

Frazier B. Baker Post Office". This bill pays a tribute to a true American hero.

Frazier B. Baker was appointed Postmaster of Effingham, South Carolina in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison, and in 1897, he was appointed Postmaster of Lake City, South Carolina by President William McKinley.

After Baker was appointed Postmaster of Lake City, local citizens in the predominantly white community subjected his family to months of hostility. The post office mysteriously burned down, and multiple gunshots were fired at him. Residents filed numerous complaints regarding his performance as postmaster, but federal postal administrators determined the allegations were unsubstantiated.

After relocating the post office to his family's home following the previous arson, a lynch mob set fire to it the morning of February 22, 1898. The mob aimed their guns at the home, killing Baker and his two-year-old daughter Julia and injuring his wife and three of his five surviving children. The attack sparked media attention, public uproar, and fundraising efforts on behalf of the Baker family.

Although the state of South Carolina failed to prosecute the mob; federal prosecutors and postal administrators took on the murder investigation. Thirteen men were arrested and charged with twenty-four criminal counts including "a conspiracy to injure and oppress Frazier B. Baker in the free exercise" of his civil rights. The trial began on April 10, 1899 in Charleston, South Carolina with an all-white jury which acquitted three and deadlocked on the remaining accused. The judge declared a mistrial and federal prosecutors did not reopen the case.

Justice was never served for Frazier B. Baker and his family. Designating the U.S. Post Office located at 226 West Main Street in Lake City, South Carolina in his honor is a fitting tribute to his memory.

I thank my colleagues in the South Carolina delegation for their unanimous support of this bill. I urge its passage by the House to honor this outstanding South Carolinian and great American.

IN RECOGNITION OF BILL SLATON

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bill Slaton as he retires from his post as Board Member of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Slaton for his leadership and commitment to the residents of Ward 7 and all of California.

Mr. Slaton was elected to the SMUD Board in November 2002 and has been a diligent leader and representative for the many residents in Ward 7. As a testament to his dedication, Mr. Slaton has served as the Board president three times.

Mr. Slaton's career began after he graduated from the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. His career in the Sacramento region has been a testament to public service. For years, he served on the Policy Makers Council (PMC) of the American Public Power Association and acted as a strong advocate for customers of

more than the 2,000 public power agencies. Additionally, he has sat on the board of directors for two community banks where he was instrumental in structuring financing for information technology projects utilized by public agencies. In 2012, Mr. Slaton continued his work in advocacy for Californians when he was appointed by Governor Brown to the California Public Employees Retirement System Board of Administration.

Since he has lived in the Greater Sacramento Region, Mr. Slaton has been an inspiring leader for our faith-based community and all who live in the greater region. He served as the chairman of the board of KVIE-Channel 6 and has been a beloved member of Point West Rotary. As a leader in our robust faith community, Mr. Slaton acted as the president of the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region and is a co-founder of the Jewish Community Foundation of the West.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends and fellow SMUD Board Members gather to celebrate Mr. Slaton's inspiring career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring his dedication to the Board and to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN SEYBERT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Seybert who is leaving the city council of Redwood community, he has served as a councilmember since 2009. He also served as Mayor from 2015 to 2017. His public service began in 2001 when he joined the Planning Commission. When the Great Recession arrived, John stepped up to the challenge as he joined the city council and was immediately confronted with difficult choices to make in the city's budget. His candidacy for council was a very important act of leadership during a time of great stress.

John is passionate about people, buildings, and the quality of life of city residents. He initially moved to Redwood City to lead the development of housing for his then-employer, and he never departed from that commitment to people and their basic needs. Under the leadership of John and his fellow councilmembers, they devised a way to encourage housing development in the downtown that has led to an increase of thousands in the city's core.

Where once the city's downtown was known locally for its bleak storefronts and failing attractions, today's downtown Redwood City is vibrant, bustling and attractive to families and to young people alike. From the major cinema to the history museum to the entry of major employers such as Box.com, John has played a decisive role in ensuring that Broadway moved from darkened storefronts into a blaze of prosperous businesses and nighttime lights and joyous visitors.

I want to note that it takes an especially dedicated local official to join the board of directors of a wastewater treatment entity. John joined with relish and brought his building experience to bear on the board of the Silicon Valley Clean Water Agency. During his service, major upgrades of the system were com-

menced or completed and the agency's finances remained sound despite the challenges of a recession and the ever-present threat of litigation.

John also served on the council's utilities committee, personnel committee, city-owned property committee, and the 101/Woodside Road Interchange Committee. He served on the Airport Land Use Committee, the Belmont/Redwood Shores School District Committee, and on the board of our local housing non-profit, HEART.

