

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