

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MRS. GEORGIA M. GAINES

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Georgia M. Gaines, a native of Litcher, Louisiana and retired school teacher. Mrs. Gaines passed away Thursday, November 29, 2018 at the age of 96.

Mrs. Gaines was born in 1922. Her parents were the late Mr. George Chriswell, an entrepreneur and insurance agent, and Mrs. Alma Berry Chriswell, an elementary school principal and education pioneer. She attended McDonald #35 High School in New Orleans, Louisiana because there were no local high schools in St. James Parish for African-Americans.

In 1944, Mrs. Gaines earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. While a student at Southern University, she was a proud member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and a student assistant to the wife of Southern University President Dr. Felton G. Clark.

Upon graduation, Mrs. Gaines taught in the Lake Charles public schools. She later returned to St. James Parish and began teaching locally. In 1949, she married Mr. Leroy Gaines, a Texas transplant to the Litcher area.

After thirty years of teaching at St. James High School, Mrs. Gaines retired from the St. James Parish School System. She also worked for the State of Louisiana as an Assistant Director of the Litcher Day Care Center.

Mrs. Gaines was an individual of vision, integrity, pride in family and an endearing asset to her community. Her legacy will forever be a part of the city and her dedication to community embodies the spirit of Louisiana. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Mrs. Gaines, 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. Gaines's survivors include daughters: Debora Gaines, Karen Gaines and Wanda (Danny) Manuel. Sons: Randal Gaines, Darrel (Tilda) Gaines and Daren (Vanessa) Gaines. Ten grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, including Edna Berry Anderson, and other relatives and friends, including Martha Ray Branch. She was preceded in death by her parents, George Chriswell and Alma Berry Chriswell, her husband, Leroy Gaines, and her granddaughter, Tene' Lemar.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mrs. Georgia M. Gaines.

HONORING BRIAN AND CHRISTINE
BRAMMER

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 Brian and Christine Brammer for their contribution to our state.

We first met over a decade ago, as the Brammers were our friends and neighbors who lived two houses down from our home in Shelbyville. Brian is a CPA and a partner at Brammer & Yeend Professional Corporation, which provides accounting services to small businesses and individuals. Like me, Brian overachieved in marriage. His wife, Christine, is very involved in the local community and worked with my wife Jennifer at the local non-profit, Girls Inc. of Shelbyville. Brian also serves on the Board at Girls Inc. Brian and Christine are the proud parents of two great kids—Jack and Katie.

The Brammers were among my earliest supporters in my political journey in Congress. I want to thank them for their friendship and loyalty to me over all these years. The Messer family cherishes the time we get to spend with them and wish Brian, Christine, Jack and Katie all the best in whatever God has planned for their family.

HONORING BROOKS CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brooks Construction Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Brooks Construction recently received the HIRE Vets Medallion Program award. The HIRE Vets program, administered by the Department of Labor, recognizes businesses for their commitment to recruiting, employing and retaining veterans. Brooks Construction was recently awarded a gold medal in the medium employer category.

Brooks Construction Company was founded in 1909 by John Foster Brooks and has served our community well for over a century. Today, Brooks Construction is a leader in road construction and repair in northeast Indiana. In addition to its commitment to our veterans, Brooks Construction has supported many local charities and organizations in the greater Fort Wayne area.

I applaud Brooks Construction Company for its commitment to our veterans. As a member of the House Veterans Affairs committee and a veteran myself, I am pleased to see northeast Indiana embracing the unique skills that our veterans bring to the workforce. I applaud the efforts of companies like Brooks Construction to hire the men and women that have given so much to serve our nation. Congratulations to Brooks Construction Company and I thank them for their commitment to our veterans and our community.

MAY'S BREXIT DEAL IS BAD FOR
BRITAIN AND AMERICA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our British allies are making a bad deal. The current Brexit deal that Theresa May's government

has made with the European Union could position the United Kingdom as a de facto colony, where it is subject to EU rules but without any vote. Essentially this would be worse than Britain staying in the EU. Moreover, it could damage the strong economic ties we hold with our closest allies, meaning Americans could end feeling the sting of a bad Brexit deal.

When the British people made the choice to depart from the European Union in 2016, I applauded their decision. Great Britain—which has always stood apart from the continent in its traditions, politics, values, and character—has reasserted its sovereignty with the historic Brexit referendum. Membership in the EU had come at too large a cost to Britain, and the British people have decided to determine they want to chart their own course into the future—not have it determine for them by Brussels. Therefore, as a steadfast ally and friend of the United Kingdom, America should support their decision.

The current proposal, however, could come at a cost to our economic relationship with Britain. Under Prime Minister May's deal, there will be a two-year transition period before the UK can fully separate from the EU which beholds Britain to EU regulations without a vote. During that time Britain will be able to negotiate new trade deals but cannot implement them until 2021. This means even if the U.S. and UK sign a new free trade pact—which we absolutely should—that it will collect dust while Britain is left at the EU's mercy. There is a chance that if the UK and EU do not agree to a new trade deal that the transition period then extends thus further delaying implementation of a new trade pact with the U.S. Meanwhile, Britain's economy suffers.

America needs a strong Britain. The British people have stood by us on our most trying days and are often the first to pledge their support when we act to confront the world's most complex challenges. There is no nation on Earth that is as indispensable to our security and prosperity as the United Kingdom. Any arrangement that potentially weakens Britain's sovereignty or economic well-being is counter to America's interests. For the sake of our alliance, this current Brexit bad deal should not go through.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING KAAREN ANN STASKO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Kaaren Ann Stasko on her retirement after twenty years of service as an Office Technician for the Fire Marshal's Office of CalFire.

Ms. Stasko was born in Oakland, California on March 21, 1942. As a child, she attended schools in Crockett, California. Ms. Stasko was the first in her family to graduate from college. She took classes part-time while working full-time to earn an Associate's Degree at the age of fifty-seven.

Ms. Stasko has been a dedicated volunteer in our community since she was a child. In her youth, she was an active Camp Fire Girl, as well as a Counselor in Training Camp Gold Hollow. When her children were in high