

Glen High School, Maria received her Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, with an emphasis in Criminal Justice, from National University in San Diego, California.

Maria met her future husband, Mr. Roman Benitez, while attending National University. They married soon after her graduation. At the time, Roman was an officer in the United States Navy. Because of his military service, they have been able to live in a variety of places including San Diego, Monterrey, and Japan.

Mrs. Benitez and her husband moved to Lemoore, California in 2007 with both taking positions at Lemoore Naval Air Station. Maria was hired as a Human Resource Assistant, eventually becoming a Work and Family Life Consultant. In this role, she aided military families through transitions, career searches, professional development, and financial counseling. Mrs. Benitez is also a small business owner, running an esthetician business in Hanford, California.

Maria became a member of my Congressional Team this year, serving as Staff Assistant in my Hanford, California Office. She quickly proved herself to be an invaluable asset, overseeing the daily operations of my district office. This included the production of tens of thousands of congressional certificates and management of the internship program. Maria also presented awards on my behalf at events in Kings County, representing the team's values with poise and professionalism. She was known for her ability to provide the highest level of service to my constituents, aiding hundreds of people with their various concerns.

Maria was also instrumental in the planning and implementation of the 21st Congressional District's 2018 Military Academy Nominations. With responsibilities ranging from informational events to potential nominee interviews, Maria proved herself to be a strong communicator to high school students and educators. She generated high interest throughout the community and aided multiple students with nominations to the academies. Her effectiveness in constituent service combined with her powerful ability to connect with people made Maria an invaluable member of my team and a true public servant to the people of California's Central Valley.

Outside work, Maria enjoys spending quality time with her husband. They remain active in local community organizations and are known as active volunteers. They also enjoy traveling. Their favorite trips are visits with their two beloved children, Alexandra and Roman Jr.

This January, Mrs. Benitez will be moving onto new ventures. Knowing Maria, her character and work ethic, I have no doubt she will continue to achieve many great things. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Maria Lourdes Benitez for her public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing her the very best in this next chapter of her life.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DUANE  
CHAPMAN

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Duane Chapman, a longtime resident of Richmond, CA. Duane was a dedicated volunteer for the Richmond Police Department and a passionate advocate for youth, the LGBTQ+ community, and our homeless population.

Duane began his career of service as a nurse and homeless outreach specialist for Contra Costa County. It was in this role that he formed a deep partnership with the Richmond Police Department and decided to volunteer his time working on crime prevention and raising community awareness of the realities of police work.

Duane demonstrated his passion for serving others through his leadership and participation in important community boards and programs. He served as Chair of both the Human Relations Commission and the Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission. Duane also participated in the Road to the Future Foster Care Youth Conference and the Richmond Police Activities League Scholarship Program.

In addition, Duane was a tireless advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. In 2014, he co-founded the Richmond Rainbow Pride, an organization that encouraged its members to advocate for the interest of their community and to promote their visibility in Richmond.

With his passing, Duane leaves behind a legacy as an ally for marginalized communities.

TRIBUTE TO GARY FRIEDMAN

**HON. KEVIN McCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Judge Gary T. Friedman. Judge Friedman retired this year following 35 years of judicial excellence on the Kern County Superior Court.

Born and raised in Bakersfield, California, Judge Friedman's future in law was foreshadowed by his keen interest in watching his father, an oilman, negotiate with attorneys for the family business. He found the idea of helping people to resolve disputes compelling, and committed himself to his studies at Garces Memorial High School and later Bakersfield College while concurrently working for both his father's oil company as well as shepherding on his family's farm. Upon completing his studies at Bakersfield College, Judge Friedman furthered his education at the University of California, Santa Barbara and later earned his law degree at the University of California, Berkeley. After passing the bar exam, he served as a deputy district attorney, worked in various civil law firms, and became the first federal magistrate judge in Kern County before serving on the Superior Court.

