

Throughout his Army career, CW2 Knadle was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorist Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, and Army Aviator Badge.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my thoughts and prayers to David Knadle's family and friends. David was a man who fought bravely for his country and I am grateful for his service and sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BISHOP

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on H.R. 5084. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 630.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROMANIA'S GREAT UNION DAY

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Romania on her 101st celebration of unification. This year is especially significant as we also celebrate 30 years since the fall of Communism in Romania.

December 1st is representative of the sovereignty of Romania because on this date in 1918 the Alba Iulia National Assembly met to unify the peoples and territories of Romania. The Resolution passed by the Assembly united Moldova and Wallachia with Transylvania, Crisana, Banat, and Maramures. While the authorities of Romania have changed several times since then, the proud and independent spirit of the Romanian people has not.

December holds an increased meaning as the Romanian Revolution occurred in 1989 in which the people wrested an opportunity for self-direction from the dark times of the Communism towards the bright future of a democratic country which nowadays shares common values with the United States. Over the past 30 years, Romania has become a bastion of democracy in Eastern Europe and a solid and strong U.S. ally in the region. Romania is setting an example of steady commitment to transatlantic security and democratic leadership, while the Romanian public opinion has an overwhelmingly favorable view of American leadership and role in the world.

Romania, as a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 2004, has sent troops to support NATO missions in the Western Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq and is contributing 2 percent of its gross domestic product on defense spending. Romania has been a leading nation in providing cybersecurity support to NATO and its partners and is working with the U.S. Government on the secure implementation of fifth generation wireless communication networks (5G) technology. Ro-

mania also joined the European Union in 2007 and recently successfully finished a term holding the EU's presidency.

The United States and Romania have enjoyed almost 140 years of diplomatic relations and share a deep and longstanding friendship, a strategic partnership built on historical ties, and a joint commitment to advancing the security and prosperity of their citizens and communities.

Madam Speaker, it is for these reasons that I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Romania on the 101st anniversary of its Great Union Day.

HONORING DR. CINDY L. MILES

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with admiration and respect to honor the career of one of San Diego's most dedicated public servants and leaders, Dr. Cindy L. Miles.

Dr. Miles is retiring after ten years as Chancellor of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, where she transformed public higher education in eastern San Diego County and opened the doors to college for thousands of students.

In the decade since Dr. Miles joined the college district as chancellor, the number of graduates from Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges increased by 78 percent, and the number of degrees and certificates awarded at the colleges rose by 178 percent. Under her direction, the district has been recognized nationally for removing barriers to student success and eliminating longstanding equity gaps that have impeded students of color in their educational pursuits.

One of Dr. Miles's most successful innovations was the creation of the East County Education Alliance in 2014, which initially began as a partnership between the district and the Grossmont Union High School District to ensure a smooth path for students between high school, college, and eventually, into a career. In 2019, the Mountain Empire School District joined the Alliance, ensuring that every public high school student in eastern San Diego County could benefit. As evidence of this fact, the Alliance was selected by the League for Innovation in the Community College for a national Innovation of the Year award.

The prestige of the two campuses was significantly advanced during Dr. Miles's service as chancellor. In 2018, the California Community College Chancellor's Office awarded Cuyamaca College the John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award and Grossmont College was recognized as a Champion of Higher Education.

Dr. Miles has played an influential role in state and national community college organizations. She served on committees and task forces for the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Council on Education, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Community College League of California, and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

While her presence in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District will be

missed, Dr. Miles has created a culture of progress that will endure for years to come. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to her for a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING PEGGY WHITE WELL KNOWN BUFFALO AND SUSAN KELLY OF GARRYOWEN

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Peggy White Well Known Buffalo and Susan Kelly of Garryowen for their work to fight hunger in their community.

In 1999, Peggy and Susan launched the Center Pole Foundation, a Native grassroots organization that promotes knowledge, justice, and sovereignty in Native communities. The foundation seeks to serve the needs of the community, including hunger within the Crow Indian Reservation.

As part of the foundation, Peggy and Susan created a community food bank which serves not only the reservation but also the surrounding community.

