

Doctorate of Education in Leadership and Professional Practices from Trevecca University and holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from the University of Kansas.

Dr. Friesen has made an immeasurable impact on our community and is deserving of this distinction. I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation and wish her success as she continues to serve our community.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Dr. Anne Friesen for her service to our community and being named the Moore County Woman of the Year.

HONORING LYNDEL "JOE"
WISHCAMPER

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Lyndel "Joe" Wishcamper on his outstanding advocacy for and production of affordable housing. I was thrilled to learn that Joe will receive this year's Affordable Housing Vision Award from the National Housing & Rehabilitation Association. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient.

In his nearly 50 years as a community developer Joe has owned, developed, or redeveloped over 15,000 affordable housing units throughout the country. These include many units throughout Maine including ones in Portland, Eastport, Camden, Freeport, Bath, Rockland, and Wiscasset. He became an early practitioner of historic rehabilitation when he converted a vacant school building in downtown Portland to senior affordable housing. He later reduced their energy costs as well as reduced global warming by investing in a solar farm.

Beyond his work in affordable housing, Joe has also been an asset to the Maine community serving on the boards of countless businesses and nonprofits, including Maine Medical Center, the Nature Conservancy, and the University of Maine System. In recognition of his contributions to the community he has been awarded both the Spurwink Humanitarian of the Year and the Colby College Philanthropy Award.

While we are very proud of Joe and his contributions to his home state, this is a national award and many states have benefitted from his work and his philanthropy. His life's work has earned him many honors. This is a particularly significant one that merits special note.

Congratulations to Joe Wishcamper for this award. I look forward to his continued efforts to create safe, decent, and affordable housing and to his many philanthropic endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF JACK VAN LOAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, America and South Carolina have

lost a True Hero and Patriot in the passing of Col. Jack Van Loan. Roxanne and I offer our deepest sympathies to his wife Linda and his family. The fitting tribute is from The State of Columbia, South Carolina:

Jack Van Loan, an Oregon native and fighter pilot who spent six years in the infamous Hanoi Hilton as a prisoner of war in Vietnam and then served for 20 years as executive director of the Five Points Association in Columbia, has died. He was 87.

"He was a mentor, a colleague, a co-chair and a friend to me," former Five Points Association executive director Merritt McNeely posted on Facebook. "More than that, he was a true American hero and he loved and fought for Five Points like no one else. Rest In Peace my friend, Jack."

Mayor Steve Benjamin said city flags will be flown at half-staff this week in Van Loan's honor.

"He was a gentleman, stern, loving and a leader," the mayor said. "These men served our country in some of the most challenging situations, never lost their spirit and continued to serve. Jack led the charge in Five Points. When Jack calls you come. He was unique. He was special."

Van Loan received his undergraduate degree from Oregon State in 1954. He spent 30 years in the Air Force. He was a POW for six years, held in the same prison as the late Sen. John McCain.

Van Loan was shot down over North Vietnam on May 20, 1967. He injured his knee when he parachuted, and his captors made the injury worse through torture.

The torture, which became more horrifying, continued for most of his six years of captivity.

Van Loan published a book about his experience in captivity, "Chained Eagles, The Story of Col. Jack Van Loan and the Vietnam POWs in North Vietnam."

He wrote the book because he thought what the POWs experienced needed to be remembered.

"I kept being asked questions about it and realized I needed to write it up," he told The State. "It was a very difficult thing for me to do, to write it out."

Van Loan quickly learned his captors had no intention of adhering to the Geneva Convention, a treaty adopted to protect prisoners of war from the atrocities he suffered. The North Vietnamese torturers unsuccessfully tried to beat information from him.

He wrote in his book, "I wasn't going to tell them about those targets, but I was going to have to come up with something. I tried to knock myself out by beating my head on the floor but that didn't work out. All I was doing was bloodying up my forehead and getting blood in my eyes."

"I just was a total mess. . . . I had just never, ever experienced any pain like that. I just didn't think that it was possible."

Van Loan was released on March 4, 1973, with the second large group of POWs to be freed after the Paris Peace Accords ended America's involvement in the war. He had been held for 70 months.

Van Loan, a colonel, settled in Columbia after retiring from duty at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter. He served for 20 years as executive director of the Five Points Association, and is credited with being the force behind the success of the urban village's annual St. Patrick's Day celebration.

He is honored with a statue in Five Points that portrays him emerging from captivity.

At the time the statue was dedicated, Van Loan was honored by the like of U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-SC.

"Jack sacrificed for his country in a way few have ever done," Graham said at the time. "As a POW he stayed true to the traditions of an American fighting man held in captivity. He's an inspiration, a role model, and a credit to South Carolina in every way."

BENJAMIN MOORE

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great American company with a steadfast commitment to American manufacturing and job creation headquartered in my District, the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey.

Benjamin Moore currently employs approximately 1,000 individuals and is headquartered in Montvale, New Jersey. Since its founding in 1883, in Brooklyn, Benjamin Moore has maintained an unwavering commitment to selling only through authorized, independent, locally-owned and operated paint and decorating retailers.

From Benjamin's Moore's humble beginnings in 1883 with one product—Moore's Prepared Calsom Finish—to now, one of America's leading manufacturers of paints, stains and finishes, is truly a great American story.

In the Fifth District of New Jersey, Benjamin Moore has maintained a commitment to creating jobs and manufacturing their paints and stains in America.

Benjamin Moore has also made sustainable manufacturing practices a major component of their company practice, leading to receiving the "Green" Good Housekeeping Seal and the Edison "Best New Product Award for Sustainability." In 2015, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America announced that Benjamin Moore's most environmentally friendly paint, Natura, has been certified Asthma and Allergy Friendly.

As the Representative for the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey, I am proud to recognize Benjamin Moore for their commitment to American jobs and manufacturing, sustainability, and all that the company has accomplished.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Benjamin Moore for the company's commitment to the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey and to the country and look forward to many great years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on October 15, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 556 and Roll Call Vote 557. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call Vote 556 and yea on Roll Call Vote 557.