

Maura Downes and Tim, Sean Fitzgerald, Megan Hurlburt and Tyler, Carolyn, Laura and Raymond Larson, Eric Larson and Sue, Glenn, Jeffrey and Deborah Larson, Samantha Jeter, and Jon, Cori Larson, Joe Bennell and Natasha, Chaim Bennell, Gina and Nickolas Onidi, and Matthew and Arianna Larson; and 11 adored great-grandchildren; she also leaves an niece, Candace Bryan, and nephew Brian Elton; and several cousins and extended family members. Pauline's family extends a very special thanks to Dr. Roy Zagieboylo, Karen Chadderton and the entire staff at Riverside who took such loving care of her, especially Delanney, Kathy, Charmaine, Janet, and Maria and many other who treated her with compassion and dignity.

RECOGNIZING DAVE ROBERTSON
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend David J. Robertson on the occasion of his retirement from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, where he has served with distinction for the past 26 years, culminating in his appointment as executive director a decade ago.

The Council of Governments functions as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the National Capital Region, and it is comprised of 21 regional governments representing Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. COG and its leadership play a key role in coordinating the regional response on issues ranging from Chesapeake Bay preservation to affordable housing and from homeland security to transportation planning. Those activities are financed by the member jurisdictions, federal and state grants, and private sector funds.

Dave has been a mainstay at COG, where he began as a regional planner in 1986. Throughout his tenure, Dave has held a series of roles, both technical and managerial, and prior to being named executive director, he was head of COG's Department of Human Services, Planning and Public Safety. In a region with overlapping local, state, and federal interests and competition, Dave has proven adept at keeping the organization's staff and membership focused on the mission of addressing our shared challenges to improve the lives of our collective constituents.

It was my great pleasure to serve on the GOC board of directors while I was a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. I also chaired the COG board in 2000 and collaborated with Dave on a number of projects, including my initiative to increase telework among the regional governments. In addition, I chaired COG's Emergency Preparedness Council, where Dave was instrumental in coordinating response and preparedness efforts not only among the local governments, but also with the states and the federal government, which is no small task as each major weather incident or natural disaster reminds us.

In addition to his role at COG, Dave also served on a number of regional organizations,

including the American Red Cross of the National Capital Region, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the American Planning Association, the International City/County Management Association, and the Washington Region for Justice and Inclusion.

Prior to his tenure with COG, Dave worked for the National Association of Home Builders and former member of Congress David Bonior of Michigan. He received a Master of Urban Planning degree from George Washington University, and also holds a Bachelor's degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dave Robertson on his many accomplishments and thanking him for his tremendous service to the Council of Governments and the National Capital Region. Thanks to Dave's leadership, we spent more time focusing on those challenges that unite, rather than divide us, and that continues to serve as a lesson for us all to follow. We wish Dave the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MIKE TYNER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mike Tyner, a remarkable young man who died tragically last year. Mike was a field crew leader for the Ventana Wildlife Society's California Condor Reintroduction Program. During a powerful wind storm on November 30th, 2011, a falling tree branch struck and killed Mike when he was in the field in Big Sur, California, to ensure the safety of a newly released endangered condor. He was just 35 years old.

Mike graduated from California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology and Systematic Biology. He lived a life of accomplishment, serving as a research assistant at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a volunteer for the USDA Forest Service. He joined the Ventana Wildlife Society in 2002, studying songbirds along the Carmel River and conducting surveys for Spotted Owls in the Big Sur backcountry. He also achieved success in his work as an ornithologist, botanist, and a desert biological monitor.

In 2006, Mike began working full-time on Ventana Wildlife Society's California Condor Recovery program. He quickly rose to the position of field crew leader. Mike was dedicated to protecting condors, even in the most challenging conditions. During the 2008 Big Sur wildfire, Mike and his team safely rescued seven captive condors that were held in a field pen in the fire's path. Thanks in large part to Mike's efforts, all biologists and condors were brought to safety. Releasing a young condor into the wild was not only Mike's last act of service to our earth community, but it was an act that captured the essence of Mike's legacy.

Mike is survived by his loving mother, Nancy Ann Tyner; three sisters, Theresa Ann Guire, Mary Cynthia Clayton, and Kathleen Julie Morgan; two brothers, Timothy Gordon Skeens and John Eric Skeens; and his many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Lue Tyner.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor the memory of Mike Tyner. Mike gave his life to help endangered species flourish, and his life is a reminder that we can all play a part in devoting ourselves to making the world a healthier and more beautiful place.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT BRIAN FORSYTHE FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR GREAT NATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Brian Forsythe for his service to our great nation. A resident of Florida, SMSgt Forsythe has honorably served for 21 years and will be retiring in January of 2013. His contributions ensure the greatest Air Force in the world completes their mission statement to fly, fight, and win. . . in air, space, and cyber space through the mastery of various positions including: Wing Functional Manager, Command Group Superintendent, and Infrastructure Section Chief. SMSgt Forsythe graduated from the Air Force Airmen Leadership School, Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and Southwestern College, among others.

In his 21 years of dedicated service, SMSgt Forsythe has displayed both patriotism and bravery through his successful deployments in Operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom. As a selfless mentor, he has inspired numerous US and Allied Airmen earning recognition for individual accomplishments.

His life is a living testament to the courage and duty our men and women in the armed forces possess, so that freedom and liberty may endure. On behalf of Florida's Sixth Congressional District, I extend my congratulations to SMSgt Brian Forsythe on his retirement from the United States Air Force.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ALBERT B. RATNER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Albert Ratner of Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Ratner celebrates his 85th birthday on December 27 of this year. In celebration of this milestone, his family and friends are honoring him on December 26, 2012.

Albert Ratner was born in 1927 in Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from Cleveland Heights High School in 1946 and from Michigan State University in 1951. Due to his extensive civic, philanthropic and business history, Albert Ratner also holds an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Long Island University and an Honorary Doctor of Engineering Degree from Polytechnic University, both in Brooklyn, New York. He served in the United States Army. Together, he and his wife Faye