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 for 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 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, beginning monthly potluck meetings and began organizing 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 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, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana and an admired 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 Schools. 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 exactly 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 told her husband of her life and husband of more than 60 years, Dr. Elliott 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 two grandchildren and more than 25 great-grandchildren.

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

HONORING CLAUDIA THORNBG

HON. LUKE MESSER
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Mr. MESSE. 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 through her career, including Clerk of the Circuit Court and as the Voter Registration Deputy. She has made an incredible impact on her fellow Hoosiers through her service.