

at the United Farm Workers of America and the Migrant Farm Worker Project at California Rural Legal Assistance. Monning served as the Director of the Salvadoran Medical Relief Fund from 1982 through 1987 and was the Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Prize winning organization International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War from 1987 through 1991. Monning then went on to serve as a professor at the Monterey College of Law and Monterey Institute of International Studies and president and co-founder of Global Majority, Inc., an organization committed to education, training and advocacy in the field of non-violent conflict resolution.

Senator Monning's service in the California State Legislature began with his election as Assemblymember for the 27th Assembly District, representing parts of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara counties from 2008 to 2012. In 2012, he was elected Senator of the 17th Senate District, which includes all of San Luis Obispo and Santa Cruz counties and portions of Monterey and Santa Clara counties. He was reelected in 2016 and served as Senate Majority Leader from 2015 through 2018. Currently, Monning serves as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Rules and is a member of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and the Senate Committees on Budget, Health, Judiciary, Natural Resources and Water, and Rules. He also represents the Senate on the California Air Resources Board. Throughout his time as a legislator, he has been a leader in protecting natural resources and the environment, improving the health of all Californians, and serving veterans.

As Senator Monning prepares to celebrate his retirement, I am proud to commend him on his lifetime of serving others. I have no doubt he will enjoy spending this time with his wife, Dr. Dana T. Kent, his two children, and three grandchildren. On behalf of Central Coast residents, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Senator Bill Monning for his public service and wishing him a long and healthy retirement.

HONORING FRANK VARDEMAN, JR.

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Frank Burton "Burt" Vardeman, Jr., a life built on faith, service, and family. Mr. Vardeman passed away peacefully on September 13, 2020 at the age of 95. He is survived by his wife Martha Frances Hay Vardeman, their four children Frances, Frank, Cile, and Marty; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The first of four brothers, Burt was born in Columbus, Georgia and grew up in Covington. He attended public schools and graduated from Covington High School in 1942. During his freshman year at North Georgia College, Burt was drafted into the United States Army Air Corps. He served his country during World War II as a Flight Radio Operator on B-24 Liberator bombers with the 15th Air Force, surviving 31 combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. During one mission, Nazis destroyed three of the engines on Burt's plane, and he and his crewmates considered jumping

into the Aegean Sea. Fortunately, they spotted an airstrip in the distance, where they landed and were housed by the Tuskegee Airmen, who frequently escorted his Bomb Group, while waiting for another plane. Burt frequently said throughout his life, "I owe my life to the Red Tails."

After the war, Burt came home and studied at Auburn University using the GI Bill, where he met Martha, his "Sweetie Pie." Graduating in 1949 with a B.S. in Building Construction, Burt and Martha moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama to join Martha's father, a Presbyterian minister who had just been named president of Stillman College, a historically black college. Serving as Business and Property Manager at Stillman College, Burt helped the school become an accredited four-year institution by overseeing the construction and management of IO major campus buildings, a considerable achievement during the Civil Rights Movement.

Burt, Martha, and their four children moved to Atlanta in 1965, where Burt worked until his retirement in 1989. His accomplishments during that career included overseeing the construction and administration of the Presbyterian Church USA headquarters. In retirement, he spoke of a deep gratitude for the heroism of the Tuskegee Airmen and was made an honorary Tuskegee Airman himself. Burt volunteered for numerous organizations, including North Decatur Presbyterian Church and Kiwanis, enjoyed golfing and fishing, and was an avid bowtie enthusiast. More than anything, however, he cherished his family.

Burt and Martha built a family rooted in love and support. He selflessly served his American family overseas by defending democracy and at home by building the foundation for a more just and equal future. Through his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, Burt's legacy of faith, service, and family is destined to live on for generations.

It is my distinct privilege to help honor and celebrate the storied life of Burt Vardeman. As his family continues to grieve this profound loss, I offer my deepest condolences. On behalf of myself, the Sixth Congressional District, and the United States House of Representatives, I am eternally grateful to Burt for his unbounded dedication to the betterment of humanity and the overflowing passion with which he lived.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF PASTOR DAVID E. KELLER OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and ministry of Pastor David E. Keller of Fort Wayne, Indiana. After 34 years of service to the Greater Fort Wayne community, Pastor Keller is retiring from his role as Senior Pastor of Abundant Life Church.

In June of 1986, Pastor Keller began his ministry at a small church just across the street from Saint Francis College in Fort Wayne. Through the help of God, he sought to grow his church to include every culture, every tongue, and every nationality. After a signifi-

cant investment of his own finance and will, what started as an 1,800 square foot facility has grown to a massive 98,000 square foot facility that is completely debt free.

Pastor Keller has established a diverse outreach that now ministers to 3 major ethnic groups: Asian, Hispanic, and African. This is in addition to a ministry dedicated to the deaf and hard of hearing, and the main weekend congregation. He has also helped sponsor and establish a Bible school and Christian orphanage in India, and fostered a multi-campus ministry in Ghana, Africa.

Today, Pastor Keller is leaving behind a thriving, dynamic, and diverse congregation that ministers to hundreds of people each week. Under his leadership, the Abundant Life congregation has truly become a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multigenerational assembly who understand that "we are all level, at the foot or the cross."

I wish Pastor Keller, his wife Marta, and their children and grandchildren the very best as he moves on to the next chapter of his life. While we will sorely miss his leadership, there can be no doubt that many in the community are better off today because of his great work.

THE NOMINATION OF JUDGE AMY CONEY BARRETT TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank President Trump for nominating Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the United States Supreme Court, and urge her immediate confirmation.

Currently serving on the Seventh Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals in South Bend, Indiana, Judge Barrett has shown throughout her highly-successful legal career that she has an outstanding legal mind and that she is more than qualified to serve on the Supreme Court.

As a fellow Hoosier, I have the utmost confidence that Judge Barrett would honorably carry out the duties of a Supreme Court Justice and would help defend the constitutional rights of all Americans.

I also believe that she appropriately understands the role of the Federal Judiciary in our Republic is to rule on the law—not to make it up from the bench.

I thank Indiana's Senators for indicating their support of Judge Barrett's nomination, and urge the rest of the United States Senate to follow suit and quickly confirm this highly-qualified Hoosier to the bench.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. I want to thank my