In his regular work, John is the facilities manager for our public transit agency, SamTrans. His professional and public work are only made possible by the support of his wife, Donna, as well as his daughters Jessi, Heather and Megan, and his granddaughter, Molly. John's life is full by any measure.

As we take the measure of departing city councilmember John Seybert, I want to note that he's been a thoughtful and respectful colleague and representative. It may be difficult to serve in public life during our modern era, but John has demonstrated that service may be performed in such a manner as to build the public's confidence in the institution of local government. The residents of Redwood City and the county owe John Seybert thanks for his example, and we wish him well as he removes himself from the dais to begin the next phase of his life, that of private citizen deeply dedicated to the public's best interests.

HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH

SPEECH OF

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2018

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of President George Herbert Walker Bush. A patriot and family man, the 41st President of the United States served his country honorably throughout his decades of public service. From the House of Representatives to the White House, he was a man of character who instilled strong conservative values in his leadership.

In 1942, just 6 months after Pearl Harbor, the loss of life and destruction motivated the future president to join the Navy on his 18th birthday. He would become one of the youngest aviators in our country's history; having completed his training, he was commissioned just three days before turning 19 years old. In 1944, he and his crew would partake in the Battle of the Philippine Sea, a crucial battle of WWII that disabled Japan's ability to conduct large-scale aircraft carrier operations. At just 19 years old, he risked his life and took a stand for democracy, a part of the greatest generation who heard and answered the call of duty.

Piloting his own airplane, a Grumman TBF Avenger, the young aviator and his crew took heavy fire near the Bonin Islands during a bombing run. His airplane was damaged and the engine caught fire as he attempted to maneuver away from the fight after successfully dropping his payload. Unfortunately, he was the only aviator to escape with his life of those shot down during that bombing raid. Awaiting rescue in the waters of the Pacific after his

plane went down, George H.W. Bush would emerge from this profound experience further motivated to give back to his country and would go on to serve in many capacities to our nation's benefit. He always questioned that day, and why he was the one to survive, and I quote

“Why had I been spared and what did God have in store for me? In my own view there's got to be some kind of destiny and I was being spared for something on Earth.”

It was during the Second World War where he met the love his life, Barbara Pierce, and they would have 6 beautiful children together. After the war George H.W. Bush enrolled in Yale, graduating early in an accelerated economics program while captain of the baseball team. He would go on to play in the first two Collegiate World Series as a first baseman. Upon graduation, the family relocated to West Texas where he began in the oil industry working his way up from an equipment salesman to president of his own company. Young and ambitious, Mr. Bush would begin his political career in the 1960s with the Harris County Republican party, and the rest is history.

George H.W. Bush was an inspiration and role model to so many wanting to join public service and make our country a better place, including myself. A member of the Texas State House at the time of his presidency, it

was a privilege to see a fellow Texan so passionate and determined to leave our country a better place than when he started. His presidential legacy began on January 20, 1989, when he addressed the country as our 41st President. In his inaugural address, he spoke about the tremendous power placed into the hands of the president. His first act was asking the country to join him in prayer where he emphasized the importance of wielding this incredible power bestowed upon him to help people, and he embodied these words throughout his tenure.

Reflecting upon the major accomplishments of President George H.W. Bush, one of his defining moments was signing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law in 1990. The ADA enacted protections and vital reforms for those with physical and/or mental disabilities. His son, President George W. Bush, would later sign the ADA Amendments Act into law in 2008. It expanded the definition of disability and increased protections for many others.

Another notable event of George H.W. Bush's presidency was his leadership during the Gulf War. Iraq, led by Saddam Hussein, had invaded Kuwait in the summer of 1990 and occupied most of the country. The events quickly escalated while President Bush began to rally support from our allies across the

world, forming a unified front against Iraq's aggressive actions. In January of 1991, U.S. involvement in the Gulf War began with an extensive aerial bombardment, and proceeded into an intensive ground campaign that resulted in the liberation of Kuwait in late February of 1991. President Bush saw the incredible threat to freedom and democracy that Saddam Hussein presented, and knew that the military might of the United States was necessary to stifle the Iraqi army's advancements, and free Kuwait of potential tyranny.

While I could continue down the long list of his accomplishments and incalculable contributions, George H.W. Bush made a real difference at home and abroad. He understood the strength of community and wanted to use the power of the people to help each other and solve community issues as part of his Thousand Points of Lights Theme. Our nation is lucky to have had such a sensible man serve as our President. God Bless President George H.W. Bush and the positive impact he made for so many along the way.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the lasting legacy and distinguished service of President George Herbert Walker Bush.