

HONORING HAGEN R. KIMSEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hagen R. Kimsey. Hagen is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 10, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hagen has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hagen has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 41 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hagen contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hagen painted the physical therapy room at the United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Missouri facility in St. Joseph, Missouri. Hagen's work allowed the facility to maintain its license and provide children with developmental disabilities an opportunity for physical activity.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hagen R. Kimsey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF MIKE CONDOLEON

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Michael J. "Mike" Condoleon, 81, who passed away March 27, 2013 at St. Joseph Health Center in the presence of his loving family. Mike was born the son of John M. and Angela Condoleon on Nov. 6, 1931, in Warren, Ohio.

Northeast Ohio is known for hard working, honest Americans that work day in and day out to help drive this nation; Mike was no exception to this. He proudly served our nation in the U.S. Army during both World War II and the Korean War. In the early 1960s, Mike was the proud owner and operator of the McKinley Market. He also provided for his family while working at Penn Ohio Towel Co., St. Demetrios Community Center and most recently at Condo Inc.

Mike was a member of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and AHEPA Zeus 88. He found joy in reading, landscaping, doing home projects and studying history. Although Mike enjoyed these hobbies, none of them can compare to the love Mike had for his family. Mike is survived by his loving wife, Christina "Tina" Condoleon, whom he married August 18, 1963; three children, John (Tricia) Condoleon of Howland, Harry (Hollie) Condoleon of Algona, Iowa, and Angela (Steve) Zervas of Cortland; ten grandchildren, Kristin, Michael, Kurt, Caitlyn, Michael John, Nicholas, Gabriel and Laney Condoleon, Christopher and Melena Zervas; one sister, Peggy Kontos of Warren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mike's son John is my dear friend, Mr. Speaker. And I know how proud he was of his son and all of his family. I know that his children continue to pass on to their children the values and integrity they witnessed in their father. And isn't that what it is all about? That is why I am honored to take this opportunity to commemorate the life of Michael J. Condoleon. He will be remembered as a friend, a colleague and a mentor to many—but most importantly, he will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. His contributions to this his family, our community and our nation will not be forgotten.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING ST.
MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of St. Mary's Bundschu Memorial High School, an historic and admirable educational institution that has been a proud part of my district for well over a century. At this time, I would like to join with my friends and neighbors to say goodbye and thank you to St. Mary's High School, recognizing all that the teachers, staff, and administration have done for generations of our community.

Few institutions can claim the vibrant history that St. Mary's can. It can trace its roots back to 1853, when Father Bernard Donnelly founded the school on a small plot of land, donated by Susan A. Hamilton. On this land was a small one and a half story building, which Father Donnelly converted into a school. From humble beginnings came bold and bountiful blessings.

At that time Independence, Missouri was the farthest point westward to which steamboats could travel on the Missouri River. It would be twelve more years before the city of Independence even opened its first public school, so St. Mary's served as the first public school for the frontier town. The children of merchants, explorers, and pioneers began their education together.

As the town grew, so did St. Mary's. Throughout its history—even in 1876 when part of the building was destroyed by a cyclone—St. Mary's has served the students of this community. In 1946, the cornerstone of the co-educational St. Mary's High School was laid, and by the very next year, a new building was completed and accredited. By 1968, the school opened its doors wide, expanding enrollment to neighboring communities, from greater Independence and Sugar Creek, to Northeastern Kansas City, Blue Springs, Lee's Summit, Raytown, Buckner, Smithville, and Liberty.

Over the years, St. Mary's has dedicated itself to the education and development of young men and women, teaching them to realize their unique potential through an extensive curriculum, instructional excellence, global awareness, service and extra-curricular programs. Thousands of young adults spent their formative years learning and growing in the classroom, on the field, on the stage, and in the pews on North Main Street.

It is with these facts in mind that Mayor of Independence Don B. Reimal dedicated May

14, 2013, to be St. Mary's High School Day, recognizing the positive impact this school has had on the lives of all of us, and urging all citizens to join in promoting the welfare of all children and youth.

As this school year comes to a close, so too do the doors of St. Mary's. But what will go on in these days, months, and years to come, is the lasting legacy of education and experience, living on in the hearts and minds of St. Mary's alumni.

