

served in congratulating him on pursuing a lifetime of passion and service and wish him continued personal success in his retirement.

HONORING DANNY HUSTON

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Danny Huston for his contribution to our state.

Danny is an institution in our state who has been dedicated to creating jobs in our community and around the county for years. He serves as the President of North American Midway Entertainment LLC, which is headquartered in Randolph County—within the 6th Congressional District. They operate the world's largest traveling outdoor amusement park, serving 15 million fairgoers every year.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Danny personally over the past few years. To me, Danny has been a close friend and trusted advisor during my tenure in Congress.

I want to thank Danny for his friendship and loyalty to me. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.

RECOGNIZING TERRAN RENEE TYLER FOR HER POEM ENTITLED, DADDY, I LOVE YOU, WELCOME HOME

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terran Renee Tyler for her poem entitled, Daddy, I Love You, Welcome Home. Terran is from Grants Pass, Oregon, and wrote this poem after joining an Oregon Honor Flight to the nation's capital with a group of World War II and Korean War veterans. She wrote this poem in honor of her father, SPC Tony Ryan Tyler, United States Army, and all veterans who lost their lives in service to our country in uniform. I'd like to include in the the RECORD the text of the poem.

Dear Stranger, I look around and take a deep breath staring up at the sky at another sunset. The band starts to play as another flag is raised over a fallen hero's grave. Nameless, faceless His story remains untold—Who is this stranger who died for me at just 28 years old? What were his hopes, his dreams? What did he have to go through so I could be free? So I could make my dreams a reality?

Dear Stranger, I may never know who you are, But I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. For every trial that tested your strength, And for every time you've lost your way, Thank you for all your tears and strife, Now here I sit at the end of a very hard life, I know there are many others out there like you, And for each one this word rings true, *Hero*, For no two stories are ever the same, And you don't even know many of these people's names, Like you, they are strangers just the same, Nameless, faceless, Yet driven by the fear in their eyes, You chose to stand and fight, It didn't mat-

ter that you too were afraid; It only mattered what was right, A false hero wouldn't have stayed, He wouldn't have willingly welcomed the grave, Thank you all heroes young and old, The men and the women, The living and the dead, For every one of your stories untold. For each hero, a million tears could be shed, But my dear stranger, I would rather celebrate you instead.

I finish my letter and tear it up, Then I toss it to the ground, as the wind picks up, Scattering the pieces. The sky's grown dark, And the stars are out, My dear stranger, are you up there now? Are you looking down on me, laughing, crying, smiling? Gazing out over the cemetery, I suddenly see, A million buried heroes, standing in uniform by their beds. They're each smiling, and one by one bowing their heads. As soon as I blink though, they all fade away, Leaving one lone hero standing by a grave. He salutes and looks me hard in the eye, I run to hug him, then start to cry, The wind whispers his name in my ear, The one etched in my heart, that I've longed to hear. Though I know I'm really standing there alone, I can't help but whisper, "Daddy I love you, welcome home".

In memory of SPC Tony Ryan Tyler, United States Army.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Terran for her thoughtful words recognizing the sacrifice of America's brave service members and their families. We owe them a profound debt of gratitude for their heroism in the defense of the freedoms and liberties we cherish as Americans.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD WATTENBARGER

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Donald "Don" Wattenbarger. This October, Don celebrated his 50th year of service as a member of Oildale Mutual Water Company's Board of Directors, marking a significant milestone in a lifelong career of distinguished service to his community.

Born in the City of Tulare in California's Central Valley, when he was five, Don's family moved to Bakersfield where he established roots that have lasted a lifetime. It was in Bakersfield where Don attended school, met and married his beloved wife, Connie, raised his four children, and made a name for himself in our local business community as a general contractor.

However, Don's most lasting impression on the Kern County community has been his longstanding role on the Oildale Mutual Water Company (OMWC) Board of Directors. First elected in 1968, Don applied his personal character and integrity, as well as the skills and talents accrued over his career as a general contractor, to revolutionize the way OMWC conducted business, starting with constructing a new building for the company. When he was first elected to the Board of Directors, OMWC struggled to pay its employees, who helped service the company's 5,000 customers. Today, OMWC employees receive lifetime company healthcare coverage and the company's customer base has more than doubled to 11,000 today. This is in no small part because of Don's leadership, and his constituency agrees: as an OMWC Board member,

Don has successfully been re-elected every year for half of a century.

Don Wattenbarger is a shining example of exemplary public service, and it has been an inspiration to watch his leadership at OMWC over his many years of service. I recall a time when it was suggested that OMWC raise its rates to solve a \$4.5 million short fall. Don refused to pass the buck on to his customers and resolved to work with his colleagues on the Board to solve the problem in a manner that was fair to the community. For me, this story best exemplifies the type of man Don is: responsible, ethical, and determined. It is my hope that the career Don has built these past 50 years on the board serves as an example for those seeking to serve their community, and Judy and I wish him all the best as he continues his work for many more years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFF GEE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jeff Gee who is leaving the city council of Redwood City, a community he has served as a councilmember since 2009. He has also served twice as Mayor, in 2014 and 2015. However, the beginning of his public service was 20 years ago when he served on the Architectural Review Board and later on the Planning Commission. He was particularly well prepared for the city council when he entered office during that difficult year of 2009.

Redwood City is growing rapidly under global influences. It is also composed of young and old, many families and newly-arrived singles. According to the Census Bureau, its population has increased 15% since Jeff Gee joined the council. Box.com, Google, dozens of pharmaceutical and biotechnology startups, two major hospitals, a shipping port, and a regional transportation hub now fuel the city's growth.

In the downtown area, thousands of new apartments dot the landscape. During the Great Recession, the city council adopted a downtown plan that offered 20 years of planning certainty to potential investors. When the economy took off, developers created 20 years of growth in less than a decade. Jeff and his colleagues on the council played a major role in shaping the modern downtown of Redwood City.

On the east side of Highway 101 is a road lined with trailer parks. During his time on the council, Jeff was a strong advocate for residents whose trailer parks became filled with floodwaters during severe winter storms. His advocacy led to an effort by multiple agencies to construct the Bayfront Canal project which will allow water to be accepted by the existing canal and to be funneled to an adjacent salt pond to prevent flooding of the residents. These parks, which I have personally toured, are filled with children and hardworking heads of households. They owe Jeff Gee a major vote of thanks for his efforts to normalize their lives.

In addition to local advocacy, Jeff represented Redwood City and San Mateo County on numerous multi-jurisdictional and regional boards. Among his thousands of hours