

brought Tehran to heel and opening the door for Russia, China, and the Europeans to do business in Iran. Obama also ceded physical territory to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its proxies by not contesting their growing activity in Syria and Yemen and withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq. The resulting instability led to ISIS's rise and a secure land route from Tehran to Beirut from which the IRGC could move recruits and weapons to Israel's borders. These policies of appeasement have created a powder keg that could erupt into regional war.

At a recent hearing before my subcommittee, the Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the State Department, Amb. Nathan Sales, testified that Iran spends \$1 billion-per-year funding its various terrorist proxies in the Middle East. This sum pales in comparison to how much we spend to deploy forces to the region, assist allies, conduct diplomacy, and gather intelligence. Yet, Iran is gaining ground. How is this possible? For one reason, Iran's march of terror is cheap and adaptive, using low-cost arms, violent coercion, disinformation, and crime to operate. Meanwhile, we chose to play by the rules and attempt to rebuild what Iran and other terrorists destroy. It's far cheaper and easier to destroy than to build. And unlike our efforts during the early Cold War, in the Middle East we are attempting to build or reinforce institutions that either never existed or are plagued with corruption.

But this doesn't mean American taxpayer dollars are spent in vain. For example, few would argue that the U.S.'s largest foreign assistance program, \$3.8 billion-per-year in military financing to Israel, is money wasted. Rather, that money ensures Israel holds a military edge over Iran and its terrorist allies thus preventing the Mullahs from ever achieving one of their core objectives: the extermination of Israel. Just weeks ago, Palestinian terrorists backed by Iran, fired dozens of rockets into Israel. 120 of those rockets were intercepted by Iron Dome, a missile defense system paid for and jointly developed through American assistance. Moreover, the Israelis are not sitting idly by as Iran masses forces on its northern borders. Since 2013, Israeli warplanes and missiles, subsidized by U.S. taxpayers, have struck dozens of Iranian and Hezbollah convoys transporting weapons to Lebanon or the Golan Heights.

Action by Israel is effective but limited. For example, recent reports indicate the IRGC is utilizing the territory it controls in Iraq and Syria to position ballistic missiles that can target Israel, Saudi Arabia, and our forces in the region. Finding and striking these missiles is an enormous challenge for Israel and could have ramifications for Americans stationed in those countries. Instead, it is up to America to contest Iran's grip on these arenas by empowering local actors and demonstrating American resolve.

So far, however, the State Department has done the opposite by resisting Congressional efforts to designate Iran's most lethal Iraqi proxies, such as Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq and Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba, and shutting the American consulate in Basra, Iraq. Such action demonstrates to Iran that it need only threaten an American diplomatic post and the U.S. will retreat, ceding more space for them and their proxies. Tragically in the case of Basra, we are abandoning Iraqis who courageously took to the streets to protest Iran's

meddling in their country. Simultaneously U.S. forces in Syria are trying to prevent a war between our Kurdish and Turkish allies that has allowed ISIS to survive and Iranian weapon shipments to pass by unmolested.

Only when we tackle these local challenges can we dislodge Iran. To do so requires us to make hard choices and strategies with potentially more costs. But if countering Iran's expansionism is truly our objective, we must show commitment to partners on the ground that we are willing to confront Iran alongside them. Until then a storm is gathering that will inevitably pull Americans back into a long and difficult war.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF MR. RICHARD L. CLEMENS' LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a dedicated community leader and public servant of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. In life, Mr. Richard L. Clemens demonstrated tremendous compassion, bravery, and selflessness through his commitment to family and civil service.

Mr. Clemens was born to Ruby Weber Clemens and John R. "Jack" Clemens on April 4, 1945 in Marshall, Missouri. A former graduate of Marshall High School, Mr. Clemens would go on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Missouri Valley College in 1967. Through his newly acquired degree, he would go on to serve as an auditor for the United States Department of Agriculture Inspector General, where shortly thereafter he would meet his wife and lifelong partner, Nellie. Born and raised in Marshall, Mr. Clemens was well-known to the people of his hometown as many were his friends, neighbors, and members of his congregation.

When called upon, Mr. Clemens stood tall and proud to serve his country during the Vietnam War in 1968, and again in 1969. His service to our country didn't end there, as he continued to show pride and dedication to assisting his brothers in arms by serving as a member and officer of the American Legion Post No. 191 and as the Senior Vice-Commander of the V.F.W. Post No. 2646.

Mr. Clemens had many goals in life apart from serving our country and the people as an auditor. From 1975 to his retirement, he owned and operated Clemens Circle C Farm while holding various organizational and local governmental positions. His interests and determination led him to hold many positions such as Chairman of the Saline County Republican Central Committee, President of the Saline County Fair Board, and the Saline County Extension Council. Furthermore, his dream of serving his community in an elected position was fulfilled in 2016, when he was elected the Saline County Northern District Commissioner. These notable positions are only a few of the many roles Mr. Clemens has held within the community, yet they illustrate his unremitting passion and devotion for the people and community he represented.