Over his career, Judge Friedman heard a number of cases, many of which stretched on for months. In fact, he bears the unique dis-

tingtion of presiding over the longest gang trial in Kern County history. Other cases he heard encompassed the worst of humanity—criminal cases that inflicted incredible and lasting trauma to victims and their families. Yet through each trial he presided over, Judge Friedman made everyone in his courtroom feel comfortable in even the tensest of moments, using genuine kindness and a gentle sense of self-deprecating humor to keep litigants and witnesses at ease. Judge Friedman treated each person who entered his courtroom with all the dignity and respect owed to them in the court of law and was as tenacious as he was ethical in his dogged pursuit of the equal administration of law and justice. These qualities are all the hallmarks of a great judge, and perhaps even moreso, all the hallmarks of a great person.

There are not many judges like Judge Gary Friedman, and while it is the County's loss to see him leave his post on the Superior Court, it comforts me to know that he plans to transition to practicing civil law and will remain a fixture in the Kern County legal community. I have had the privilege of getting to know Gary and his wife, Gloria, over the years as members of Bakersfield Downtown Rotary, and I am looking forward to many more spirited conversations about his days, as he puts it, "toiling in the vineyards of justice" for years to come. As he embarks on this new adventure, I wish Judge Friedman all the best and thank him for his immense work in service to our community.

CONGRATULATING MITRE CORPORATION ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The MITRE Corporation on its 60th anniversary this year.

MITRE is a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to solve problems for a safer world. The company operates seven federally-funded research and development centers, each of which is sponsored by one or more federal agencies. MITRE works in the public interest, free from commercial conflicts of interest. The company's roughly 8,700 employees are located at its two primary locations in McLean, Virginia and Bedford, Massachusetts, as well as at other sites across the country and overseas. MITRE's employees support their federal sponsors across a full spectrum of analysis, planning and concept development; research and development; engineering; and systems acquisition work. They focus on some of the most challenging technical problems facing our nation—work that requires intimate knowledge of their federal sponsors' operating landscapes, demands objective analysis, and often involves sensitive or proprietary government and industry data.

MITRE has made immense contributions to our nation's security and safety over the last 60 years. I congratulate its leadership and staff and wish them many more years of success.

HONORING JACQUELINE CHARLES

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jacqueline Charles, who reports on the Caribbean for the Miami Herald and is a recent recipient of Columbia University's prestigious Maria Moors Cabot Prize for outstanding coverage on the Americas. Maria Moors Cabot Prizes are the oldest international journalism awards and are presented to journalists in the Western hemisphere who have made significant contributions to upholding freedom of the press in the Americas and Inter-American understanding.

"Charles' great contribution has been as a narrator of the agonies of Haiti, the hemisphere's poorest country, crippled by misgovernment and battered time and again by nature," the judges wrote in their citation.

Charles was born to a Haitian mother in Turks and Caicos and grew up in Miami's Overtown neighborhood. As a child, she frequently traveled to Haiti to visit her grandparents and other relatives. She began her reporting career as a 14-year old intern at the Miami Herald. As a journalism student at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Charles co-founded the Carolina Association of Black Journalists.

Charles has worked as a journalist at the Miami Herald since 1994 and has covered the Caribbean for the Herald since 2006, with a special focus on Haiti. After the catastrophic earthquake in 2010, Charles was the first foreign reporter to reach Haiti. She remained in Haiti for the next 15 months to report on the reconstruction process and the ongoing struggles of those living in displaced persons camps. Her work on Haiti was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2011, the same year she was named the National Association of Black Journalists' "Journalist of Year." Additionally, Charles co-produced a documentary on Haiti, titled *Nou Bouke (We're Tired): Haiti's Past, Present and Future*, which earned a regional Emmy Award and was broadcast nationally.

In addition to covering ongoing humanitarian challenges in Haiti, Charles writes about Haitian politics, music, and immigration. As restrictive immigration policies have prevented many Haitians from seeking a better life in the United States, Charles has taken her reporting on the Haitian immigrant experience to Mexico, Canada, and Chile. Her work has greatly added to everyday Americans' knowledge and understanding of Haiti and its people.

