

he was affectionately known—passed away on April 23, 2020, at the age of 58. With his passing, the manufactured housing industry lost a legend.

Manufactured homes are a critical source of housing for more than 22 million Americans, including over 750,000 residents of Alabama. With the national homeownership rate at a 50-year low and rents increasing at a rapid pace, manufactured homes are one of the most promising avenues for addressing our country's affordable housing shortage. Tommy understood the importance of manufactured housing, and he worked every day to promote and protect the industry.

Tommy began his career with manufactured housing in 1976, painting frames in a plant when he was only 14 years old. After finishing high school, he stayed in the industry, later graduating from Troy University in Troy, Alabama, with Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Business Administration. By 1992, he set out on his own, opening an installation company—Southern Mobile Home Service. Five years later, he joined the Alabama Manufactured Housing Commission, where he later served as Assistant Administrator.

He was also serving as Chair of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee and as Co-Chair of the Southern Region Council of State Administrative Agencies. Last September, his office worked with HUD's Office of Manufactured Housing Programs to host the "State Administrative Agency and Primary Inspection Agency Southern and Eastern Regional Meeting" in Mobile, Alabama. Two years ago, in recognition of his commitment to the manufactured housing industry, he was honored as the "2018 Alabama Manufactured Housing Association Person of the Year" by the Alabama Manufactured Housing Association. In February, he was inducted into the Alabama Manufactured Housing Industry Hall of Fame.

A devoted family man, he and his wife, Lisa, were married for 32 years. He is also survived by two children—his son, Ethan (Kaela), and daughter, Devon (Sam). A life-long resident of Eclectic, Alabama, he was also an elder and minister with Mt. Hebron Church of Christ. In his spare time, he loved to fish.

Madam speaker, please join me in recognizing the life of Tommy and everything he did to support this industry. He will be missed.

SALUTING 3,000 TOLEDO JEEP
WORKERS TO 'RETURN-TO-WORK'
MONDAY BY STATE EDICT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today with sincere concern for the well-being of thousands of workers and include in the RECORD this congratulatory entry during the COVID-19 pandemic. This coming Monday thousands of plant workers, largely connected to auto manufacturing and supplier networks, will "return to work." Their return is a State of Ohio decision by the Governor to allow production to resume at Fiat Chrysler in Toledo and hundreds of other Ohio manufacturing facilities. As Co-Chair of the U.S. House Auto Caucus, I represent workers who build the iconic Jeep product, vehicles from GM and Ford, and components from glass to tires and from paint to bucket seats. These plants and their workers were as instrumental in creating reliable over ground transportation during the last century in World War II that carried our Allied victory. Today they are building new hybrid and electric vehicle technologies. Ohioans build things. Workers must be allowed to do their craft in a healthy and safe environment. In their "return to work," these workers likely represent the largest manufacturing workforce to restart production nearly anywhere in America.

My primary concern remains the workers, their health and safety, and the absolute necessity of embarking upon a COVID-19 testing regime that will protect them, their coworkers, and their families from the spread of the dreaded Covid-19 virus even as the Governor has opened the doors to these plants. To this end, I have spent hours on end on the telephone and in meetings with top executives, union leaders, workers, health professionals, local health departments, the state health department, private and publicly operated labs.

My goal: to get up and running, the testing capacity for which I have voted for and workers have been promised. But that is still largely lacking in Ohio and across our nation.

I remain deeply concerned about the health and safety of Ohio's workers. I offer my full cooperation to achieve a testing regime acceptable to our workforce, medical sciences, and all concerned. Workers who enter plants across Ohio will be working at a closer density than those who live in many of our nursing homes where COVID-19 has struck with a vengeance. In the case of Toledo Jeep, workers will travel from Michigan and Indiana to work - untested and uncertain about what they face. Contact tracing will be harder without testing. Lucas County already has endured the highest number of COVID-19 related deaths in our State. We must pay attention. Today, the Veteran's Home in Sandusky was struck by the COVID-19. It only takes one person who has the virus asymptotically to directly spread it to many others. Testing is the only way to ensure that workers can work in a safe environment. A temperature test is not sufficient.

I cannot remain silent as this workforce begins not only a new week, but a new chapter in American history. I offer my full personal and financial support as I am able to work with the management and workforce representatives at the Fiat Chrysler and other facilities to embark upon necessary, free testing to assure the short and long-term health of these valuable American workers. Ours is a great nation, We must not accept less.

On a personal note, our beloved father retired from the old Jeep facility on Central Avenue and our beautiful mother served the organizing committee of the original United Auto Workers unit at Champion Spark Plug, I believe our family knows firsthand what it takes to assure worker health and safety. In their memory, I take this stand for autoworkers, and all workers, who are being released to the workforce. Our great nation has the capability to safeguard the health and well-being of every person. To paraphrase a Civil War Admiral: "Damn the Torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" This must be our rallying cry for testing all our workers. America should accept no less than the best.