Mr. Speaker, it is my wish that this Congress pay tribute to this valued part of our community.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MAYO STUNTZ

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the extraordinary life of one of Fairfax County's more iconic figures, Mayo Sturdevant Stuntz, who passed away May 9, at the age of 97. Mr. Stuntz not only witnessed the historical events that shaped our community, but he and his family also dedicated themselves to documenting, sharing, and preserving that history for future generations.

A native of Vienna, Va., Mr. Stuntz spent his early years serving his country. After graduating from Cornell University, he served with the U.S. Army for five years during World War II, where he was a member of the renowned Alamo Scouts reconnaissance unit based in the South Pacific. He went on to serve 25 years with the Central Intelligence Agency. Those accomplishments alone merit our great praise and thanks, but it was what Mr. Stuntz did during his retirement that will leave a lasting imprint on our community.

Mr. Stuntz inherited from his parents an interest in history that grew into a hobby and ultimately became his true passion. His family is steeped in Fairfax County and our nation's history. He was a descendent of a Hessian soldier who came to the colonies during the Revolutionary War to fight for the British but wound up switching sides once he learned the impetus for the war. Mr. Stuntz also was a descendent of the Fitzhugh family, which traces its roots in America to the early 1600s. The family owned a large tract of what later became Fairfax County. At one point, the Fitzhughs were close family friends of George and Martha Washington, who had settled in eastern Fairfax, and another Fitzhugh descendant married Robert E. Lee.

Concerned with the disappearing character along the main street in Vienna that he recalled from his youth, Mr. Stuntz set out in the 1960s to photograph every house on Route 123 between Tysons Corner and Oakton. His wife, Connie, was soon pulled into the project, which eventually led the publishing of three books: "This Was Vienna," "This Was Tysons Corner," and "This Was Virginia." It was also during the mid-1960s that Mr. Stuntz was recruited to join the Fairfax Landmarks Preservation Committee, which would serve as a precursor to the Fairfax History Commission. In a 2005 oral history interview, he said his initial goal was to create a book of historical

buildings and homes similar to one he had seen done in neighboring Arlington County. "I didn't realize Arlington is about one-tenth the size of Fairfax County, and I bit off a great deal to chew . . . and I'm still chewing."

All told, Mr. Stuntz spent 47 years on the Commission, chronicling and preserving our community's rich history and culture. In addition to the books he and his wife published, he regularly lectured in local classrooms and community centers. He readily acknowledged that he was not a trained historian, but his local knowledge went back a piece, and he understood the value in connecting the past with our present. It was those connections that continued to drive him, even in his later years, when he lost his sight.

I had the great pleasure of collaborating with Mr. Stuntz on Civil War preservation and a number of historic marker dedications during my tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. You could not help but get carried along by his vast knowledge and passion for our local history. I was able to spend time with Mr. Stuntz earlier this spring when we celebrated the Freeman Store, a local Civil War landmark, being added to the National Register of Historic Places. It was particularly poignant for him as he was the first chairman of the Freeman House ad hoc Historical Commission. His daughter, Anne, is now president of the Commission's successor, Historic Vienna. As we reflected on this latest addition to his historic tally, he pulled me aside to ask me if I had purchased my plot at Flint Hill Cemetery. It is believed to be the oldest cemetery in Fairfax County, and Mr. Stuntz had served as president of the cemetery association for 50 years. He had long encouraged me to get a plot before they were all gone, and even now was still trying to close the deal. He was truly a character.

Mr. Stuntz is survived by his wife of 66 years, Connie, their three children, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and in commemorating the remarkable life of Mayo Stuntz for his tremendous service to our country and community and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family. His strong connection and commitment to our community became a lifelong passion that has preserved milestones in our history for future generations and inspired others to pick up where he left off. He also was my friend, and I shall miss his smile and warm presence terribly.

HONORING DR. GENE JOHNSON

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Gene Johnson, Superintendent of the Shawnee Mission School District in Johnson County Kansas, for his unwavering service to our country's greatest natural resource—our children. Dr. Johnson has tirelessly served the children of Kansas during his educational career as teacher, principal, administrative leader, and during the last five years as the Superintendent of one of the largest school districts in Kansas. He will be ending his life-long service in public education at the end of June.

