

Singing River Health System is the largest COVID-19 provider on the Gulf Coast. It has cared for over 2,200 patients diagnosed with the virus. In response to the increased demand, it continues to make improvements to its critical care nursing units to meet the needs of the most ill patients, has established community-based clinical patient navigators to conduct local contact tracing, and supports patients recovering at home.

Mr. Bond credits the entire Singing River care and support services team for their efforts to deliver lifesaving care to those hit hardest by the virus and continue to be their greatest advocate. Despite all the long hours and very difficult days, he and the Singing River team have remained "Singing River Strong" and dedicated to their mission of improving health and saving lives.

CONGRATULATING PATRICK ROMEO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Patrick Romeo, of Boardman, Ohio, on completing the Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge in Panama City, Florida, this August.

Being one of a hundred motorcyclists traveling 10,000 miles on a country-wide, 13-day journey, Patrick embarked on an excursion intended to raise awareness for veterans with traumatic brain injuries. This endurance challenge was aimed at testing the physical, mental, and emotional limits of all participants.

Mr. Romeo demonstrated extraordinary leadership along with outstanding integrity and values, qualities that empower and inspire individuals and families to overcome their physical, mental, or financial challenges.

Resurrecting Lives Foundation, an Ohio-based nonprofit founded by Youngstown native Dr. Chrisanne Gordon, was Patrick's designated charity. So far, Mr. Romeo has been able to help raise \$16,000 for the charity, which advocates for veterans with traumatic brain injuries.

The dedication and enthusiasm Patrick directed towards this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has left a positive impact upon the community. Patrick, you are truly an inspiration to all of us who serve the public, and for that, I am forever grateful.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UGA MARINE EXTENSION AND GEORGIA SEA GRANT

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant for celebrating the 50th year since its founding.

In 1970, the University of Georgia initiated a marine extension service program with startup funds to assist the Cooperative Extension Service provided to agriculture. Edward Chin

led the original program, and also had responsibility for coordinating the university's marine programs on Sapelo Island and Skidaway Island.

Today, the UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant provides research, education, and training in science to assist Georgia in solving problems and recognizing opportunities for its coastal and marine environments.

Because of all the exceptional work they have done throughout the years, they have helped promote the economic, cultural, and environmental health of Georgia's coast. They have also aided in preparing Georgians to become good stewards of coastal ecosystems and watershed resources.

The Georgia Sea Grant College Program is part of a national network of 34 Sea Grant programs located in every coastal and Great Lakes state, Puerto Rico, Lake Champlain, and Guam. This program is among a network of over 300 institutions involving more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, educators, students, and outreach experts.

As the Representative for Georgia's coast, I can't thank them enough for the work they have done to help improve our environment to support Georgia's short- and long-term prosperity.

REMEMBERING RONNIE KOLE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to take the time to remember Ronnie Kole for his contribution to the musical community and his charitable work. I include in the RECORD the following article "Ronnie Kole, renowned New Orleans pianist who performed for 6 presidents and a pope, dead at 89" by Dominic Massa on August 28th from the The New Orleans Advocate:

Ronnie Kole, the renowned New Orleans pianist who performed for six presidents, a pope and audiences around the world, died Thursday. He was 89.

Kole, a consummate entertainer known for his boundless energy, had been in declining health but stopped performing only recently, according to his son. Kole's wife of 36 years, Gardner, died this past January.

Kole's career spanned nearly 70 years and took him to Carnegie Hall, concert venues and music clubs across the United States, Europe and Asia. He recorded dozens of albums and was a frequent performer in New Orleans, where he settled in the 1960s before moving to Slidell some 30 years ago.

Kole—who was tall, lanky, goateed and always immaculately dressed—entertained six U.S. presidents during his career. In 1987, he performed "Amazing Grace" for Pope John Paul II during the Holy Father's visit to New Orleans. Kole performed at the outdoor Mass celebrated by the pope near the UNO Lakefront Arena. Accompanied by a symphony orchestra and a 350-voice choir, Kole called the performance "the way I've always envisioned doing 'Amazing Grace,'" mixing the hymn with bits of "Jesus Christ Superstar" and the "Hallelujah Chorus."

The song was a hallmark of most every Ronnie Kole concert. His set lists showcased a diverse range of musical genres from modern and traditional jazz to show tunes, clas-

sical music and everything in between. A typical show might feature "Rhapsody in Blue," "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "What a Wonderful World," selections from Mozart or Beethoven, "Ave Maria" and a souped-up version of "When the Saints Go Marching In," just to name a few. In between songs at his concerts, he would frequently entertain his audience with jokes, anecdotes, self-deprecating asides and musical history lessons.

"My feeling is, anything your mind can think of, you can put down on a piano," he said in a 2004 Times-Picayune profile. "To me, a piano is an orchestra. It's a very imaginative instrument that you can do most anything on, which I try to do. I try not to have limitations. I have a lot of fun with it. I love to entertain."

