

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.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH  
BIRTHDAY OF TOMMIE LOUISE  
CAUDLE

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2019*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the 100th birthday of Tommie Louise Caudle.

Ms. Caudle was born on June 5, 1919 to J.H. Caudle and Sallie White Caudle in Sylacauga, Alabama. She graduated from Sylacauga High School in 1937 and started working at Southern Bell Telephone as a telephone operator at age 16.

She attended Judson College her freshman year during which she was a member of Baptist Young People's Union. She also attended the University of Alabama. Ms. Caudle worked for South Central Bell until she retired in 1974.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Ms. Caudle a happy 100th birthday.

WELCOMING CHAPLAIN THOMAS E.  
FUSSELL, JR.

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2019*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize today's guest chaplain, Chaplain Thomas E. Fussell, Jr., and welcome him to the United States House of Representatives.

Chaplain Fussell, a major in the United States Air Force, is currently assigned to the 45th Space Wing, stationed at Patrick Air Force Base in Brevard County, Florida. The duties of the 45th Space Wing—including supporting the Department of Defense (DOD), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and commercial manned and unmanned space programs at Patrick Air Force Base—are critical to the success of space programs operating out of Cape Canaveral.

As Deputy Wing Chaplain to the 45th Space Wing, Chaplain Fussell advises commanders and first sergeants, ensures the free exercise of religion, and provides spiritual care, moral and ethical advice, and pastoral care and counseling to all military personnel and their families. Along with other chaplains serving in the Space Command, he is part of the spiritual backbone of American operations in space.

Chaplain Fussell received his Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in 2000. In 2004, he was ordained as an elder in the South Georgia Conference and, in 2005, he commissioned as a chaplain.

In light of his many years of service, I am thankful that Chaplain Fussell could be with us today and offer a prayer in anticipation of Memorial Day. May the Lord bless all the brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives to protect our great nation, the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2019*

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on May 22, 2019, I was unable to vote due to a classified briefing. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 222.

RECOGNIZING LAVEDA BROWN

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2019*

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Laveda Brown of Waco, Texas, who is retiring as the president of the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce.

Laveda comes from a strong business background and knows the value of hard work. Prior to joining the chamber, Laveda worked as a Procurement Specialist/Business Consultant at McLennan Community College Small Business Center and the Caruth Small Business Development Center at Abilene Christian University.

Her successful history of business development made her a compelling choice to lead the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce. Laveda's many years of experience in minority business certification, purchasing, economic development, and government contracting has helped her provide many small businesses with the tools to succeed.

When Laveda assumed leadership of the Chamber in 2007, its membership hovered around 30 members and numbers were dwindling quickly. Thanks to her efforts, membership is now above 250 members and their financial support has expanded dramatically.

Some of her biggest contributions, however, go beyond numbers. Under Laveda's direction, the chamber opened Esther's Closet, an initiative to assist unemployed women by providing interview and workplace clothing at no cost. Additionally, Esther's Closet assists with resume writing, interview skills, job performance, and financial management. Since its grand opening in 2016, Esther's Closet has helped more than 400 individuals and provided more than 5,000 outfits.

In addition to her chamber duties, Laveda has been a member of many organizations including the Waco Education Alliance, the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative, the City of Waco Policy Academy, and the Junior League Advisory Committee. She also served on the boards of the City of Waco Public Improvement and Development, the Texas Partnership for Out of School Time, and the YMCA of Central Texas. She was also the Vice President of the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce.

She is a person of great courage, faith, insight and wisdom who has a very unselfish and loving spirit. She has dedicated her life to sharing her wealth of knowledge and experience to enlightening and motivating those around her to do their best. Laveda has a way of getting others to see the big picture and to overcome their differences in order to work together for the common good of all. Her great-

est gift is her passion for encouraging and empowering others.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Laveda Brown for her many years of impactful service to our Central Texas community. I wish her the best in her future endeavors and look forward to seeing the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce's continued success.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize the community service and accomplishments of Laveda Brown.

I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND FRAN  
HAYES FOR HER EXEMPLARY  
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OF  
DEARBORN

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Fran Hayes for her tireless work in service of the residents of Dearborn, Michigan. She has been an instrumental member of the community as the head of the Dearborn Area Interfaith Network.

Reverend Fran Hayes has served the Dearborn community for 22 years as the pastor of Littlefield Presbyterian Church. A graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, Reverend Hayes dedicated her career to celebrating diversity of faith and culture. As the head of the Dearborn Area Interfaith Network; she has made a concerted effort to celebrate the vibrant, diverse community of Dearborn by building deep relationships between Christians and Muslims. Under her leadership, the church has engaged in deliberate efforts to educate parishioners in Islamic scripture through interfaith programs and activities.

Reverend Hayes' work represents a celebration of creed and culture. A staunch advocate for diversity, Reverend Hayes leaves a legacy of inclusivity and justice through her continued efforts to transcend barriers of faith and culture. We thank Reverend Hayes for her commitment to embracing people of all faiths and cultures and we congratulate her on her retirement. Her dedicated leadership will be missed, but we wish her good health and every happiness in her retirement years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Fran Hayes for her exemplary service to Dearborn. Her work celebrating diversity of faith is worthy of commendation.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE LAFAYETTE  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

**HON. JOHN W. ROSE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2019*

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lafayette Church of Christ in honor of their 150th anniversary on June 19, 2019.