

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF JEFFREY McDONALD OF CAR-
MEL, INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jeffrey McDonald, an enterprising entrepreneur, youth mentor, and community leader. Born in Woodland, California on April 5, 1967, to Alan and Mary McDonald, Jeffrey would come to Indiana and graduate from Indiana University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business and Marketing. Jeffrey was known throughout his community for his selfless leadership in business and his desire to help those in need of guidance to reach their full potential.

As longtime lauded business leaders in their community, Jeffrey and his wife Shelli McDonald started their e-commerce pet food and treat supply business, Raw Paws Pet Food, in 2014. Their mission in business was not only to provide a profitable living for themselves and their employees, but to create products that better served the health of pets through proper nutrition and diet. Sourcing their products from responsible and ethical farms they have become leaders in their industry.

Beyond his many successes in the business world, Jeffrey's impact was also felt throughout his community through his participation and exemplary leadership in philanthropic organizations. Jeffrey served on the boards of many community groups including The United Way, The Indianapolis Zoo, and The Young Presidents' Organization (YPO). Jeffrey's community engagement allowed him to pursue his passions of animal welfare and the empowerment of women. His remarkable talent for connecting with people ensured that his vital work with these organizations made a lasting impact on Central Indiana, not to be forgotten.

His achievements show us the immense influence one person can have within their community and inspire us to aim higher. Jeffrey had the unique ability to see the best in every one of life's situations. His caring and genuine nature put those around him at ease, and his zest for life was infectious to those in his presence.

On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Jeffrey's wife Shelli, and numerous friends and relatives who mourn his loss.

IN HONOR OF KARL W. MICHLER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, Mr. Karl Michler of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Michler is part of a special group of heroes that served our nation during World War II. Mr. Michler celebrates his 99th birthday on June 5.

Mr. Michler enlisted in the service at the age of 22. He was a proud member of the United

States Army. He served as a medical corpsman. His assignments took him to locations in the United States, France and Germany. He served for 4 years and was honorably discharged in February of 1946.

Mr. Michler returned home and married Jean Vogt. Following his service in the Army, he took over the family business, Michler's, which was started by his grandfather Carl Michler in 1900. He continued that very successful business for many years. His son, John, and later his grandson, Robin, kept the business growing and thriving.

Mr. Michler and his fellow veterans are true heroes. As members of the "Greatest Generation", they willingly served to protect and defend the freedoms that we enjoy today. I am humbled to honor the service of Mr. Karl W. Michler and to celebrate his upcoming 99th birthday before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT HARRY
S. TRUMAN'S LEGACY IN FIRE
PREVENTION, FIRE SAFETY, AND
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, between May 5 and 7 of this year, national leaders representing every facet of the fire service gathered together in Key West, Florida for three days of discussions on the future of fire prevention, public education, and fire service challenges in general. They attended the event at the invitation of the Harry S. Truman Foundation. Each year, the Truman Foundation conducts an annual symposium at the Truman Little White House to reflect on the legacy of our nation's 33rd President. The theme of the 2019 symposium was, "Truman's Legacy Towards Fire Prevention, Fire Safety, and Historic Preservation." In 1947, President Truman convened a conference on fire prevention following a series of devastating fires that captured the attention of the nation. Hundreds of representatives from government, business, non-government organizations, and the fire service attended the Washington conference. In his remarks to the attendees, Truman stated, "Safety from fire should not be a topic for discussion during only one or two weeks of the year. It is definitely a year-round public responsibility." Seventy-two years later, President Truman's words inspired the assembly of prominent fire service leaders to meet in Key West.

The Truman Foundation asked the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to serve as a co-facilitator of the recent program. By every account, both organizations did an exemplary job in conducting the event. Presentations by notable fire service leaders addressed a broad range of issues that span the important work in fire prevention. For example, on the third day, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation conducted a forum to identify key areas for advancing fire prevention in our nation. Watching the recent success in Florida, I remain so impressed by the ability of the national fire organizations to work together to address the needs of firefighters and public safe-

ty. This ability is something I have witnessed throughout my years as a co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus.

Seventy-two years have passed since the 1947 conference, and during that time, the number of victims dying in fires has decreased to approximately 3,000 each year. This isn't a coincidence. But the fire service leaders assembled in Key West this month didn't see this as an achievement; instead, they recognized that more work needs to be done.

The strength of our nation has always been the indomitable spirit of our citizens. The fire service personifies that spirit. I commend the Harry S. Truman Foundation and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundations for bringing together our nation's leading fire officials. And I pledge my continued support for the more than one million firefighters across the nation who are prepared to respond to the next call for help and to the family members who lose loved ones in the line of duty. God bless all of them.

HONORING JOANN GAMA

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor JoAnn Gama, an educator, innovator, and leader.

JoAnn Gama was born and raised on the north side of Houston, Texas. In 1997, she joined Teach For America, committing two years to teaching in public schools in underserved communities. After moving to the Rio Grande Valley, JoAnn enrolled at the University of Texas-Pan American, now known as the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and earned her master's degree in Educational Leadership.

In 1998, JoAnn co-founded the IDEA Academy within the Donna Independent School District with fellow Teach For America corps member, Tom Torkelson. After one year as a "school within a school," JoAnn and Tom applied for a state charter. Nearly 20 years ago, in August of 2000, they opened the IDEA Academy Charter School with 150 students, grades 4 through 8.

JoAnn is the co-founder and chief of schools, and led many efforts to replicate the original school. Currently, IDEA Public Schools educate nearly 45,000 students in 79 schools across five regions—the Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso and Southern Louisiana. In 2017, U.S. News & World Report ranked IDEA Donna, IDEA Quest, and IDEA Frontier in the top 1 percent of all public high schools in the United States and the top 40 best public charter schools in the nation.

Madam Speaker, JoAnn Gama has worked tirelessly to give countless students the tools they need to succeed. She is a pillar of our community and an example to us all. It is an honor to represent a selfless, committed individual like her who has forever changed and strengthened the foundation of education in South Texas. I wish JoAnn, her husband Juan, and her children Gaeland and Jimena the best in their future endeavors.