travis, stood in righteous defiance against a dictator and tyranny.

Such men as Davy Crockett (Tennessee), José Gregorio Esparza (Tejano), James Bonham (South Carolina), James Bowie (Louisiana), and Brigido Guerrero (Mexican soldier that switched sides) and 180 more, stood their ground against the invaders.

All have personal stories.

Knowing and despite of the overwhelming odds, those Texians and Tejanos fell to their death rather than submit to oppression.

They first embodied the phrase "Don't Mess with Texas."

It is quite a remarkable story.

No people anywhere have such a history of how they all, gave all.

From the ashes of the burning Alamo—the phoenix of a republic was born, because of these Freedom Fighters of 1836.

After the Battle of the Alamo, Texas gained independence on the plains of San Jacinto where Sam Houston and his boys defeated the invaders.

Then, Texas remained an independent nation for nine years.

I first came to the Alamo as a kid in Mrs. Wilson's Texas history class in Houston.

A lot has changed since then.

It has changed even more since 1836.

There was no Five and Dime Woolworths store across the street.

Neither was there a tattoo parlor.

Colonel Travis didn't buy a \$54.99 combo ticket for Ripley's Believe It or Not either.

The years of encroachment and commercialization of sacred ground, where the blood of the Sons of Texas consecrated the land should be a deep concern for all Texans and Americans, not just the citizens of the great city of San Antonio.

As Land Commissioner George P. Bush said, "When people visit the Alamo, almost all are underwhelmed with the small size of the Alamo grounds."

Visionary, Land Commissioner George P. Bush has presented a bold plan to restore the Alamo battlefield to much of what it was in 1836.

I strongly support the efforts of Commissioner Bush, Mayor Nirenburg, and the San Antonio City Council on approval of the Alamo Master Plan to make sure Texans, and the world visitors know that our history is like no other place—because there is but one Alamo.

San Antonio recently approved leasing land to the State of Texas to implement this plan.