During his time of leadership Dr. Johnson has led through the difficulties of economic challenge and a changing demographic in student population, while continuing to raise the bar of academic excellence and achievement—a great example of excellence in leadership through diversity. He has quietly and brilliantly led this national award winning school district in the increase of their International Baccalaureate programs in the high schools and Advanced Placement Courses; Signature Programs in Bio-Science/Medical Studies, Bio-Technology, Engineering, Legal Studies, Culinary Arts and others while strengthening focus on early childhood education and academic rigor in the Middle Schools.

Thank you, Dr. Johnson, for your servant leadership. You are a hero and champion, and we wish you the best in your retirement.

STRENGTH IN HONOR

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of United States Navy SEAL Lt. Jason Redman. In September 2007, while in the midst of an intense fire fight to capture an Al Qaeda High Value Individual, he was severely wounded. Shot in the face and other parts of his body, he came very close to death. With the help of his devoted wife Erica, Lt. Redman has made a miraculous recovery. The one word he uses which embodies his life and attitude is OVERCOME! He and his wife have started up a new company in Virginia called Wounded Wear. Through their company they are devoted to providing clothing and other gear for those injured in combat. Their goal is to help make the transition easier for American wounded warriors and their families. Lt. Redman and his family make us all so very proud to be Americans and I ask that this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

TO OVERCOME

STRENGTH IN HONOR

Strength!

Strength In Honor!

When, hearts caress!

All in life,

all in life and death!

But To Be The Best!

While, all in the throws of death!

All in these,

our most heroic of all quests!

All in those,

moments that which we have so left . . .

Will it be The Angel of Light,

or Angel of Death?

As somehow Jay . . .

you so fought onward . . . with all that you had so left!

While, all in those darkest of all hours . . .

As upon your heart as was so showered,

the determination to so etch!

To so summon up the strength and power

. . .

TO OVERCOME!

To rise above,

all in this battle to which your heart had now so come!

To somehow find the light,

from somewhere deep down inside!

As there you were Jay,

all in your SEAL OF HONOR,

as your courage out to all so cried!

All in this battle that you had so begun!

TO OVERCOME!

As upon you,

the dark hand of death would descend!

As you could so see its face,

and felt its hand!

When, life and death could not so wait!

As the tears ran down your most heroic face!

As you so said No to The Angel of Death,

as The Angel of Light came upon your

breath!

To so help you find the grace . . .

To so reach deep down from within . . .

To fine THE STRENGTH IN HONOR,

with but your faith to so begin!

TO OVERCOME!

As death so wanted you to own!

As you have gotten stronger,

as your gait has gotten longer!!

TO OVERCOME!

As this battle SEAL,

YOU HAVE SO WON!

Because NAVY SEALS,

are everything Superman wishes he could so become!

As now you've rebuild your new life against all odds,

TO OVERCOME!

Almost like a God!

All in this your most heroic song!

For a town called pity,

is not some where you so belong!

Halfway to Heaven,

halfway to death!

As inch by inch,

step by step!

As you Lt Redman,

quantum leaps you so leapt!

As with you we could not so keep pace,

as all out in front you've so won this race!

That race to recovery,

TO OVERCOME!

All in those most magnificent moments,

that your fine soul so stretched!

To win that battle,

to win that fight . . .

as to our world you so brought your light!

For Faith and Courage,

are but the words you so live by!

And you wounded warrior,

have so brought such tears even to The Angels eyes!

As you fine wife Erica so stood by your side, as upon her you could so rely!

For some people are put upon this earth,

to so teach us all what so comes first!

To so show us all that even in the very worst!

How to OVERCOME!

As Thy Will Be Done,

as On Earth As It Is In Heaven!

ALL IN THEIR STRENGTH IN HONOR,

TO SO SHINE LIKE THE MORNING SUN!

TO SO OVERCOME!

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF
ARMY STAFF SERGEANT
FRANCIS G. PHILLIPS IV

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor fallen Army Staff Sergeant Francis G. Phillips, IV, who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and defend the freedoms of the United States of America. He was 28 years old.

This week, he returned home to Auburn, New York, and his family will lay him to rest next week at Arlington National Cemetery.