

CONGRATULATING FOUR MEMBERS OF TROOP 146 FOR EARNING THE EAGLE SCOUT RANK

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor four outstanding young men, Ryan Calhoun, James Hicks, James Hunt and Evan Welch of Troop 146 in Braselton, Georgia, for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America.

Eagle Scout is the highest honor a Boy Scout can attain, and only a small fraction of Boy Scouts ever reach the rank. This achievement requires years upon years of tireless work and dedication to develop the requisite leadership, service and outdoor skills.

Each of these young men have earned their Eagle Scout rank by completing hundreds of hours of community service, earning merit badges and completing a final Eagle Scout project. For his final project, Ryan completed a bird sanctuary at his local church which featured an inspiring biblical theme. James Hicks built a bee habitat to educate his community about the importance of supporting declining bee populations. James Hunt repaired two picnic tables and an entire bridge in the Georgia State Arboretum to ensure the forest can continue meeting the safety needs of its visitors. Evan Welch completed the landscaping and construction of an entire picnic area which will surely provide guests enjoyment for years to come.

On behalf of the people of Northeast Georgia, I want to congratulate these young men for becoming Eagle Scouts. I am incredibly proud of the many hours they have dedicated to making a difference in their communities, and I look forward to watching them continue to serve as exceptional leaders.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF FRED STARRH, SR.

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Fred Starrh, Sr., who passed away on April 16, 2019 at the age of 89. Fred was a renowned farmer in California's Central Valley whose career spanned nearly seventy years. He was also a devoted family man, philanthropist, follower of Jesus Christ, and my dear friend.

Born to a family of cotton farmers at the onset of the Great Depression and having come of age during the Second World War, the value of hard work and the importance of serving one's country were instilled in Fred at a young age. In fact, Fred answered the call to serve when his draft number was selected during the Korean War. Stationed in Fort Lewis in Washington State, it was there he met his first loving wife of 54 years, Nancy Johnson, who passed away in 2009. Fred then fell in love with and married Linda.

Fred returned to his roots after the war, managing the 35-acre family cotton farm in Shafter, California, that his father founded in

1935. The operation quickly expanded and diversified under Fred's guidance, with an additional location in Buttonwillow, California, and the production of specialty crops, including pistachios and almonds. Today, the Starrh Family Farms operation spans over 9,000 acres.

Fred was also a staunch advocate for Kern County and Central Valley farmers and the farming industry generally. For instance, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture closed a research facility in Shafter, California, that was doing critical research on a cotton disease, Fred, through the San Joaquin Valley Quality Cotton Growers Association, stepped up to the plate and led the charge to keep the facility open and in operation by partnering with Kern County and the local community college.

Throughout his 68-year career, Fred also advanced agricultural interests by serving on countless boards and councils, and joining numerous associations. Among these, Fred was particularly proud to sit on the Kern County Water Agency Board of Directors. In this capacity, Fred played a critical role and was a key decision-maker advancing commonsense water policies in Kern County and California. For those of you who know California water politics, things can get heated quickly, but Fred, the consummate gentleman, could draw on his vast experience and detailed knowledge to find common ground to bring people back to the table to get solutions—all without raising his voice.

Fred also served on the Kern County Farm Bureau's Board of Directors, was a Director for the California Farm Bureau Federation, and was appointed to serve on the Cotton Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee and the Cotton Marketing Committee by then-Secretary of Agriculture Ed Madigan, where he advised the Secretary and other officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the landmark 1990 Farm Bill. Fred further served his beloved Central Valley community on the board of the Kern High School District for 17 years, and was a founding member of the Shafter Recreation District, where he both supported and participated in local music and arts programs.

Fred held unwavering faith in the goodness of God. As a member of the Shafter Congregational Church, Fred could always be found singing in the choir with his family and friends.

