

Sydney Goldstein made a difference. With a deep belief in a brighter future, she used her enormous gifts and talents to expand community engagement with public conversations that were always relevant to current events.

Sydney Goldstein was a San Franciscan through and through. She was born on October 13, 1944 in our city of Saint Francis. Her father, Edward Goldstein, owned the Diamond Palace, at the corner of Fifth and Market streets. Her mother also came from a family of shopkeepers. Sydney graduated from Lowell High School and attended San Jose State, before leaving to begin a lifetime of service in the world of arts and culture.

Sydney began her career by organizing successful public events at the College of Marin, where she successfully brought visionary and legendary arts icons to the campus. She had a talent for knowing who to invite, what they brought to the table and how to organize and mobilize leaders with strong cultural resonance.

Following the success of planning public speaking events at the College of Marin, Sydney Goldstein went on to found the popular City Arts & Lectures series, hosting the series at the then-refurbished Herbst Theatre in the War Memorial Veterans Building for many years. For four decades, Sydney invited notable writers, critics, artists and musicians to share their insight and brilliance with the community.

Later, Sydney opened the Nourse Theater and doubled the capacity for the City Arts & Lecture Series with 1,600 seats. Sydney also partnered with KQED to broadcast the talks to the Bay Area, as well as more than 130 public radio stations nationwide. The partnership continues to this day, bringing learning and the arts to so many.

Sydney was an extraordinary woman, mother, partner and friend to many, who left this world with a phenomenal legacy of service.

Paul joins me in sending our deepest sympathy to Sydney's beloved husband Judge Charles Breyer, her children Kate and Joseph, her three grandchildren and her sister Dorian Lewis. May it be a comfort to Sydney's family and loved ones that so many mourn their loss and pray for them during this sad time.

#### HONORING JOHN VERNON

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Vernon, who was honored as Humboldt County Citizen of the Year on October 20, 2018, an award he richly deserves.

John Vernon and his wife Barbara bought a home in Ferndale in 2005 and became a resident there in 2011. The couple became involved in the community as Court Appointed Special Advocates. Mr. Vernon joined the Salt River Watershed Council as a board member in 2014, and also volunteered at the Ferndale Senior Resource Center.

John Vernon and a group of 40 friends from Ferndale formed Indivisible Ferndale after the 2016 presidential election. Under Mr. Vernon's leadership, Indivisible Ferndale began holding monthly potluck meetings and began orga-

nizing civic engagement activities. Indivisible Ferndale members started attending local school board and city council meetings, made phone calls and wrote letters to state and federal representatives expressing their views.

By 2018, Indivisible Ferndale became a 501(c)4 nonprofit, and under Mr. Vernon's leadership, the civic engagement of this group led to thousands of contacts with officials on a wide variety of issues. The membership of Indivisible Ferndale now numbers more than 60 people who actively engage with the community and elected representatives on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing deep appreciation for John Vernon's extraordinary devotion to the democratic process and congratulating him for his service to the North Coast community.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARY JANE JORDAN WILLARD

### HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Mary Jane Jordan Willard "SweetMoma," a native of New Orleans, Louisiana and an adored school teacher. She died on October 2, 2018 at the age of 83.

Mrs. Willard was born on November 1, 1935 in Crowley, Louisiana. Her parents were the late Mr. Abraham Jordan and Mrs. Marie Guillory Jordan. She was a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School and earned her B.A. degree (Magna Cum Laude) at the age of 54 from Southern University at New Orleans.

Mrs. Willard began assisting in the classroom as a volunteer when she realized her true calling. For several years she prepared students for their G.E.D. with the New Orleans Urban League Street Academy. She was also a counselor with the Louisiana Department of Family Services. For over 20 years she was a Social Studies instructor at Alfred Lawless and John McDonough High.

During Mayor Sidney Barthelemy's Administration, Mrs. Willard also founded and directed the Total Achievement Problem Prevention (TAPP) program, which operated at the St. Bernard Gym. Her program reduced the rate of young women dropping out of school and became a model for other programs throughout New Orleans.

Mrs. Willard loved the city and the people of New Orleans. Her legacy will forever be a part of the city and her dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Mrs. Willard, but surely, we can try to match her sense of service. We cannot match her courage, but we can strive to match her devotion.

Mrs. Willard's survivors include eight siblings. In 2012, she laid to rest the love of her life and husband of more than 60 years, Dr. Elliot C. Willard. From their union 12 children were born: Cynthia, Elliot Jr., Regina (Joseph), Jacinta, Walter, Christopher (Rhonda), Bernadette (Rufus), Dominic (Terrie), Martin (Nia), Benedict (Diane), Lucita, and Katherine. In addition, she has more than 40 grandchildren and more than 25 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mrs. Mary Jane Jordan Willard.

RETIREMENT OF DR. FRANCIS J. BONNER, PH.D.

### HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. Francis Bonner of Nashua, New Hampshire, for his forty-six years in education and enriching the minds of his students. Dr. Bonner has served as a professor and advisor for the last thirty-one years at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, where he begins an emeritus faculty position this month.

Dr. Bonner was born in Wilmington, Delaware and received his education from the city's Catholic schools. He remains an active alumnus of the Salesianum School, from which he graduated in 1951. He earned a Bachelor's of Science in Chemical Engineering in 1955 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Master's of Science in Chemical Engineering Practice in 1956. He went on to earn a Doctorate in Chemical Engineering from the University of Delaware in 1964. He then moved to Uppsala, Sweden with the intention of completing a post-doc, but stayed on, completing a PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Uppsala in 1967.

Dr. Bonner began his teaching career at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland, where he taught from 1972 until 1981. He and his family then moved to Nashville, Tennessee where he joined the faculty of Vanderbilt University. He remained there until 1987, when he relocated to New England to teach at what was then the University of Lowell, which later became a part of the University of Massachusetts system.

Dr. Bonner is an expert in his field, holds a number of intellectual properties, and has been published in several technical journals. In addition, he is the recipient of numerous awards, fellowships, and grants.

As Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori observed, "We discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being."

As a lifelong student, himself, Dr. Bonner knows this best. I know my colleagues join me in extending our deep gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Bonner for his exemplary service in education. We wish him well the best for his well-deserved retirement.

#### HONORING CLAUDIA THORNBERG

### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Claudia Thornberg for her contribution to our state and Randolph County.

Claudia has served in various positions in Randolph County throughout her career, including as Clerk of the Circuit Court and as the Voter Registration Deputy. She has made an incredible impact on her fellow Hoosiers through her service.