

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.