Fred is survived by his wife, Linda, his four children, Fred Jr. and his wife Cris, Larry and his wife Shana, Carol and her husband Jay, and Anne and her husband Dale, his seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and an entire family that loved him deeply. Fred Starrh was truly a larger-than-life personality, and when I would seek his counsel on any issue big or small, he always had sage advice. I am honored to have been able to call Fred one of my close friends.

On behalf of Kern County and our friends and neighbors throughout the 23rd Congressional District of California, Judy and I extend our deepest condolences to the Starrh family as we remember and honor the life of Fred Starrh, Sr.

CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the International Festival of Language and Culture (IFLC). For the past 16 years, the IFLC has been showcasing both international diversity and the talent of our youth through poetry, song and dance from their cultures.

This year, Washington, D.C. is one of many world capitals co-hosting the IFLC. More than 80 participants from over 16 countries are invited to perform. This event brings together young students, parents, teachers and volunteers to promote diversity. These talented student-performers work tirelessly for several months in anticipation of meeting American audiences, including members of the U.S. Congress.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the students, parents, teachers and volunteers of the International Festival of Language and Culture for their efforts.

RECOGNIZING SCHIMELPFENIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, each year, the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform in conjunction with the Texas Association of Secondary Schools Principals designate the coveted title of "Texas School to Watch" to a select groups of schools that have consistently moved to fully meet the nationally endorsed criteria for high-performing middle schools.

These schools have demonstrated marked progress in meeting all required criteria, including measurable gains in the academic achievement of their student population, paired with a continual commitment to improvement.

Today, I proudly ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Schimelpfenig Middle School of Plano, Texas as one of thirty named "Texas Schools to Watch." Our state leaders selected Schimelpfenig based on its academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structure and processes. Coupled with their strong leadership, Schimelpfenig Middle School is renowned for its teachers who consistently collaborate to improve programs while creating a positive learning environment.

To Principal Dr. Brant Perry, the staff, students, parents, and the Plano Independent School District under the leadership of Superintendent Sara Bonser, I congratulate them on being named a Texas School to Watch. I am confident they will continue their dedicated efforts to meet the needs of our students by providing a high-quality education while fostering

a caring environment focused on future success.

# COMMEMORATING THE 104TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. TJ COX**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 104th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. April 24, 1915 marked the beginning of the Ottoman Turks' systematic deportation and murder of over 1.5 million Christian Armenians, Greeks, and Assyrians, marking the first genocide of the 20th century.

To this day, however, neither the President of the United States nor Congress have recognized this tragedy as what it is: a genocide. This does not do justice to the vibrant Armenian-American community in the Central Valley—a result of survivors settling anew after being displaced. The families of the Central Valley have not forgotten the pain of their ancestors and continue to advocate for justice with passion and persistence. Today, I am proud to be their voice and have joined my colleagues in introducing a Resolution this Congress, recognizing and memorializing the Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian people are a great example of what it means to move forward while remembering who they are and where they come from. Recognizing what happened in 1915 as genocide is the first step towards reconciling with the past, something that is long overdue. We must reconsider our relationship with Turkey and entities that deny the Armenian genocide and uphold our American values by promoting justice and peace. It is our responsibility to ensure our future generations never forget this critical moment in history and that we continue pushing for its official recognition.

Madam Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to join me in condemning all crimes against humanity in the past, present, and future. We must learn from this atrocity and continue to advocate for the protection of human rights for the Armenian people, and for all.

## TRIBUTE TO I.A.T.S.E. LOCAL 728

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 728 upon its 80th anniversary.

Chartered in 1939, Local 728 has served thousands of studio electrical lighting technicians in the motion picture community. Today, Local 728 provides its members with a myriad of services such as legal, medical, and financial assistance. The union also works hard to ensure its members receive the best retirement benefits and disability insurance. With a rich and long history, Local 728 has been involved in both federal and state political action

on behalf of its members, including lobbying efforts to keep jobs in California. Their advocacy for worker-centered initiatives has pushed California to be a leader in raising wages and improving education for its workers. Since its inception, Local 728 has grown to represent over 2,700 studio electrical lighting technicians and has been a shining example of what a strong labor union can achieve.

