

want to learn new skills and be proud of the work that they do. It is important that we do our part to ensure these opportunities are available.

We can bolster veteran employment opportunities with career and technical education. Many of the men and women seeking civilian employment are already highly skilled, highly trained. They are experienced, literally, under fire.

The skills that come with CTE training can help expand our veterans' existing skill sets and prepare them for careers in STEM disciplines, nursing, construction, information technology, energy, cybersecurity, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans are a huge part of what makes this country so great. They have chosen to risk their lives to protect our Nation. We have the opportunity, no, the responsibility to provide them with the best possible care and to empower them with the necessary tools to make smart career decisions when we welcome them home.

Hire Our Heroes says the best way to thank a veteran is to hire one. We should all keep this in mind as we celebrate our Nation's veterans today and for many more days to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BARBARA KELLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, there are people whose empathy and compassion glow like a beacon, and others whose shine like the sun.

That was Barbara Keller: A blazing star of kindness and an inspiring local leader who lived to serve others, championed causes that uplifted the sick, the poor, and fought for the rights of the LGBTQ community.

For 3 decades, Barbara called California's Coachella Valley home. Barbara and her husband, Jerry, brought award-winning restaurants to the Coachella Valley. But it was Barbara's generosity and commitment to serving others that made her so remarkable.

Barbara was a champion for combating HIV/AIDS through her leadership as the first female president of the Desert AIDS Project. Barbara was moved by the deaths and suffering of many HIV-infected friends living on the margins, facing injustice and discrimination in their struggle to live. She brought hope and healthcare to so many individuals living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV or AIDS.

As a doctor, I had the honor of working with Barbara on the Desert AIDS Project in our shared advocacy for the health of local and medically underserved communities.

Barbara's annual Steve Chase Awards fundraisers were a fixture of the Coachella Valley, as was her incredible gala dress fashion, second only to her beauty and class.

Barbara also lent her compassion to defending the health of patients while

working with the AIDS Assistance Project and the Loma Linda Children's Hospital.

During her years of service to our communities, Barbara also helped grow our desert's art scene through organizations like the Palm Springs Art Museum and the McCallum Theatre.

Barbara's generosity in her public life was complemented by her extraordinary kindness in her private life.

My wife, Monica, and I knew Barbara as a dear, dear, friend and a wonderful role model to our daughters, Sky and Sage. I was constantly personally touched by her loving nature, her unwavering support and encouragement, and her dedication to her higher purpose.

Barbara most treasured her family, and her greatest pleasure was being a loving wife, a mother, a daughter, and grandmother.

Barbara devotedly cared for her aging father, Marvin Cohn, until he passed away in March at 106 years old, never once telling him she was undergoing intense chemotherapy for breast cancer. Barbara's death soon followed the following month on April 15, 2019.

Barbara and her husband Jerry's marriage was a love story few can claim and a touching example of the power of true love.

Barbara leaves behind her devoted husband, Jerry, her son, Brad, her daughters, Lindsay, Lisa, and Kelly, and her seven grandchildren, Taylor, Rebekah, Graham, Ridley, Greta, Eva, and Levon, and her sister, Carole.

While Barbara's passing deeply saddens me, her memory will live on in my heart and in the hearts of the countless individuals whose lives she touched.

In an era of "me first," ego-driven, selfish ambition, Barbara reminds us that love, kindness, and genuine service to others is possible. She is the embodiment of good, humility, strength, and outer and inner beauty. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she improved and inspired. And she was a giant, a social architect, designing a healthier, kinder, more just community.

Knowing Barbara, and calling her my friend, was an incredible, unique, and beautiful blessing in my life. And her story must be told and recorded in our national records, so that generations to come can learn the vast potential of our national spirit.

She will be missed.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GROVER DAVIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary man. He is from Bay County, Florida, and I am fortunate to have him as a dear friend of mine, Mr. Grover Davis.

Grover was born into a fishing family in December of 1941 in Parker, Florida, and he learned the value of hard work

at a young age. He built fishing boats with his father and his brothers, leading his family to own the first charter fishing boats in Panama City.

When his father died, Grover dropped out of high school and worked with his brothers to support the family. They made a living in the charter fishing business, with young Grover below deck keeping the boats running. He still keeps the boats running 70 years later.

He learned a lot about life at a young age. He met his wonderful wife, Judy, at Bay High School, and married her in 1961.

By the 1970s, the Davis family was managing the St. Andrews Marina, and Grover became interested in a new business venture. In 1974, he began Marine Transportation Services, which provided transport services for oil and gas companies in the Gulf of Mexico. Marine Transportation Services has truly become a family affair, with his wife, Judy, and his daughters, Kim and Kerrie, joining him at the helm.

Grover treats all of his employees like family. In fact, 50 percent of his employees started at Marine Transportation right out of high school and still work there to this day.

He is unfailingly supportive of all of his employees. When they make a mistake, he doesn't let them go. He is famous for sitting with them and saying: "Did you learn something from this?"

His favorite phrase is: "There are only two kinds of captains; those who have run aground and those who are about to run aground."

Grover truly leads by example in all aspects of his life, and he has spent much of his life giving back to the community. He is a big supporter of Camo Dreams, a nonprofit that helps disabled children go on hunting trips, and routinely supported events for the Girl Scouts when his daughters were growing up.

Grover, his wife, Judy, and his daughters, have long since cemented their place in the firmament of stars that are the foundation of our community back home.

He has always preached that honor is the most important value among people, and no one person is better than another. He never asks anyone to do what he would not do himself.

Judy and Grover have two children, Kim and Kerrie, two grandsons, and two great grandsons. They all describe him as an amazing friend, father, and leader in our community.

He is the single most social man I know. A great storyteller, he always surrounded himself with his friends, and if he stood still for more than a few minutes, it was certain that he was frying grouper or mullet for a host of people. He loves people and they love him.

I have to say, Grover is also widely known as a huge and very inventive practical joker. He has been known to go to elaborate lengths to prank his friends.