According to Times-Picayune music writer Keith Spera, Kole was renowned for his showstopping, all-request Broadway medley, which concluded with him playing the main melodic theme with his left hand and a succession of requested melodies with his right—simultaneously.

Kole was a founder of French Quarter Festival, performing at the first event in 1984 and every festival since. He was scheduled to perform at this year's French Quarter Fest, as well as at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, both of which were canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. Kole had performed at nearly every New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival since its inception in 1970 and played at the modern event's precursor, the 1968 New Orleans Jazz Festival.

Born Ronald Kuhn, Kole was a native of Chicago. He suffered from a heart condition as a child, which limited his outdoor activities. "When I was feeling good, I wanted to go outside and play ball, but when I was sick I was sometimes laid up for a month and a half, two months in bed," he said in a 2012 WWNO-FM interview. "My aunt played piano by ear and she had a big old upright piano. She showed me how to play 'Chopsticks' . . . and my mother and father said, 'Maybe we should get him a piano. That would keep him from wanting to go outside to play baseball.'"

Kole recalled first tickling the ivories around the age of 13 and considered himself largely self-taught. He went on the road in the Midwest to perform when he was just 16.

Kole first came to New Orleans in 1957 to audition as part of a jazz trio. He didn't get the job but he fell in love with the city.

While back in Chicago, he crossed paths with New Orleans music great Al Hirt. Although Kole had already toured the country and made somewhat of a name for himself as a young jazzman, he was uncertain of his career path. Hirt, a nationally known jazz trumpeter, encouraged Kole's career and gave it a major jump start by asking him to bring his ensemble to New Orleans in 1964 to serve as the house band for Hirt's Bourbon Street club.

"I guess I owe everything to Al for bringing me down," Kole said in 1987. "And also for kicking me in the fanny a year or so prior to that, when I had totally given up and decided to play solo in a restaurant piano bar thing."

Kole worked at Hirt's club for several years before opening his own club, Kole's Korner, where he performed for six years.

"Man, I'm treated like a hometown boy here," Kole said of the city in a 1967 Times-Picayune profile. "The people are wonderful—even the club operators on Bourbon Street—there's none of the cutthroat competition here that I've found elsewhere. To us, New Orleans is the ideal place."

Before coming to New Orleans, Kole, who performed solo but also with a trio or septet, frequently played Las Vegas and on national

television, with appearances on “The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson,” “The Mike Douglas Show” and “The Merv Griffin Show.”

A dedicated civic booster, Kole served as president and chairman of the Sugar Bowl, chairman of the Louisiana Tourist Commission and president of the World Trade Center. He was also one of the investors in the New Orleans Buccaneers, the short-lived 1960s team affiliated with the American Basketball Association, which later merged with the NBA.

Kole was also known for his philanthropy. For nearly 30 years, the Jazz on the Bayou fundraiser, held at the Koles’ home on the banks of Bayou Liberty in Slidell, raised almost \$2 million for local charities. Beneficiaries included Easter Seals Louisiana, STARC, Safe Harbor, the Tammany Trace Foundation and other local charities. For many years, Kole also hosted the annual Easter Seals telethon on local television.

He was a gourmet and wine connoisseur whose personal cellar once contained more than 3,000 bottles of vintage wines. His love for French wines and vineyards began with his 1984 honeymoon in France, where he and his wife Gardner would return every summer.

Kole wrote several songs based on the vineyards and wines of France. He compiled them into a series of CDs, called “Music of the Vines.” The work earned him the honor of Chevalier of Arts and Letters, the highest award presented by the French government for achievement in the arts. “Music opens the door to anything in the world,” he once said, “and wine does, too.”

A life-size statue of Kole, donning a tuxedo and holding a glass of wine, is included in the New Orleans Musical Legends Park on Bourbon Street, alongside fellow icons Pete Fountain, Fats Domino, Chris Owens, Irma Thomas, Allen Toussaint, Louis Prima and Hirt.

Last year, the City of Slidell officially named its Heritage Park Amphitheater Stage “The Ronnie and Gardner Kole Stage” in recognition of the couple’s cultural contributions to the city.

Kole was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame in 2012.

In addition to the loss of his second wife, Gardner Morrow Schneider Kole, the musician also lost a son, James F. Kuhn. His first wife, Violet Shafer Kole, is also deceased.

Survivors include five children, Sandra Kole Bernos, of Poplarville, Mississippi; Rhonda Kole Glassmeyer, of Slidell; Ronnie Kole Jr., of Lafayette; Bobbi Kole Ballero, of New Orleans; and James V. Kuhn, of Decatur, Illinois; three stepchildren, Pete Schneider, Chris Schneider and Doree Schneider Donovan, all of Slidell; as well as 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE 2020 NORTHERN VIRGINIA PTA AND PTSA AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the 2020 Northern Virginia District PTA Annual Award recipients. Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs) in Northern Virginia serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students.

