

HONORING THE LIFE OF SARDUL  
SINGH SIHOTA

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Mr. COX, to honor the life of Sardul Singh Sihota, who passed away on March 5, 2019 at the age of 77. Throughout his life, Sardul was known for his contribution to the agriculture industry, his involvement with the Central Valley Sikh American community, and his role in establishing the first Sikh Temple in Selma, California.

Sardul was born on May 15, 1941 in Bara Pind, District Jalandhar, India to Assa Singh and Amar Kaur Singh. Sardul immigrated to Yuba City, California in 1961 to start a new chapter in his life and create a prosperous foundation for his family. Having been raised on a farm in India, Sardul moved to Selma, California, where he began to grow raisin grapes and continue his family's tradition of farming. Two years later, Sardul bought his first piece of property in Selma, which his family continues to live on today.

As one of the first Sikh Indians to live in Selma in the mid-1960s, Sardul had a desire to help other families immigrate to the Central Valley for a better life. He assisted many families by sharing his knowledge about the immigration process and acclimating to the life in the U.S. As a result, Selma became the new home to thousands of Sikh American families.

As the Sikh community continued to grow and flourish, Sardul noticed the lack of temples close by where families could worship, celebrate, and mourn. He worked with his friends to build Selma's first Sikh Temple in 1987.

Sardul is survived by his parents, his wife Jitendra, two daughters, Gurdeep Hebert and Harroop, and three sons, Paul, Simon, and Navjot, along with a host of extended family and friends.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the life of Sardul Singh Sihota and the great legacy that he leaves behind. Sardul will be remembered by his community for his generosity, hard work, and commitment to his friends and family. With all the relationships that he has forged along his journey, his memory will be forever remembered.

IN HONOR OF THE 2018–2019 STATE  
CLASS A PUBLIC-SCHOOL CHAM-  
PIONS: THE MARION COUNTY  
LADY EAGLES BASKETBALL  
TEAM

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2019*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2018–2019 Georgia State Class A Public-School Basketball Champions, the Marion County Lady Eagles of Buena Vista, Georgia. The team commemorated this significant milestone on Thursday, March 21, 2019, with a celebration of honor at Marion County High School in Buena Vista, Georgia.

On Wednesday, March 6, 2019, fans at the Macon Coliseum observed as the Lady Eagles won the state championship game against the Calhoun County Cougars by a score of 50–38. The Lady Eagles outrebounded their opponents (with a rebound total of 40–to–27) and made 21 of 30 free throws. This victory marked the end of an incredible year of hard work. The team has been ranked No. 1 for the entirety of the 2018–2019 season with an unbelievable 29–1 win-loss record. This championship game also marks a remarkable comeback for the Lady Eagles, who lost last year's game to the Greenville girls' basketball team by a score of 73–52.

The Lady Eagles' victory in this year's final exemplifies years of tireless determination which culminated into an inspiring season of teamwork and athletic excellence, counting a total of 1,910 points across 30 games. I am thrilled to honor this team as they celebrate the first girls' basketball state championship in the school's history. The senior class has been among the most successful ever, graduating with a winning record of 92–24.

I cannot put into words the tremendous pride that the citizens of Buena Vista, and indeed in the entire Second Congressional District, have in being able to call this outstanding team of athletes their own. They have accomplished an amazing feat, one that could not have been possible without the direction and inspiration of their coach, Fran McPherson, and her staff, as well as their families, classmates, and members of the community who believed in them and their ability to bring home a state championship title.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in congratulating and honoring these hardworking young women who have persevered, sacrificed, and achieved the pinnacle of success in basketball—the Georgia Class A State Championship title.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
MERDOLPH WALKER

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2019*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of World War II veteran, teacher, professional football player and rancher, Mr. Merdolph Walker.

Merdolph was born on a cold winter's night on January 16, 1923, in Soda, Texas. He was born in a small wooden house as sleet and snow fell outside. The midwife attending to his mother had to walk a mile home that night holding kindling for a light. The oldest of seven children, Merdolph attended Soda Grammar School, walking two miles to and from school each day.

While attending college at Sam Houston State University, Merdolph was drafted into the Army, serving from 1942 to 1946 as a combat engineer. Stationed in Guam during World War II, he received orders in his first week to search for land mines. Merdolph spent his next six weeks on open waters unloading cargo boats. There were no beds on-board, so he slept wherever he could find an

empty space. In one combat mission, gunfire was exchanged. Later, for seven months, Merdolph and other combat engineers would spend twelve hours a day building the runway used by the aircraft which dropped the atomic bomb and ended World War II. By that time, Merdolph was in Okinawa, Japan, where upon hearing shots fired and shouting, he and a buddy ran outside to learn the war had finally ended.

After returning to the states, Merdolph re-enrolled at Sam Houston College. He received his master's degree in administration, majored in physical education and minored in industrial arts. In 1948, he began a short career playing professional football in Pittsburg before deciding he could make more money teaching and coaching. Merdolph taught and coached for thirty-four years before retiring.

Madam Speaker, let us pause to honor this patriot who has faithfully, and humbly served our country, state and community.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL T.  
TIERNEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2019*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Michael T. Tierney on concluding a lengthy and illustrious career with the City of Chicago and with Plumbers Local 130 UA.

Mr. Tierney was born in 1955 to his parents, John (Jack), a former Union and City of Chicago Hoisting Engineer/Crane Operator, and Beverly Tierney. Mr. Tierney also has four siblings, Jack (Cheri), Marilyn (Bill) Haugh, Patti (Chuck) Adesso, and Brian.

Mr. Tierney began his career in 1975 as a laborer in the City of Chicago's Water Department; in 1986, he was promoted to Foreman, and just four years later, Mr. Tierney was again promoted, this time to District Foreman for the Department.

In 1995, Mr. Tierney became the Assistant Superintendent of Water Distribution, where he assisted the Superintendent in overseeing construction for the entire district. In this role, he had the opportunity to serve for six months as interim Superintendent for the Department. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Tierney officially took over as the District Superintendent of Water Distribution and Sewers for the City of Chicago.

In 2012 with more than thirty-five years of experience in his field, Mr. Tierney became the Director of Political and Municipal Affairs for Plumbers Local 130 UA, the same organization from which he earned his education in plumbing twenty-eight years prior. In this position, Mr. Tierney represented all Local 130 employees at the City, County and State levels. He also negotiated all Local 130 contracts for the City of Chicago and Cook County.

Mr. Tierney would be the first to tell you that his family is his first priority; they are the loves of his life. He has been married to his wife, Kathy McManus, since 2003. Mr. Tierney has two children; his daughter, Colleen Scarola, married to her husband, Matt, and Michael, married to his wife, Stephanie. He has four grandchildren, Benjamin, Olivia, Reagan, and Micaela, as well as one on the way in just a few weeks. I am pleased that his retirement