

CONGRATULATING JOHN OPOKA  
ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE ILLINOIS  
HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2014*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Opoka who will be inducted into the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame as a member of the 9th class of inductees on January 26, 2014. Mr. Opoka and his fellow inductees have demonstrated their personal commitment to the sport and the community by enhancing the lives of Illinois' young hockey players and contributing to the rich history of hockey in Illinois. I appreciate John's 34 years of service as an Illinois hockey official and would like to congratulate him on this special honor.

After playing hockey in high school, John began to officiate games while in college. Thanks to the recommendation of a role model and fellow referee, Chet Stewart, John was chosen to officiate collegiate games at the age of 19. He spent nearly three decades leading the college chapter of Illinois hockey officials and also served as referee-in-chief for the Illinois-Wisconsin Collegiate Hockey League and the Central State Collegiate Hockey League. John led seminars on rule interpretation for the NCAA and helped to bring about essential changes to the NCAA's ice hockey rules.

During his 34 years as an official, John has been committed to the betterment of hockey in Illinois. He served as Ethics Chairperson and Seminar Director while a member of the Illinois Hockey Officials Association (IHOA) Board of Directors. As IHOA's Seminar Director, John was the first to bring together officials from all levels for an exchange of ideas and best practices. In every game that he worked, whether it was a tournament, state playoff, or national championship, John served as an example of professionalism and commitment to excellence.

John continues to serve his community, now acting as a leader of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in his hometown of New Lenox, Illinois. I look forward to John's continued involvement in Illinois hockey and know that he will serve as a role model to many of Illinois' young hockey players and officials.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous accomplishments and contributions of Mr. John Opoka and to congratulate him for being inducted into the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame.

CONGRATULATING MARY ANNE  
ROONEY

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2014*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mary Anne Rooney, the newly-elected president of the Oxnard Harbor District's Board of Commissioners.

On January 13, 2014, the board held their first meeting of the year and unanimously

voted to appoint Mary Anne Rooney to take the helm as its president, the first woman to hold the position in the board's 77-year history.

As president, Mary Anne will lead the five-member governing body that oversees the Port of Hueneme and its operations. As one of the primary economic drivers in Ventura County and Southern California, the Port of Hueneme is a critical asset to our community. Currently, the Port of Hueneme supports the transport of over \$7 billion in cargo, generates \$1 billion of economic impact, and provides more than 9,400 jobs to the region. Without a doubt, under Mary Anne's strong leadership and dedicated service, the Port of Hueneme will continue to thrive.

With more than 15 years of experience in various business industries, Mary Anne brings a knowledgeable and unique perspective to the community. Her commitment to the advancement and success of Ventura County is evident from her various roles of involvement throughout the region. Mary Anne has served as treasurer of Oxnard Sister City Committee, she is a member of the World Affairs Council, founding member of the Ventura County Women's Political Council, member of the League of Women Voters, former trustee of Ventura County Community College District, past president of Gull Wings Children's Museum, and former president of the Associated Student Government at Oxnard College.

Mary Anne also serves as program director at the Economic Development Collaborative—Ventura County (EDC-VC), and serves as an advisor to the Small Business Development Center, a comprehensive business service through the collaborative. Additionally, with her extensive experience and knowledge base, Mary Anne developed a program that focuses on international trade. She also leads an outreach program for manufacturers that promotes business services to bolster the international trade sector in the county.

In recognition of her hard work and dedication to the community, Mary Anne was one of the Pacific Coast Business Times' Top 50 Women in Business for 2010, 2012, and 2013.

Mary Anne's energetic character and creative leadership style, coupled with her vision to improve Ventura County's economic competitiveness, will be a continued asset to the Board of Commissioners. I congratulate Mary Anne Rooney on her continued success and look forward to working with her in her new role.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND  
SAMUEL BILLY KYLES ON RE-  
CEIVING THE 2014 BE THE  
DREAM MLK LEGACY AWARD

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2014*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Samuel Billy Kyles on receiving the 2014 Be the Dream MLK Legacy Award. This special award is given to those individuals whose lives have "embodied the spirit and legacy of service, sacrifice and hope" that characterized the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As a revered pastor and a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, it is fitting

that this award be bestowed upon Rev. Kyles in recognition of his accomplishments and contributions.

Samuel Kyles was born in Shelby, Mississippi in 1934. At age 17, he moved to Memphis, Tennessee and in 1959, at age 25, he was installed as the first pastor of Monumental Baptist Church and to date, has served as its only pastor. Under his nearly 55 year leadership, Monumental has served the Memphis community well. The church strives to uplift young people and operates Monumental Pride Homes, which offers senior citizens affordable living. Rev. Kyles maintains his connection with the broader religious community through his membership with the World Baptist Alliance and his participation in the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC). He is also a former instructor at the National Training Congress of the PNBC and previously served on the Board of Directors of the Morehouse School of Religion.

Rev. Kyles was an important leader during the Civil Rights Movement, helping to desegregate public institutions and businesses. As a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in 1961, he enrolled his five-year old daughter in the all white public school system, thereby helping Memphis to become the first city in the South to integrate elementary schools. Rev. Kyles, along with other prominent Memphis fighters for racial justice and equality, worked to integrate the city buses and end segregation in restaurants, movie theaters, department stores and workplaces. Rev. Kyles once referred to his work as, "an extension of my ministry."

In the early 1970s, Rev. Kyles became a founding national board member of People United to Serve Humanity (PUSH). He was also the executive director of Rainbow/PUSH—Memphis and the executive producer of Rainbow/PUSH WLOK Radio for over 30 years. During the Clinton Administration, he served on the Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad, investigating religious persecution throughout the world, and as a panelist at the White House Conference on Hate Crimes. In 1994, he traveled to South Africa as an election monitor in its first multi-racial election, which saw Nelson Mandela elected as South Africa's first black President.

Reverend Kyles shares a unique connection with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as pastors, civil rights leaders and friends. He stood beside Dr. King while he delivered his famous "Mountaintop" speech at Mason Temple Church of God In Christ in Memphis. There is no doubt that Rev. Kyles' work is worthy of this award named after Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Samuel Billy Kyles on being awarded the 2014 Be the Dream MLK Legacy Award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS WILLIAM KELLY LACEY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2014*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness and deepest sympathy