The Northern Virginia District PTA represents a region with 225 schools which includes 5 regions. Maintaining a healthy and strong organization is an important part of allowing these groups to have the greatest possible impact on the students they serve. To encourage such strength, it is important to note the individual PTAs that excel in this mission, as well as the volunteers and educators who support them. It is my honor to include in the RECORD their names.

2020 NOVA District PTA Elementary Volunteers of the Year Honorees: Kim Grant, Little Run ES PTA; Kia Haynes, Arlington Montessori ES PTA; and Molly Hunter, Olde Creek ES PTA.

2020 NOVA District PTA Secondary Volunteers of the Year Honorees: Andrea Hellier and Julie Shedd, LBSS PTSA.

2020 NOVA District PTA Outstanding PTA Award: Laurel Ridge ES PTA.

2020 NOVA District PTA Outstanding Educator of the Year Award: Stephanie Lin, Arlington Science Focus School PTA.

2020 NOVA District PTA Outstanding PTA iSTEAM Award: Arlington County Special Education PTA; and Fairfax County Special Education PTA.

I congratulate the following NOVA District PTA students who have earned the 2020 National PTA Reflections “Look Within” Awards:

Charles Nguyen, Photography, Award of Merit, Lake Braddock SS PTSA; Riley Zwiselsberger, Photography, Award of Merit, Charles Barrett ES PTA; and Theo Whiteman, Film Production, Award of Merit, McKinley ES PTA.

I also congratulate the following VA PTA Scholarship Award Recipients: Brynna Boyd, Thomas A. Edison HS PTSA; Areeba Hamid, Mount Vernon HS PTSA; Ashley Pearson, Hayfield Secondary School PTSA.

A special note of appreciation for dedicated service is extended to Debbie Kilpatrick, NOVA District Director, Tony Shivers, District Assistant Director, Denise Bolton, District Secretary/Treasurer, Julie Shepard, Advocacy Chair, Mike Woltz, Diversity & Outreach Chair, Toby Latham, Policy Chair, Cathy Petrini, Reflections Chair, Martha Coleman, Events Coordinator, Patricia Franck, Special Projects Chair, Jane Miscavage, Fairfax County Council PTA President, Maura McMahon, Arlington County Council PTA President, Katy Matthews, Alexandria City Council PTA President, Dr. Scott Brabrand, FCPS Superintendent, Donna Colombo, Virginia PTA President, and Speaker of the House Eileen Filler-Corn, Virginia Delegate, 41st District.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of the individuals, PTAs and PTSAs that are being honored tonight. Dedicated involvement from so many parents reflects a strong commitment to public education and community service that students in our schools are fortunate to experience. I offer my strong support for these organizations and their dedicated members and volunteers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDY WILSON CAGLE

HON. DAN BISHOP

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judy Wilson Cagle, who passed away on July 3rd at the age of 63.

Mrs. Cagle was the owner and manager of both Rockingham Paint and Glass and Rockingham Fitness.

Along with owning two businesses, Mrs. Cagle was a tireless animal advocate and served for several terms on the board of the Richmond County Humane Society. There, she spearheaded a partnership with the Richmond County Aging Services that allowed for low-income senior citizens to receive food for their pets. This partnership continues to this day.

Mrs. Cagle’s efforts in the community will last for many years to come. May her dedication to the Rockingham community and animal rights be an example for all of us.

REMEMBERING LAWRENCE CONNEFF

HON. EARL L. “BUDDY” CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Mr. Lawrence “Pete” Conneff of Savannah, Georgia, who went to be with the Lord at the age of 90.

Mr. Conneff attended Sacred Heart School, where he was a member of the drum and bugle corps, and graduated from Benedictine Military School, where he played football and basketball.

After high school, he attended The Citadel and Armstrong College, and eventually became a member of the Air National Guard.

He was a loving, devoted husband to his wife Ann, and wonderful father to his five children. He eventually became a treasured grandfather and great-grandfather to nineteen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Among his several family titles, he was a master plumber and owned Conneff Plumbing Co. Inc. since 1960. With Pete at the helm of the company for 60 years, it became one of the leading plumbing providers in the area.

He was also a member of the Savannah St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee since 1954, a charter member of the Irish Heritage Society, a member of the Sinn Fein Society, a third-degree member of Knights of Columbus Council 631, and a charter member of Knights of Columbus Council 5588.

While there are many aspects to miss about Pete, his character and colorful storytelling always stood out and will leave a lasting impact on all the lives he touched. My thoughts and prayers will continue to be with Pete’s friends and family during this most difficult time.