

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF  
ELIZABETH JANE KERLEY

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Elizabeth (Betty) Jane Kerley, who died peacefully at her Rossmoor home on May 22, 2019. Betty was born on March 6, 1923 in Oakland to first-generation Welsh immigrants, Hugh and Anna Williams. Betty was the youngest of three children and was very proud of her Welsh stock. She was a lively and resilient child, qualities that she drew upon throughout her long life.

When Betty was ten, her mother died of pneumonia. Betty took charge of the house, helped by her father Hugh and their housekeeper Mrs. Benson.

Betty's father was a noted professional singer who was once Director of the famed Grace Cathedral Boys Choir. Believing that his daughter was a child prodigy, he encouraged her to pursue her unquestionable musical talents to become a concert pianist. Betty attended San Francisco State College to pursue a teaching degree, and in 1944, she married William Strehl, a Seabee who shipped out shortly after their marriage. Their first child Katherine was born in 1944 and their son Bill in 1954.

In 1959, Betty became a single mother raising two children on her own. She secured a position with the University of California's Office of the President, and worked at UC for 17 years. Betty met and married Robert F. Kerley (Bob) in 1975, and moved with him to Rossmoor in 1977. There they joined a vibrant community of UC retirees and enjoyed many years of retirement. Betty enjoyed art and gardening, and she and Bob worked tirelessly in her daughter's garden in Menlo Park, California. She started her own interior decorating company, but her real passion was painting . . . first with oils and later watercolors. She lived a long and happy life and was known for her loving smile, her loyalty to family and friends, her wit and laughter, the glint in her eye and for always being a classy lady. She was loved by many and will be dearly missed.

Betty is survived by her two children: Katherine (Bill Dempsey) Strehl of Menlo Park, California, Bill (Sue) Strehl of Eugene, Oregon and stepchildren, Kathleen James of Bend, Oregon, Maureen (Taylor) Douglas of Bend, Oregon, Barbara Neill of Austin, Texas and Bill (Jerri Townsend) of Austin, Texas; ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Her beloved husband of 31 years, Bob, died in 2006. She is also survived by her loving caregiver Atiola Raura, Ati's husband Emosi, and their family of seven children who brought love and joy to Betty in her last six years of life.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Elizabeth Jane Kerley, and in extending our most sincere condolences to her family and loved ones.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on September 12, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 529 and Roll Call 530. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Nay on Roll Call Vote 529 and No on Roll Call Vote 530.

CONGRATULATING ADAM GEE

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Adam Gee, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Adam first came to Encompass Health in December of 2018 after falling off a ladder at work and sustaining a spinal cord injury. He arrived on his first day in a wheelchair. Adam knew that he had a long road to recovery ahead of him, but he was determined to emerge victorious. Adam set goals and strived to meet them each session. He struggled to take his first few steps after the injury, barely walking three feet, but that did not deter him.

During his rehabilitation, Adam continued to work and live his life. He chose to modify his everyday tasks, rather than sit and wait for things to get better.

It is thrilling to hear all that Adam was able to accomplish with hard work and determination.

Congratulations once again to Adam on this recognition.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF THE HONORABLE JANET POSS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Ms. DELAURA. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts but the greatest of memories that I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Janet Poss as family, friends, and colleagues gather to remember her invaluable contributions to the Guilford community. We lost Jan earlier this year and at the age of ninety-six she certainly lived a full life, but her presence will most certainly be missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known her.

Jan was one of the community giants on whose shoulders we all stand. She was incredibly generous with her time and energy, serving on a myriad of boards and commissions throughout her life. The Youth Services Board, the Guilford ABC program, the East Shore Adult Daycare Center, the Human Services Council of Guilford, Guilford Interfaith Housing, and the East Shore League of Women Voters are just some of the organizations she dedicated countless hours to over the years.

In addition to that, Jan also served in public life, having been elected as both a member of

the Guilford Board of Selectmen and as the State Representative for Connecticut's 98th District. She was best known for no-nonsense personality—she worked on behalf of the people she served and did not apologize for doing what she believed was right. Jan was also known as a voice of reason during the most heated of debates.

Jan was also a mentor to many in the community who followed her in public service. There are many who can tell you stories of her sitting down with those interested in seeking public office and working out a strategy to ensure an election night victory. I have the fondest of memories of Jan from when I first ran for office. She was an extraordinary sounding board and had a great sense of humor. I consider myself fortunate to have called her my friend.

It extend my deepest sympathies to Jan's family and hope that they know what a remarkable impact she had on all of those who knew her. Jan has left an indelible mark on the Guilford community and a legacy of service and dedication to which we all should strive.

HONORING LILLIAN STEWART

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Lillian Stewart and to extend my deepest condolences to her family upon her passing at the blessed age of 95. Ms. Stewart was a devoted mother, grandmother, and community activist. I am also privileged to have been able to call Ms. Stewart my friend.

Born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, in 1923, Ms. Stewart was born the middle of five children. She spent her formative years in Washington, D.C., where she attended Garnet-Patterson Junior High School and Cardoza High School.

After graduating from high school, Ms. Stewart went on to continue her education, completing a postgraduate course in Cosmetology at Madame CJ Walker's College of Beauty Culture; a foreign language course at the University of the District of Columbia; and medical secretary training by the District of Columbia Medical Society; and earning a Montgomery Ward Consumer Education "Art of Interior Decorating Home Fashion Forum" certificate.

Ms. Stewart spent much of her professional career at Howard University Hospital, where she served in several support and junior management positions. She retired from the hospital as Hospital Utilization Review Coordinator. Upon retirement, Ms. Stewart dedicated her time to a range of community activities and small business ventures. She was active in the AARP Shepherd Park Chapter No. 2667, chair of the Southwest Advisory Council-Southwest Health Clinic and was a D.C. Public Notary. Ms. Stewart was also an outspoken activist. She actively protested the planned closure of DC General Hospital, located in a predominately African American neighborhood, in 2001.

As a mother, Ms. Stewart encouraged a pursuit of education in her children. She was