Their mission to fulfill a fundamental need, such as nourishment, is personal for Peggy and Susan.

For Peggy, confronting hunger began when she attended a boarding school. There, she experienced hunger and made it a life mission to feed people in a loving and kind environment.

For Susan, she has seen firsthand how hunger impedes a child's progress. Wanting every kid to do well in school, Susan says a kid can't be creative if his or her stomach isn't full.

Each week, the food bank's staff goes to Billings to collect food from grocery stores. Their efforts provide food to the reservation and surrounding communities, feeding more than 300 people a week.

To Peggy and Susan, their work is about more than providing people with food. It's about providing their community nourishment, boosting its health, helping combat illness, and reinforcing the benefits of a healthy, positive lifestyle. Their commitment to the future of their communities is front and center of all they do through Center Pole Foundation.

Madam Speaker, for their dedicated work to fight hunger in their community, I recognize Peggy White Well Known Buffalo and Susan Kelly of Garryowen for their Spirit of Montana.

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING CONSIDERATION OF ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT OF A PRESIDENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee and one who served on the Committee during the last impeachment proceeding, I rise to share some of the fundamental principles that will guide my deliberations on the momentous task before the Committee.

In 1776, the Framers founded this country and created this government on the basis of a

bedrock belief in a revolutionary assumption: that all men are created equal and have the inalienable right to life, liberty, and property; are entitled to live free of arbitrary rule; and most important, are endowed with the right to govern themselves.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that “all Experience has sh[o]wn that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by taking” immediate action against their oppressors.

But, Jefferson continued, “when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty” to take immediate action to repel the danger.

The Framers had first-hand experience with the types of abuses and usurpations committed by political leaders who ruled them but were not accountable to them and detailed many of those wrongs in the Declaration of Independence.

The Framers understood and declared that democratic governors derived their powers from the knowing and voluntary consent of the governed as expressed in free, fair, and unfettered elections unmarred by the influence or sabotage of any entity not a member of the political community.

If elections are influenced by foreign actors, then voters are reduced from citizens to subjects, and government for and by the people is a sham.

The most important feature of a democracy is that it is the voters who alone can confer the legitimate consent and authorization necessary to govern upon the governors who are then duty-bound to represent the voters' interests, and only their interests.

The fundamental democratic compact between the governed and the governors is that the latter's authority and continuance in office comes exclusively from the governed and allegiance is owed exclusively to the governed.

This agreement can only be reached through free and fair elections, a breach of which threatens the vitality and viability of the social contract upon which democratic self-rule depends.

Based on their personal experiences, the Framers understood the importance of a president's allegiance being always and only to the nation.

That is why they included the Emoluments Clause in the Constitution as Article I, section 9, clause 8, which bans Presidents from accepting titles of nobility and strictly prohibits the acceptance of any emolument of any kind from any king, prince, or foreign state.

President Lincoln called the United States the “last best hope of man on earth” and stated at Gettysburg the importance of finishing the work we are in to ensure that “government of the people, for the people, by the people does not perish from the earth.”

The serious allegation before us is that the President extorted or bribed the head of a foreign nation to conspire with him to sabotage an American election by manufacturing false charges against his political rival so that he could retain his office and continue to abuse his power.

This is undoubtedly the most serious transgression that could be committed by a president who, as Lincoln said, has taken an oath “registered in Heaven” to preserve, protect,

and defend the Constitution of the United States.

If American elections are not free, fair, and uninfluenced by foreign actors, then the democracy is extinguished, and the people do not rule.

Instead, citizens are reduced to subjects, ruled by an authority dependent not on the consent of the governed, but on the assistance and beneficence of unaccountable foreign actors.

Such a state of affairs inevitably would lead to actions taken by the ruler that are not in the interests of the nation, like dishonoring treaty agreements, abandoning allies, impugning the independent judiciary and the free press, disregarding fundamental rights and liberties of the people, abrogating civic norms and virtues, pursuing acts of personal enrichment, and currying favor with foreign despots and authoritarians.