Haitian Americans form a vital part of our community in South Florida and we are fortunate to have an outstanding reporter like Charles covering Haiti-related issues at the Miami Herald. I wholeheartedly commend Jacqueline Charles for her outstanding journalism on Haiti and the Caribbean and congratulate her on receiving this honor.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" McBRIDE'S SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the Michigan Congressional Delegation—Reps. DEBBIE DINGELL, TIM WALBERG, DAN KILDEE, BILL HUIZENGA, BRENDA LAWRENCE, JUSTIN AMASH, MIKE BISHOP, DAVE TROTT, PAUL MITCHELL, and JACK BERGMAN—to acknowledge and commend one of the finest public servants the Great State of Michigan has been blessed to have: Mr. William "Bill" McBride.

There has never been a better friend and advocate for Michiganders than Bill McBride.

Over the past 44 years of Bill's service he has earned immense respect for his integrity, sincerity, and civility. No matter which political party was in power, in any of the branches of government, our constant source of information and enlightenment was—and is still—Bill.

Bill's distinguished career includes serving as chief of staff to Michigan Delegation Members Carl Pursell and Vern Ehlers. He also served as deputy chief of staff for Governor John Engler and most recently director of Governor Snyder's federal office.

Bill is not just a beloved colleague and friend, he is a Michigan institution. "Ask McBride" has become a fond and common phrase for all of us. As loyal as the day is long, Bill has set the gold standard for public service.

Bill exudes kindness, a sense of humor, and a sense of fair play. Always.

They say home is where the heart is and Bill's has certainly always been Michigan. When any issue has arisen affecting our state, Bill has been in the thick of it. His hard work has had a positive impact that will ripple far beyond when he leaves public service. We are sure to confront many situations and challenges where we will dearly miss his sage counsel, wit, and wisdom. He will stay on speed dial for several of us on both sides of the aisle for years to come.

The Michigan Congressional Delegation stands today to wish Bill the very best of luck as he turns the page and moves on to write many more, which we are sure will be just as storied and successful.

God speed Bill, and I thank him from the bottom of our hearts.

HONORING THE 45TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF DALLAS A. WALKER, JR.

**HON. BRENDA JONES**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Ms. JONES of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 45th Pastoral Anniversary of Dallas A. Walker, Jr., Minister of Detroit's Wyoming Avenue Church of Christ.

Born in Vernon, Alabama, Pastor Walker comes from a strong lineage of faith leaders. His grandfather was a pioneer minister in Northwest Alabama and his father served as a

church elder at the Mayfield Church of Christ in Fayette, Alabama. His mother was a devout Christian that lived to see her two youngest sons fulfill a family legacy proclaiming the Gospel of Christ.

Pastor Walker graduated from Lamar County Training School, and went on to attend Southwestern Christian College. He later earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy and a Master's Degree in Professional Counseling from Wayne State University in Detroit. Pastor Walker began his formal ministry at the Church of Christ in Athens, Alabama. He has also served two other Alabama congregations, the Woodland Park Church of Christ in Birmingham, Alabama and the Farris Drive Church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama.

Pastor Walker and his wife of 54 years, Beverly MacDonald Walker (deceased), have three kids, Pamela Spear, Jennifer Leake, and Dallas A. Walker, III.

Widely known as a "Preacher's Preacher", he is an international evangelist, that has traveled firsthand to numerous biblical sites, among them the Mountain at Nebo, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Jericho, and the Garden of Gethsemane.

Pastor Walker is a stalwart spiritual compass in the city of Detroit. He can be seen all over the district sharing the scripture and hosting revivals. His dedication to the community was honored with secondary street naming of Wyoming and Chippewa Avenues. He also sits on the board of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Celebrated Seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Pastor Dallas A. Walker, Jr. for his 45 years of service in ministry at the Wyoming Avenue Church of Christ.

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and to congratulate the recipients of the 21st Annual Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award-winning, public-private coalition formed to fight drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Through educational and innovative public outreach programs, WRAP is credited with keeping local alcohol-related death rates consistently below the national average. Its programs educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. Through the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, individuals who are impaired can request a free cab ride home. Since SoberRide was launched in 1991, 73,123 free cab rides have been provided in the Washington Metropolitan area, preventing potential accidents and deaths.

In 1982, the year that WRAP was founded, 26,173 people in the United States lost their