

RECOGNIZING JAMES GEIGER FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Geiger of Conrad, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Geiger was a member of the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. He served from 1942 to 1948 in the 303rd Bomb Group and 360th Squadron and earned the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters along with Service Medals in the European, Asiatic and American theaters. Mr. Geiger attained the rank of First Lieutenant.

Mr. Geiger was a B-17 pilot during World War II. During one of his crew's missions, the navigator and turret gunner were wounded. During the chaos, Geiger turned the controls over to his co-pilot and went to give first aid to his crew. Mr. Geiger kept them from bleeding out and saved their lives. He is a true hero who went above and beyond the call of duty to serve his fellow man and country.

Mr. Geiger has served on the Church Council for the United Methodist Church, the Pondera Medical Center Hospital Board and is a member of the American Legion. He is a well-respected and adored member of his community.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending James Geiger for his dedication and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF MCCOWNGORDON CONSTRUCTION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, today I proudly rise to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of McCownGordon Construction and its numerous contributions to the Kansas City community. As a significant cornerstone of the community, I am truly honored to have this establishment in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri.

McCownGordon Construction began as an idea between two friends and eventual co-founders, Pat McCown and Brett Gordon, who dreamed of starting their own construction company. Their main priority was to create a workplace that would prioritize their employees, better serve their clients, and give back to the community. They made this dream a reality through dedication, perseverance, and hard work in July of 1999. During the labor shortage of recent years when many construction companies struggled to find employees, McCownGordon Construction managed to endure by investing in the development of its team. The business tripled its training budget in order to be prepared for business growth when the economy bounced back. Due to this training initiative, McCownGordon is consistently

hiring qualified and strong candidates in order to continue providing the best for its clients.

In 2013, McCownGordon Construction was named Business Philanthropist of the Year by Nonprofit Connect because of its consistent commitment to giving back to Kansas City. The company devotes at least 10 percent of net profits to worthy causes in the communities it serves. The company's craftsmanship and involvement in the Ronald McDonald Longfellow House aided in providing temporary housing for families with sick children receiving medical treatment. Along with the R.A. Bloch Foundation, McCownGordon collaborated in renovating a portion of the Cancer Survivor's Park as well. Multiple projects for one of Kansas City's treasures, the NelsonAtkins Museum of Art, have also been completed by McCownGordon Construction. Thousands of visitors and Kansas City natives can view priceless and rare works of art in the newly renovated exhibits. Beautiful places like these are preserved and enjoyed by many because of the unwavering support of companies like McCownGordon Construction. These contributions and collaborations demonstrate how McCownGordon Construction has proven to be an invaluable part of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

Today, McCownGordon Construction employs around 400 staff, all of whom contribute to the company in various ways. Construction workers, architects, management, and administrative staff all work together in order to create meaningful projects and buildings. McCownGordon is entirely employee-owned, so all employees have a stake through the Employee Stock Ownership Plan. The company's innovative and ambitious vision for the future and for the community drives McCownGordon Construction's success. McCownGordon sets itself apart by focusing on growing positive relationships between employees and clients, while adhering to its core values. The company's positive and communicative workplace environment prompted it to be named one of the best places to work by Fortune, the Kansas City Business Journal, and others.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring McCownGordon Construction and its employees for their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to their community. Together, they have made it possible to achieve this monumental twentieth anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes due to travel.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 610, and yea on Roll Call No. 611.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM J. "BILLY" MCCOY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of William J. "Billy" McCoy, who passed away on Tuesday, November 12, at the age of 77.

Billy was an honorable public servant, serving as Speaker of the House for the Mississippi House of Representatives for many years. As Speaker, Billy contributed to significant legislation that revolutionized the economy of our State. He was the champion of the 1987 infrastructure plan that established a four-lane highway system across Mississippi, which brought more businesses into the State that created thousands of jobs for Mississippians. Billy is directly responsible for bettering the lives of thousands of people.

Billy was respected by all lawmakers across the aisle as he lived his life true to Jesus' words: "love thy neighbor as thyself." Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Edith, his two children, Sam and Kim, as well as all of the people who had the pleasure of working with him. Billy's life was one of service, grace, and love for his community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

HONORING MICHAEL MERY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of West Marin community leader Michael Mery, who passed away on September 28, 2019, at the age of 80, after a lifetime of service.

Mr. Mery was raised in Inverness, where his family ran the post office, and he attended local schools through his graduation from Drake High School. As a youth, he spent many days exploring Tomales Bay and the area that would become the Point Reyes National Seashore. The experiences left him with a lifelong love for the region's natural beauty and rural character.

Mr. Mery was a deeply rooted advocate for his beloved West Marin community and lived in Point Reyes Station at the time of his passing. He was instrumental in the creation of the West Marin Fund and a key figure in the creation of the fund's community grants and Giving Through Youth programs. The community grants program has disbursed nearly \$3 million to local nonprofits thanks in large part to Michael's vision and leadership. The Giving Through Youth program was a particular passion of his; the program teaches local students how to research organizations for grant opportunities.

Michael's activism served to sustain and nurture the agricultural community he called home for most of his life. He worked variously as a carpenter and as an organizer with the International Development Exchange, and ably brought his life experiences to bear as a devoted advocate for economic and social justice. He helped launch the West Marin Clinic