Although President Lincoln said in his First Inaugural Address that “while the people retain their virtue and vigilance no Administration by any extreme of wickedness or folly can very seriously injure the Government in the short space of four years,” the Framers anticipated that the day may come when the actions of a Chief Magistrate would constitute a clear and present danger to the security and survival of the republic.

To protect the republic, the Framers equipped the representatives chosen directly by the people with the necessary means of protecting their liberty by wisely including in the Constitution of the United States, Article I, section 2, clause 5, which vests the sole power of impeachment in the House of Representatives.

As a Member of Congress who has taken an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, these are the principles to which I am in fidelity and against which I will evaluate the actions of the President of the United States.

IN HONOR OF IRENE O'CONNELL,
DEPARTING MEMBER OF THE
SAN BRUNO CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, Irene O'Connell is leaving the San Bruno City Council after a remarkable 24 years of service to the community. Her departure marks the end of an era but the beginning of a new path in the life of this amazing woman and civic leader. During all these years I have deeply appreciated Irene's friendship and enjoyed working with her to promote San Bruno's bright future.

In 1995, Irene O'Connell was elected to the San Bruno City Council, serving her community with enthusiasm, vigor and effectiveness. She helped initiate a Youth Committee and helped create an after-school program at Allen Elementary that has since expanded to five other schools. She identified \$600,000 in flood control district funds that became available to help residents of the Belle Air community. She initiated the creation of the City's Culture and Arts Commission with funding through a surcharge on building permits. The Commission

has installed a number of pieces of public art including the Centennial Mosaic at the San Bruno Caltrain station and the mural painting at Centennial Park in San Bruno's downtown. A park on Florida Avenue is authorized in large measure because Irene's love of civic beauty is matched with a love of open space in San Bruno's urban environment.

For 22+ years, 200 volunteers have joined Councilwoman O'Connell annually to sweep up, recycle, plant flowers and trees, paint garbage bins, and to otherwise beautify the city. As a representative on transportation and water agencies, she's helped the city to obtain transportation grants and ensured that the water supply remained reliable and affordable. If your heart stops in San Bruno, a paramedic on a fire truck is present in large part because Irene O'Connell insisted that the service be standard on fire trucks throughout the county. She evaluated and advocated for ambitious plans for full rehabilitation and replacement of the City's utility systems over a 20-year period and the necessary funding to complete the improvements.

During some of the most difficult years in the history of her hometown, Irene O'Connell and her colleagues first consoled and then fought for the citizens of San Bruno after a natural gas pipeline exploded and killed 8 residents and destroyed 38 homes. She and her colleagues were warriors for justice holding PG&E accountable for its gross negligence.

No mention of Irene's love of her community would be complete without mention of her founding of the San Bruno Library Foundation. Irene's commitment to the library is heartfelt and enduring.

Irene is a first-generation Italian American and as such reflects the industriousness and civic involvement characteristic of those whose parents struggle to come to this country. She was born in San Bruno and has lived there ever since.

She and her family were continually involved in community service and other activities. They volunteered for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and when that wasn't exhausting enough, Irene and her father collected paperback books for the veterans hospital. Also as volunteers, the family managed the San Bruno Girl Scout House, sewing curtains, painting and helping it to operate. During her time on the City Council, she helped develop and manage a Rebuilding Together project to refurbish the house to enhance community programs held there.

When St. Bruno's needed baptismal robes for less fortunate parishioners, Irene and her mother sewed them. This family exuded community pride with every undertaking.

As she grew into adulthood, Irene realized that her first love was teaching. She obtained a B.A. in Liberal Studies and a Master's in Elementary Education with a Lifelong Teaching Credential. She taught sixth grade at St. Veronica's in South San Francisco and then left to raise her three children. However, she didn't leave community service. As a board member of Art-Rise, a local non-profit, she promoted local artists by finding space for them to display their works. The Boy Scouts and 4-H benefitted greatly because Irene was ever-present.

Irene is the proud mother of son Joe and daughters Katie and Jennifer. Her husband, Bill, keeps her young, her mother Marina Kaiser keeps her hopping, and her community keeps her strong.