

One of Medford VFW Post's last surviving members of the "Greatest Generation," Fred proudly answered the call to serve our country in 1943. Originally born in Philadelphia and starting work as an apprentice tool maker, Fred put everything on hold to serve during World War II. Through his work and service, he exemplified integrity and resilience even as his regiment landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day and suffered grave losses. In treacherous circumstances they persevered, and Fred continued to serve in various other capacities like Operation COBRA. Even after being wounded by grenade fragments, Fred rejoined his unit in time for the breakthrough of Seigfried Line. Toward the end of his service, Fred was an integral part of helping Allied Forces during the Battle of the Bulge, and later joined the offensive effort during Operation PLUNDER.

Upon his return home as a Sergeant, Fred became a deservedly decorated veteran. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the European Service Medal, and received five stars. At home, he continued his career as a tool maker, and began involvement with local organizations. Most notably, he joined the Medford VFW Post, and served in numerous leadership positions. Eventually, he became the Post Quartermaster, and dedicated his time to managing the financial affairs of the organization. Much like his service to our country, Fred went above and beyond as a leader, and achieved the distinction of All State Quartermaster.

It is clear that no matter the field, Fred has made an indelible impact on our lives. We are proud to have Fred call New Jersey's 3rd District home, and to have been fortunate enough to benefit from his contributions. We thank him for all the ways he has served our community and country as a whole. As Fred continues to enjoy serving others and time with his family, we wish him many more years of good health and continued happiness.

RECOGNIZING FIRST KOREAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD my letter recognizing First Korean United Methodist Church's 100th Anniversary:

DEAR MEMBERS OF FIRST KOREAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: I offer my sincere congratulations to everyone at First Korean United Methodist Church as the congregation marks its 100th anniversary of ministry to the community.

For the past century, First Korean United Methodist Church has been an important part of the Korean American community, providing a welcoming home and vital services. The work you do in the community, from developing programs which help the next generation of Korean American leaders thrive to providing ministry for all people regardless of age and gender, has changed countless lives.

Through commitment, dedication, and the strong faith of the leadership and the congregants, First Korean United Methodist Church has made so many feel at home, and I am proud to be your representative in Con-

gress. I look forward to working with the community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER,
Member of Congress.

MAY CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH, ILLIMA MARTINEZ

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Ilima Martinez as my May Constituent of the Month. As the Founder and President of Umeke Organization, Ilima works to preserve Hawaiian culture and traditions.

Ilima has more than a decade of experience of doing this work and this year, Ilima used her experience to organize the first annual Southern California Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Festival to celebrate the rich history of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in our community. I have no doubt she will continue to make a difference in our region.

During Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month, I am proud to celebrate the exceptional efforts of individuals like Ilima Martinez who volunteer their time and contribute to our unique and beautiful district. I'm so grateful for CA-49 residents who dedicate their lives to the betterment of our residents and community, and I'm proud to honor Ilima Martinez as my May Constituent of the Month.

HONORING MARK GHILARDUCCI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with the members of the California delegation, to honor Mark Ghilarducci, the director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), for his 40 years of public safety service.

Born in San Mateo, California, Mr. Ghilarducci received his Bachelor of Science in Physiology from University of California, Davis. Afterwards, he joined Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government as a part of their fellowship program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

Mr. Ghilarducci started his career at the federal level working on homeland security, emergency preparedness, and disaster response. Mr. Ghilarducci was an executive member of the Advisory Board for the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System from 1990 to 2003. Here he led federal search and rescue operations after the 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City. From 1997 to 2000, he also served as federal coordinating officer with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Additionally, Mr. Ghilarducci was a critical advisor to the state of Louisiana and Governor Kathleen Blanco after Hurricane Katrina.

In California, Mr. Ghilarducci has occupied several integral public safety positions. He served as deputy state fire chief of special operations for California's Office of Emergency

Services (Cal OES), where he led the development and creation of the state's internationally recognized fire and rescue mutual aid system. In 2014, he was appointed director of Cal OES by Governor Jerry Brown, and again by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2019. Over the course of his tenure as director, he guided California through 130 federally declared disasters such as an enduring drought, five of California's largest wildfires, including the tragic Camp fire, and the COVID pandemic. He also serves in Governor Newsom's cabinet as his homeland security adviser, using his experience to advise on matters of terrorism and cybersecurity.

Mr. Ghilarducci has also been a member of numerous state bodies that have shaped California's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery approaches. From 2001 to 2003, he co-chaired both the Governor's Strategic Committee on Terrorism and the California Standardized Emergency Management System Technical Committee. Governor Newsom also appointed Mr. Ghilarducci as chair of the California Earthquake Authority Board of Directors and the California Wildfire Catastrophic Response Council, as well as the executive board member of the Governor's Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Some of Mr. Ghilarducci's most notable policy achievements include the modernization of California's 911 system, his facilitation of the State Threat Intelligence and Assessment System, the design and implementation of the nation's first Earthquake Early Warning System, and the design and operation of the California Cybersecurity Integration Center. Furthermore, he was a vocal advocate for the California Disaster Assistance Act which authorized over \$300 million in funding towards building a more resilient and safer California.

Mr. Ghilarducci is known for his motto "one team, one fight" as well as his honesty, integrity, and respectful nature. He spends his spare time with his wife Linda Ghilarducci and two children, RJ Ghilarducci and Alexandra Ghilarducci.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Ghilarducci has undoubtedly made our Nation and the state of California a safer place for our constituents.

APPRECIATING MR. JACOB JERNIGAN FOR HIS SERVICE ON MY STAFF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in appreciation of Mr. Jacob Jernigan for his service to the people of California's Eighth Congressional District as a member of my staff. A native of California, Mr. Jernigan joined my office in 2018, playing a critical role in my office for over four years. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Jernigan demonstrated a sincere commitment to the people of California, serving as Outreach Manager and ultimately using his vast experience and knowledge to become a Legislative Assistant in my office.

By listening to community members, writing legislation, and advocating for constituents, Legislative Assistants are fundamental to ensuring the priorities and concerns of Americans are comprehensively addressed. Mr.

Jernigan handled a critical legislative portfolio that included education, labor rights, and housing and his dedicated work each day was essential in meeting the most pressing needs of California communities.

From helping secure critical funding for our communities to spearheading my office's efforts to revitalize America's workforce, Mr. Jernigan's endeavors undeniably improved the lives of Californians and helped provide them

with the resources necessary to thrive. Mr. Jernigan's commitment to his responsibilities as Legislative Assistant was essential in allowing me to effectively represent the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District.

Mr. Jernigan has joined the Office of Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, as the Military Legislative Assistant. I and all the members of Team Garamendi wish him all the best in his new position. During his tenure on my staff,

Mr. Jernigan approached his work with dedication, thoughtfulness, and a genuine desire to serve American communities. These same qualities will serve him well in his future endeavors.

While we will miss him, we all look forward to what Mr. Jernigan will do next. He will remain a deeply valued member of Team Garamendi, always.