

face of unspeakable tragedy, led his community with grace and love towards a more equal and just future.

Commissioner McNair's daughter, Denise, was killed in the 16th St. Baptist Church bombing on Sunday, September 15, 1963. It was in that moment that the McNair family became forever intertwined with the Civil Rights Movement.

Commissioner McNair was born in Fordyce, Arkansas on November 22, 1925. Commissioner McNair left his family and 11 younger siblings to serve in the Army during World War II. After leaving the service, he studied at Tuskegee University and earned a degree in agronomy in 1949. It was there that he met Thelma "Maxine" Pippen, a fellow classmate, and fell in love. After graduation, Commissioner McNair took a job in Tupelo, Mississippi teaching veterans and visited Maxine on the weekends in Birmingham while staying with her grandparents. The two married shortly after and settled in Tupelo.

When Mrs. McNair became pregnant, the couple moved back to Birmingham to be near family. On November 17, 1951, Carol Denise was welcomed to the world by her loving parents and became the center of their lives. Commissioner McNair was an amateur photographer and photographed Denise's childhood, including the iconic photo of her wearing her red winter coat and matching hat.

On the morning of September 15, 1963, Mrs. McNair and Denise left their home to attend church at 16th St. Baptist Church. Tensions were high in Birmingham as the Civil Rights Movement continued, and there were frequent acts of violence throughout the city. That morning was no exception—four members of the Ku Klux Klan bombed the basement of the church, killing Commissioner McNair's daughter, Denise, 11, Addie Mae Collins, 14, Carole Robertson, 14, and Cynthia Wesley, 14. These young girls became known to the world as the 4 Little Girls.

That morning, Commissioner McNair was at home preparing to go to his church, St. Paul Lutheran, when he heard the explosion and mistook it for thunder. After a neighbor explained what happened, he raced to the hospital, and was initially relieved because he did not see Denise's name on a list of the injured. Later, though, Mr. and Mrs. McNair were asked to walk into a separate room. There, the bodies of the four girls were covered, but Commissioner McNair instantly recognized Denise's shoe peeking out.

After overcoming their anger and sadness, the family was ready to return to their new normal. The McNairs welcomed two more blessings into their lives over the next five years: Lisa McNair, almost exactly a year after her sister's death, and Kimberly McNair in 1968. Both girls were seen as small miracles to the family and quickly became the light of their parents' lives.

After Denise's death, Commissioner McNair dedicated himself to serving the community and the people of Alabama. He knew he needed to help the state to reconcile its racial differences and to help heal the scars from the 1960s. In 1973, Commissioner McNair was elected the first African American State Representative since Reconstruction, and in that role, he worked tirelessly to bring positive national attention to the city he loved.

Commissioner McNair spent years in the public eye as an elected official, working hard

to pass legislation that would help all residents. After serving in the legislature, Commissioner McNair took a chance and ran for the Jefferson County Commission. His bid for office was successful and he was sworn into office in 1986 where he served until his retirement in 2001.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of Commissioner Christopher McNair, whose election to the Alabama State Legislature inspired countless men and women to run for office in the state of Alabama, to continue fighting for social justice, and to educate future generations about the Civil Rights Movement. May we celebrate the totality of his life today and honor his great works during his 28 years of service to Birmingham and the State of Alabama.

#### HONORING PETE RICHMOND

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pete Richmond as the Napa Valley Grower of the Year for 2019.

Mr. Richmond's career in agriculture began in 1986 after earning a degree in Agricultural Business from California State University, Fresno. He gained valuable experience as a viticulturist while working at Bien Nacido Vineyards. Mr. Richmond went on to work for many prestigious wineries. In 1992 he was at Stag's Leap Winery; he worked at Atlas Peak Winery from 1993 to 1995; from 1995 to 2001 he was at Kendall Jackson. Mr. Richmond founded the Silverado Farming Company, a vineyard management company, in 2001. Many of the finest wineries and vineyards in the Napa Valley contract with Silverado Farming Company to manage their vineyards. The company oversees vineyard management for over 650 acres of grapes.

Mr. Richmond's passion for agriculture is not confined to the vineyard. He is involved in our community—through his philanthropic contributions and the Boards on which he sits. In 2006, Mr. Richmond established the One Percent for the Community Fund, a foundation that receives one percent of gross revenue profits made by the Silverado Farming Company. The foundation uses the money to support at-risk youth in our community and helps find a solution for a variety of issues that impact farm workers. Mr. Richmond is on the Farmworker Foundation Board of Directors, OLE Health Operating Board, and the OLE Health Foundation Board. He is also an Advisory Board Member for Teens Connect, a member of the Marketing Committee for the Napa Valley Community Foundation, and a past member of the Napa Valley Grapegrower's Board of Directors. He is active in the housing community as a member of Napa Valley Community Housing and Napa County Housing Commission. Mr. Richmond is also involved with Ag for Youth and is a former Babe Ruth Baseball League Coach.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Richmond is the community member we should all strive to be. He is a person of integrity, is generous and caring, and well-deserving of the title Napa Valley

2019 Grower of the Year. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Pete Richmond here today.

#### RECOGNIZING MRS. SUSAN MARY MAHEU GUERRA

#### HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2019*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Susan Mary Maheu Guerra, who passed away on May 20, 2018. Ms. Guerra hales from my hometown of San Antonio. She is survived by her husband, Eliberto Guerra; son, Christopher Guerra; daughters, Jessica Guerra and Trina Bacon; and seven grandchildren. Her contributions to the San Antonio community will last for many years to come. She will be greatly missed.

Mrs. Susan Guerra was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 12, 1951 to Donald and Marilyn Maheu. Mrs. Guerra's journey began after being accepted at the age of 18 to the Order of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul at Guardian Angel Settlement in St. Louis, Missouri. She attended St. Louis University, receiving a bachelor's degree in social work.

After serving nine years as a nun, Mrs. Guerra heard another calling to care for those in her community. She began working with juvenile probations and at-risk families. Upon marrying Eliberto Guerra and starting a family of their own, Mrs. Guerra desired to do more for children in need. In 1986, The Guerra Family established the Guardian Angel Child Development Center.

With over 30 years of persistence and determination, Guardian Angel flourished enrolling over two generations of children. The center has provided many with a second home. Guardian Angel is now a beacon of hope in San Antonio and its Southside community. The center offers a broad range of after school and summer programs such as computer classes and performing arts.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be part of a community that cherishes our future generations. Mrs. Susan Guerra's legacy will be felt by many as her commitment to child development has inspired many. To know of her work in bettering the lives of our kids is truly remarkable. I have no hesitation in saying that her legacy will endure.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM

#### HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2019*

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the significant contribution of the Head Start Program in promoting school readiness and overall success for some of the most vulnerable children in our communities. On May 18, 2019, Head Start will celebrate its 54th year of strengthening children and families and this year, the Early Head Start program also celebrates its 25th anniversary.

In New Jersey alone, there are currently twenty-six Head Start Programs and twenty-