He is preceded in death by his parents and the love of his life, Nellie. He is survived by

his two daughters, Anna Clemens Gass and Rebecca Clemens; his four grandchildren, Abigail, Vivian, Simeon, and Lilian; his brother, George Clemens; and his nieces, nephews, and cousins. Though he is dearly missed, his legacy of love, respect, and high esteem by his family, peers, and community remain. Mr. Clemens is revered for his impressive leadership, his lively personality, and commitment to his community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring the memory and life of Mr. Richard L. Clemens. His upstanding contributions and service to the Marshall community and our country are beyond worthy of this commemoration. It is with great respect that I urge all my colleagues and fellow citizens across the country to join me in showing our appreciation to Mr. Clemens and sending our deepest condolences for his family, friends, and community.

HONORING BRUCE MACRAE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Long Beach, California legend, Bruce MacRae. Bruce is a longtime employee of the United Parcel Service (UPS) and is currently Vice President of State Government Affairs for California and the Western Region of the United States. In this role is where our lives originally intersected. My relationship with Bruce has kept me grounded during my time in elected office and his friendship is one that will continue (even though our days of smoking cigars are less frequent).

Bruce grew up in Long Beach and graduated from Wilson High School. He started his career with UPS in the area, at the Anaheim package facility in 1979. Bruce rose through the ranks as a driver and took on a management position in 1987 which was the catalyst to his success as a Government Relations executive.

As a result of Bruce's professional success and his free loving personality, philanthropy has been a natural pursuit. Bruce is a Long Beach City College Board member, Long Beach Police Foundation president, and generous donor to the Long Beach City College's athletic department. These accolades along with his big personality donned him the title of "Legend" in a Long Beach Post article in 2015.

As with any life there are ups and downs. In 2015, Bruce suffered a heart attack while in Phoenix for work. It was a grounding experience for everyone that knows and cares about Bruce. At that moment, we all truly realized how much Bruce means to the Long Beach community and the level of respect that people have for him. As you would expect from someone of Bruce's character, he recovered from open heart surgery seamlessly.

I am proud to call Bruce a friend and I am grateful for his companionship throughout my years in public service. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Bruce MacRae for his contributions to Southern California, our state, and nation.

PASSING OF CHARLES C. MESSICK

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, well known farmer, beloved family patriarch and loyal friend, Charles C. Messick, born in Yuba City, CA, on April 28, 1935, passed away November 25, 2018. Chuck was active in many farm and community organizations. He was instrumental in organizing the California Prune Bargaining Association, as well as the Walnut Bargaining Association and was a Director on the California Peach Association Board. He was elected to the Farm Credit Board of Directors, and served as Chairman of the Board for a term. Governor Ronald Reagan appointed him to the Yuba Sutter Fair Board in 1972. He was a charter member of Sutter Buttes Sunrise Rotary, a Paul Harris Fellow and served as President in 2004 through 2006. He looked forward each year to acting as marshal of the Fairway to Health golf tournament benefiting the Rideout Hospital Foundation.

As his five children were growing up, Chuck was an active volunteer and leader in the Hallwood 4-H Club, Marysville Little League and Marysville High School Boosters' Club.

He is survived by his wife Shiela; sisters, Marilyn Kirby (Sparky) of Yuba City and Carol Howell of Sparks, Nevada; daughters Sharyl Messick-Menconi (Jim) and Beth Aldridge (Chuck) of Yuba City; sons, Charles Messick of LaPorte, Michael Messick (Loré) and Jon Messick (Amy) of Marysville; grandchildren, Andrea Brown, David Brown, Shayla West, Kelly Messick, Mattea Spradling, Jim Messick, Matthew Messick, Ben Neighbors, Rachel Dawson, Kayla Legaspi, Charlie Messick, Hailey Messick, Thomas Messick, Jackson Messick, Owen Messick, Noah Messick, Sydnia Aldridge, Kate Aldridge and Sarah Aldridge. He had twelve great-grandchildren.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JERRY O'BANION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Merced County Supervisor Jerry O'Banion. On December 18, 2018, Mr. O'Banion retired from the Merced County Board of Supervisors after 28 incredible years of service.

Mr. O'Banion was born and raised in Dos Palos, California on the westside of Merced County. Having grown up seeing his father, Emory O'Banion, serve as a county supervisor for the westside communities, Mr. O'Banion saw the importance of public service early on. In 1964, he graduated from Dos Palos High School and continued his education at Fresno State, where he earned a BA in General Sciences and an Agricultural Education Credential in 1969.

After serving 6 years in the National Guard and as a 4-H youth advisor in Fresno County from 1969 to 1973, Mr. O'Banion returned to Merced County where he would soon begin his distinguished career of public service.

