

at Potomac Town Center, PWC Youth Ambassadors, Prince William Resolves Chapter, Quantico Marine Base, Daughters of the American Revolution, Princesdale/Ridgedale Community Pride, PurdyRandom Sisters, Rippon Landing Master Association, River Oaks Community Association, Ron Haynes, Keller Williams Realty, Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Second Heritage MEWS Community Association, Steve Glasser, Thies Family, Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD), Troop 1297, Twin Oaks Farm, Venture Crew 35, Victory Christian Preschool and Academy, Whitlock Wealth Management, Winston Family, Woodbridge Potomac Communities Civic Association, Woodbridge Women's Club, Zuniga Family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the volunteers of Keep Prince William Beautiful and in thanking them for their dedication to environmental stewardship and community beautification.

HONORING RICHARD MICHALSKI
ON HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rich Michalski and his long and well-respected career with the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAMAW.) Throughout Rich's career with IAMAW, he has dedicated over forty-five years to the machinists, a life-long relationship that began when he joined the union himself in 1968 and will culminate with his retirement as the General Vice President, a position he has held for the past seven years.

I was first formally introduced to Rich in 1992 by Congressman Jerry Kleczka, who has always spoken highly of him and since this time, I too have grown to greatly respect and admire Rich and his steadfast commitment to IAMAW. Rich was first initiated into IAM Local Lodge 1916 at General Electric in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1968. He worked as a welder, steward, chairman of the bargaining committee, and president. From his initial beginnings with the union, Rich was always involved with IAMAW's political and legislative priorities. For twelve years he was the Democratic committeeman for his precinct and was elected a delegate to the 1980 and 1984 Democratic National Conventions. As IAM's Director of Legislative and Political Action Department, he partnered with AFL-CIO and its affiliates, and Members of Congress to promote legislative issues affecting our American laborers and their families. Thanks to Rich's most recent efforts as the General Vice President he has overseen and managed the IAM headquarters, and he has significantly contributed to actions countering the anti-union and anti-labor agenda.

Throughout my years of knowing Rich, I have truly valued the supportive friendship and long professional association that I have shared with him. On many occasions, I have relied on his intelligence and political acumen, and he has proven to be a trusted voice who has taught me a great deal over the course of our friendship. Mr. Speaker, please join me in

congratulating Rich on his retirement and long career as a committed advocate on behalf of our nation's workers, especially our machinists. It is with gratitude for these efforts that I join with Rich's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my well wishes for a much deserved retirement and happy and fulfilling future ahead.

IN HONOR OF SALLY MURPHY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Representatives CALVERT, CAPPES, COSTA, HUNTER, MATSUI, MCNERNEY, ROYCE, THOMPSON and WALDEN to honor Sara Hope Murphy or "Sally" to her friends, who recently retired from Wine Institute, where she was the chief public policy advocate for the California wine industry.

Sally is one of the bravest people we know. Her retirement was the result of a diagnosis for ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. It all started because she was having troubling speaking. Unfortunately now, the disease has left her unable to speak at all. But in true Sally fashion, she has not allowed that to silence her. Many of you received her letter announcing her leaving, which was characteristic of Sally. It was right up front and center, and very frank.

Sally has a long association with the United States Congress. She first came to Capitol Hill to work for Congressman Lou Frey of Florida. She then spent 10 years on the staff of THAD COCHRAN in both the House and the Senate. She worked for Congressman Henson Moore and then left the Hill to work for Pacific Telesis Group and Sprint.

However, the crowning glory of her career was going to work for Wine Institute. Her Members, the winery owners, are so pleasant and she was impressed with how they—many of whose families had been in the business for four or five generations—so love what they plant, nurture, and produce.

The people she worked with at Wine Institute are some her closest friends: Bobby Koch, its president, Vikki Watkins, Susan Gregory, and Sheila Credle of the Washington office. She loves her former colleagues in the home office in San Francisco and those in Sacramento and in the states as well; all of them made every day a joy for Sally to go to work.

Currently there is no cure for ALS, but Sally decided early on not to be defeated. Despite the daily struggles, she has refused to give up in her fight. She finds strength in her husband Billy, who has been a stalwart help to her.

To us, Sally was the perfect embodiment of the wines she represented. Her presence brings life to any gathering of friends and fills every conversation with laughter.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise and celebrate the accomplishments of Sally Murphy and to offer her our prayers and support.

RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN SYRIA:
CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I chaired a joint hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations and the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa. We turned our attention to an overlooked aspect of the crisis in Syria—the religious minorities caught in the middle of the conflict and apparently targeted by government forces as well as rebel groups.

More than 93,000 Syrians have been killed in this horrendous and seemingly endless civil war. More than 4.25 million people are displaced within Syria, with millions more fleeing to safety in the surrounding countries of Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, and Iraq. It is disturbing to note that one in five of the refugees is Christian although Christians in Syria make up one in ten of the pre-war population of 22 million people. This would seem to indicate that Christians are even more fearful for their lives and safety than other segments of the Syrian population.

Before the war, Syria was a fairly pluralistic society, with Alawites, Shias, Ismailis, Yezidis, Druze, Christians, Jews, and Sunnis living in relative peace, side by side. The situation was far from perfect, as President Bashar al Assad's regime had a vast security apparatus in place with members inside each of the religious communities to monitor their activities.

The Assad government was guilty of serious human rights violations, including the summary imprisonment and execution of political opponents. But relations between the various religious groups were generally not violent.

That civil co-existence has ended with the war. In February of this year, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic reported that, "The conflict has become increasingly sectarian, with the conduct of the parties becoming significantly more radicalized and militarized."

This followed on an earlier Commission report stating that, "Entire communities are at risk of being forced out of the country or of being killed inside the country. With communities believing—not without cause—that they face an existential threat. . . ."

We know that early in the civil war, Assad came to view the Christian minority with suspicion, accusing churches of laundering money and goods for opposition forces and forbidding banks from transactions for certain churches.

There is also evidence that the Assad regime encouraged sectarian tensions in order to maintain power—perhaps believing that if the people were afraid of Islamists commandeering a nominally secular state, the people would be more likely to support Assad over the opposition.

In December 2012, Time Magazine reported allegations that the Assad regime was paying individuals to pose as opposition supporters and chant slogans at protests including "The Christians to Beirut, the Alawites to the grave."

Our own government has voiced concern about the particular threat posed to Christians