

Academy (which was renamed “The West Point Fund” in 1969) and served as the publisher of two alumni publications (ASSEMBLY and the Register of Graduates), while AOG conducted alumni events (such as class reunions), operated a catalogue gift shop, maintained historical and biographical records on graduates, solicited funds for its annual appeal (supplemental AOG operating funds), and exercised editorial responsibility for ASSEMBLY.” While separate entities, the relationship between AOG and WPAF was actually synergistic: AOG represented the graduates from which most of the funds raised WPAF came, and WPAF solicited advertising for AOG’s publications, which the Association could not do given the active duty officer serving as its Secretary-Treasurer.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my votes on the following dates, September 9 through 12, due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: “yea” roll call no. 515; “yea” roll call no. 516; “yea” roll call no. 517; “yea” roll call no. 518; “yea” roll call no. 519; “nay” roll call no. 520; “yea” roll call no. 521; “nay” roll call no. 522; “nay” roll call no. 523; “nay” roll call no. 524; “yea” roll call no. 525; “nay” roll call no. 526; “nay” roll call no. 527; “nay” roll call no. 528; “nay” roll call no. 529; and “yea” roll call no. 530.

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS CREEL

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Curtis Creel, the General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), whose steady hand helped guide our community and agricultural producers through some of the worst years of drought that Kern County and California experienced in recent history.

Curtis was born in Lakeview, Oregon, but has spent most of his life in California. A graduate of California State University, Humboldt, in 1986, Curtis quickly found a position in California’s Department of Water Resources (DWR), and eventually rose to the position of Chief of the State Water Project (SWP) Operation and Planning Branch. In March of 2005, Curtis was hired as the Water Resources Manager for the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA). The KCWA contracts about 25% of the water on the SWP system, which supports some of the most fertile and productive agricultural lands in the United States.

Promoted to KCWA General Manager in 2016, Curtis recognized the strategic importance of planning for the long-term needs of our community. During negotiations on the California water-related provisions of the Water Infrastructure for Improvements to the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016, Curtis’ advice and counsel was invaluable. This bipartisan law

provides increased flexibility to move water from northern California to the Central Valley and southern California to meet our communities’ needs, while protecting fish and the environment. He has also played a critical role in increasing water supply reliability for our region through his support of new surface water storage projects and enlarging existing reservoirs. In addition, Curtis has served on the Board of Directors of the State Water Contractors Association, including as president.

Most recently, Curtis played a major role in advocating for our community as various federal and state agencies work to update the regulations that govern water exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. His ability to draw on his more than 14 years of experience as a champion for the SWP at the KCWA, combined with his technical expertise from his time at DWR, has been crucial during this initiative. In California, they say that “whiskey is for drinking, and water is for fighting over.” I have always been impressed by Curtis’ steady hand, his soft-spoken nature, and his continual focus on results, even when things get heated. In his office, there is a quote from President Theodore Roosevelt prominently displayed that says, “Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at the work worth doing.” Curtis loved working in water management and it was critical work worth doing.

Although bittersweet to see Curtis leave, I know that Curtis is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Traci, his son Michael, and his daughter Courtney and her husband Joshua. Curtis can rest assured that the planning and work he has done will continue to put the KCWA, farmers, and our community in the Central Valley of California in the best position possible. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I want to thank Curtis for his dedication over the last decade as he helped lead our community through crippling drought and fought for commonsense reforms to federal and state regulations to ensure our community received the life-sustaining water it needs to thrive.

RECOGNIZING THE UNVEILING OF THE POW-MIA MONUMENT IN WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unveiling of the POW-MIA monument in Waterloo, Illinois this weekend. Waterloo was named an official “POW-MIA” city earlier this year by the Jefferson Barracks POW-MIA Museum.

With National POW-MIA Day occurring this weekend, it is important to remember the 82,000 men and women who served our country and did not come home. This new monument honors the bravery and sacrifice of these American patriots and ensures that those who have not been accounted for remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing this momentous occasion for the people of Waterloo and the American heroes they honor.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BOBBY AND RUTH WOOD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bobby and Ruth Wood from the Walnut Lawn Funeral Home.

After 50 years of service to the residents of southwest Missouri, Bobby and Ruth Wood, owners of the Walnut Lawn Funeral Home in Springfield, Missouri, have decided to retire. The Wood’s established Walnut Lawn Funeral Home in 1989 and over the years have earned their trademark “tender moments-tender care.”

The Wood’s have a long and respected history in the funeral industry. Bobby Wood started his career as a teenager, working in different roles at a local funeral home. Bobby then attended the Gupton-Jones Institute of Mortuary Science in Dallas, Texas, becoming a first-generation licensed funeral director and embalmer. In 1960, Bobby met his wife Ruth who is a registered nurse and a graduate of St. John’s School of Nursing.

Bobby and Ruth live by their trademark “tender moments-tender care.” Along with being licensed funeral directors, both are pre-need counselors and know how to tend to the needs of those in their community. They know how to give members of the community the care they need in order to make them feel comfortable in their most difficult moments. While the Wood’s are leaving their business in good hands with their daughter, there is no doubt that Bobby and Ruth will be missed.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that the Wood’s care for their community deeply and have put in their years serving the residents of southwest Missouri. I wish Bobby and Ruth a long and happy retirement. It is well deserved and well earned.

COMMEMORATION OF CONSTITUTION WEEK WITH THE CORPUS CHRISTI DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 232nd anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), like the DAR Corpus Christi Chapter I represent, we pause every year from September 17 to September 23 to celebrate Constitution Week.

In 1765, James Wilson stated, “Without liberty, law loses its nature and its name, and becomes oppression. Without law, liberty also loses its nature and its name, and becomes licentiousness.” The Constitution enshrined the timeless yet precious principles of limited government and protection of God-given liberties. It not only established a nation, but it became the foundation of a self-governing, free-people.

The United States Constitution remains as a testament and beacon of hope to those that do not share our freedom. One hundred and