Mr. O'Banion was elected to the Dos Palos City Council in 1980 and served in that role until being elected as the city's mayor in 1987. Three years later, he was elected to the Merced County Board of Supervisors to represent the county's westside communities of Dos Palos, Los Banos, and Santa Nella. During his time on the Board of Supervisors, Mr. O'Banion has served as chairman numerous times, including this year of his retirement.

Mr. O'Banion's 28-year tenure on the Merced County Board of Supervisors makes him the second-longest serving county supervisor in the State of California. In each of the offices Mr. O'Banion has held, he has had the honor to represent the places where he grew up. At the same time, he has also raised an amazing family in those communities.

Together, Mr. O'Banion and his wife of 50 years, Dollie, have three children and eight grandchildren, all of whom have always been supportive of his service to the community and helped to carry on the proud legacy of the O'Banion family.

In retirement, I am sure Mr. O'Banion will continue to exhibit the same level of unwavering leadership and commitment present throughout his career as he continues to serve the various local organizations he's involved with and his family's business, O'Banion Ranches, Diversified Farming.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the exemplary career of a Merced County Supervisor Jerry O'Banion. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor a man who has spent a lifetime advocating for Merced County's westside. I wish him and his family the best as he retires from a highly accomplished career in public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUE DIGRE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sue Digre for her 16 outstanding years of service on the Pacifica City Council, three times as mayor. Sue's compassion for others and her love of community have shaped her public service and dedication to keep Pacifica a livable and lovable town on the edge of the Pacific Ocean. It is her firm belief that Pacifica's environment with stunning ocean views, coastal hills, and family-friendly neighborhoods is its most valuable asset.

Sue deserves much credit for the current upgrades and repaving of Highway 1 by Caltrans. This ambitious project will renew ten miles of Highway 1 from Gray Whale Cove to the Highway 1/280 interchange, the first time in over 20 years that the main road through Pacifica will be repaved end-to-end instead of in sections. The finished project will be hugely beneficial to the 250th Commemoration of the Ohlone-Portola Heritage Trail in 2019, an event Sue has lobbied for since 2014.

Sue was also instrumental in helping the Pacifica Historical Society turn the Little Brown Church into a beautiful coastal museum and event space. The Manor Beach Park, brainchild of the late Councilman Jim Vreeland, was completed in part due to Sue's efforts.

A tireless advocate for our youth, Sue feels it is important that they be given an oppor-

tunity to speak for themselves. She helped create the Youth Advisory Board in 2011, and a representative of the board now has a seat on the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission. She supported TRUST, Teens are Unbelievably Strong Together, in their work surveying transportation needs for youth and seniors which temporarily led to shuttles in Pacifica.

Sue understands that small businesses are the lifeblood of her town and has consistently listened to their owners' needs. She also spearheaded Pacifica's membership in the San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Visitors Bureau which brings the town attention from visitors throughout the region.

While Pacifica's geography makes it one of the most spectacular communities in San Mateo County, it also makes it vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal erosion. In 2016, fierce El Nino storms pounded the coast and damaged the seawall. Sue, along with the entire council and city staff, reached out to the City of San Francisco, the State of California and the federal government for assistance. To this day, my office is deeply involved in finding solutions to these ongoing challenges.

My office has also worked closely with Sue and the council to reduce the relentless airplane noise that has been plaguing Pacifica neighborhoods for years. Sue has been a fierce advocate for Pacificans on the disastrous health impacts of airplane noise that the FAA must address.

Susan Anne Lockard was born in Youngstown, Ohio and, as a Navy child, attended schools all across the country and world, from Ohio to North Carolina to Hawaii to Japan to Illinois to California. She earned her B.A. in Biology with a minor in Philosophy and a California State Life Credential from the Women's College of Notre Dame in Belmont. She started teaching general education classes throughout California for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1960. In 1968 she moved to Burlingame and taught at Mercy elementary and high schools until 1999.

In 1977, she married Erick L. Digre. They have four children, Colleen, Sean, Michael and Scott. Sean and Michael serve in the military and were deployed after 9/11. Sue reached out to other mothers through the local paper, the Pacifica Tribune, to co-found the Pacifica Military Moms. This effort led to its incorporation as the San Mateo County Blue Star Moms.

Since 1999, Sue has served as the Family Support Services and Advocacy Department Director for PARCA, Partners and Advocates for Remarkable Children and Adults. She has also volunteered for numerous organizations including the Burlingame Civic Action Forum, the Pacifica Open Space Committee, and the Sierra Club. As is obvious from this list, Sue is deeply dedicated to serving her community and supporting those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor a great community leader and personal friend, Sue Digre. We hail her contributions to Pacifica residents and visitors that will remain long after she retires from the city council. It's been my privilege to work with her for many years and I have no doubt that she will continue her civic engagement in her beloved home town.