

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.