For eighty years, Local 728 has not only supported backlot technicians with assisted services but has also offered various occupational safety and job skills trainings to ensure that members are always performing the industry-best practices. These include helpful resources on Rigging for Wet Locations, LXBeams Software Training, and assistance in completing the Entertainment Technician Certification Program. Through these services, Local 728 continues to demonstrate their strong commitment to the well-being of its members. Their efforts exemplify the ever-important values of civic engagement, respect for the rights and safety of others, and to instill hard work in all members.

It is my pleasure to honor I.A.T.S.E. Local 728 for eighty years of dedication and service to the Los Angeles area's studio electrical lighting technicians. I ask all members to join me in commending their efforts.

## HONORING KEVIN BARR

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman JARED HUFFMAN to recognize Kevin Barr as the recipient of the 2019 Viticulture Award of Excellence. This award recognizes grape growers who have made significant contributions to our Sonoma County wine community and Sonoma County overall.

Mr. Barr attended the University of California, Davis where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Management with a specialization in Viticulture and has since been committed to sustainability and conservation. Mr. Barr started his company, Redwood Empire Vineyard Management (REVM), in 1983, which sustainably develops farms and other properties. Mr. Barr is committed to sustainable farming and conservation. REVM was the first vineyard management company to be certified sustainable in California and has 22 clients that have been certified by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance.

Mr. Barr has been an active and involved community member since he first moved to Sonoma County in 1979. He is a current board member and past chairman of the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission Board. His expertise played no small role in the Commission certifying 100 percent of Sonoma County's vineyards as sustainable by 2019. Mr. Barr is also the current chairman of the Santa Rosa Junior College Viticulture Advisory Board and the Sonoma County Grape Growers Foundation Board.

The 2019 Viticulture Award of Excellence is not the first time Mr. Barr has been recognized for his contributions and commitment to our community. He received the Leadership in Agriculture Award from the Santa Rosa Chamber

of Commerce in 2015, the Award of Excellence for Sustainability in Farming in 2016, and the Nick Frey Community Contribution Award in 2018. Despite his well-deserved accolades, Mr. Barr has remained humble and dedicated to sustainable farming and our community.

Madam Speaker, Kevin Barr is a generous person who works hard to keep our land beautiful for generations to come and is committed to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

## HONORING ISABEL WILKERSON

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, Isabel Wilkerson is one of the most important documentarians of African-American history in the United States.

Ms. Wilkerson devoted fifteen years to researching and writing *The Warmth of Other Suns*, one of the most important accounts of the Great Migration. From the 1910s to 1970s, millions of African-Americans left the segregated South in search of prosperity elsewhere. Drawing inspiration from the migration of her own parents from the rural South to Washington, D.C., Ms. Wilkerson set out to document stories from six decades of the continuous exodus of African-Americans from the South. By sharing the very important but underreported story of the six million people who were once enslaved and their descendants who fled the South for a better life, Ms. Wilkerson has helped our nation better understand the dynamics of our society.

*The Warmth of Other Suns* is only one of Ms. Wilkerson's great achievements. She has been a trailblazing author for decades. In the 1990s, she was Chicago Bureau Chief for *The New York Times*. In 1994, she became the first African-American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for journalism. Her Pulitzer-winning stories centered on the Midwestern flood of 1993 and the reality of life for a ten-year-old boy from the South Side of Chicago. Since then, she has written and taught at the highest levels in the United States.

Today, at Rutgers University in Newark, Ms. Wilkerson is delivering the prestigious Tanner Lecture on Human Values. Her work has enhanced our nation's understanding of human rights and human values. I proudly honor Ms. Wilkerson for her achievements and continued success.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS IN FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS MEDICAL CARE ACT OF 2019

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, in recognition of April being Second Chance Month, I introduce the Fairness in Federal Bureau of Prisons Medical Care Act of 2019. This bill would remove the current copay Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) inmates are required to pay to visit a BOP-provided doctor.