

Linda's civic participation includes serving on the City of Merced's Redevelopment Agency Gateway Projects Citizen's Advisory Committee, City of Merced's Planning Commission, several City of Merced Ad Hoc Committees including Open Space and Parks, South Merced Specific Plan, CP-42 Park Project, Wastewater Advisory Committee. She has also served on the San Joaquin Valley Partnership Telecommunications Committee and the California State Advisory Board for Transportation Planning and Environmental Justice.

Linda Lopez is also an alumnae of the Great Valley Center's IDEAL inaugural class, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality and Leadership Merced. Linda was named the 1998-99 Hispanic Woman of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Linda has held numerous positions in the community that include the Central Valley Opportunity Center, TV Guide Magazine, the National Park Service and worked with a variety of research companies. She is also a former employee of the Great Valley Center's Central Valley Digital Network working to introduce/enhance technology capacity in the Central Valley communities from Marysville to Bakersfield.

Linda has served as a Constituent Services Representative in my Merced District office since 2006 where she has worked hundreds of cases in her years of service. Linda prided herself on giving her time and energy to everyone that comes into my office seeking assistance. It was not unusual for Linda to work late nights and weekends to meet the needs of the constituents or schedule home visits for the elderly to assist them on matters for which they needed assistance. Linda's compassion is a hallmark for the work she does and it shows to not only the constituents but to the community at large. As a member of my staff, Linda has served as Field Representative where she would provide me updates and serves as my eyes and ears in the community.

Linda's passion for helping people and making a difference sets her apart from others. She offers to everyone she meets, kindness and compassion. Often times, Linda's relationship with other community members evolves into that of a mentorship, where Linda guides and mentors other aspiring community activists to find the passion and desire in themselves to serve the public.

In addition to her work as a public servant, Linda has her beautiful family for which she is so proud that include Ken, Emily and Jessica. Linda Lopez has made Merced, California a better place to live, work and raise our families. I am very proud to call her a member of Team Cardoza and more proud to call her a part of my family. Her compassion, leadership and dedication will serve our community and its children for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to recognize this fine individual for her work and tireless efforts.

HONORING MR. NICHOLAS
BOCCIERI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend my deepest sympathies to our

former colleague, the Honorable John Bocchieri and his family. On Saturday, June 11th, Mr. Bocchieri's father, Nicholas Bocchieri passed away at the age of 72.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio, on July 9, 1938, "Nick" or better known to some as "Jim", was truly a leader in our community. After graduating from Youngstown Ursuline High School in 1956, he attended St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati for two years. After receiving a bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University, Nick went on to teach Latin, Spanish, Italian and English at Poland, Hubbard, and Lowellville High Schools in the Mahoning Valley for 30 years.

Married to Rosemary Filisky on August 14, 1965, the couple was blessed with three sons including our former colleague John along with brothers Gregory and Nick. They helped provide a life filled with joy, laughter and love, and the fantastic gift of nine grandchildren.

Nick was ordained as a Deacon in the Catholic Church in January of 1998. As an active member of the parish, St. Anthony of Padua in Youngstown, Nick served as the Director of Youth Ministry and taught marriage preparation and confirmation formation classes.

Please join me in extending our most sincere and heartfelt sympathies to the Bocchieri family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "MISS
PEACHES," ANNABEL GRINER
ALDERMAN

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the passing of Mrs. Annabel Griner Alderman, also known as "Miss Peaches." Mrs. Alderman was a beloved novelist, poet, talk radio show host, newspaper columnist and native of Nashville, Georgia.

Mrs. Alderman spent the majority of her life in Nashville where she became a political activist through writing and performing. She appeared as a political comic under the name "Miss Peaches," a self proclaimed nickname that would serve as the moniker for her alter ego as she performed concerts and monologues with her piano playing brother, Geunie Griner.

Known for her creativity, Miss Annabel lived a colorful life and ingratiated herself in her community. Even as a child, she was very creative and talented, and wrote the song "Willacoochee Callin' Moody Field" after a chance meeting at a phone booth. Miss Annabel and her mother stopped to make a phone call in Ray City when she was just a girl and while they were waiting on the person inside the phone booth, she overheard the lady speaking to someone at Moody Air Force Base. She went home and wrote the song that she would later perform with her brother. This would be only the beginning of the pair's singing career; they also recorded comedy and gospel material through RCA with Mrs. Alderman acting as lyricist and lead singer.

As much as she enjoyed performing, Miss Annabel also enjoyed writing and would go on to give herself another nickname, that of "wordsmith." During the 1930s and 1940s,

Ward Law Starling was one of the biggest newspaper publishers in the state of Georgia, with the Nashville Herald being part of his empire. However, after his untimely death, Miss Annabel swooped in to keep the paper running and once again paired up with her brother Geunie to successfully run the paper for a number of years.

Mrs. Alderman graduated from the Georgia Regional Police Academy in 1983 and became an investigator with her family's law firm in Nashville. However, she continued to write, publishing a book of poetry, "Lost Loves Don't Count" in 1996. Then in 1999 she wrote her first novel, "Family Man," which was nominated for several literary awards. During this time Ms. Alderman also penned a political column, "About Right Now" for the Valdosta Daily Times and was named Berrien County Republican Woman of the Year. Numerous poems, essays and short stories also followed and were published in Georgia magazines such as Valdosta Magazine, Flint River Review, Kennesaw State University's Golden Age of Poetry and Mercer University's Crossroads magazine.

The south has many colorful characters in its history but in Berrien County, there will only ever be one "Miss Peaches." I rise today to commemorate Mrs. Annabel Alderman as an enduring part of the history of South Georgia. May the Lord bless her family and her memory.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST
ROBERT L. VOAKES, JR.

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, Northern Michigan mourns the loss of Army Specialist Robert L. Voakes, Jr., 21, from L'Anse. Robert, who was posthumously promoted from private first class, was killed during an insurgent attack in Lagham Province, Afghanistan. Robert was just three months into a 15-month Operation Enduring Freedom deployment in Afghanistan.

Robert graduated in 2009 from Baraga High School and enlisted in the military that November. He went to basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and was then stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska. Robert was in the 164th Military Police Company, 793rd Military Police Battalion, 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Robert enjoyed sports, particularly basketball, and was a proud and active member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. He is remembered as a quiet, thoughtful young man with an excellent sense of humor.

While Robert could have stayed in L'Anse, he chose instead to serve the cause of freedom and defend America's liberty in a distant country. Robert's deeds and daring will forever be illustrative of the selflessness and bravery that lives in Northern Michigan's young people. I can find no words that can express my gratitude for Robert's service or for the sympathy I feel for his many loved ones whose lives have been shattered by this loss.

To Robert's family, I can offer only the hope that you may be comforted by the kind providence of the Almighty, and the knowledge that