

Born in August of 1934 in Brooklyn, N.Y., Gary joined the Army at the age of 21; eventually earning a place in the U.S. Army band in Louisville, Ky. Gary dedicated his life to playing TAPS to honor fellow veterans at their funerals. After relocating to Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1959, he notified all six of the local funeral homes to let them know he was always available to play TAPS free of charge.

Since moving to Acadiana, Gary has become a fixture of the community. He has played countless funerals, military, veterans, and community events throughout his lifetime of service. Just this past Memorial Day, he played in services at Lafayette Memorial Park, as well as Green Lawn Memorial Park—a tradition he has kept since 1964.

Gary's seven decades of heartfelt dedication to our fallen heroes is an inspiration to us all. In 2013, he earned an induction into the Living Legends Hall of Fame in Erath, La. In 2014, he created the Acadiana Veterans Honor Guard and was instrumental in securing funding to ensure every local veteran will receive full military funeral honors. Beloved by the entire community; Gary Edmondson has enriched the lives of countless families during their darkest hours. I rise to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his lifetime of service, dedicated to providing the final tribute to our fallen heroes as their families lay them to rest.

IN SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN
POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to draw attention to a development that remained largely unnoticed; discontinuation of the Fulbright Congressional Fellowship program run by the American Political Science Association (APSA).

My office has regularly welcomed international fellows. We continue to host these talented professionals from different areas around the world. Between 2004 and 2008, I hosted two APSA-Fulbright Congressional Fellows from India; an academic, Medha Nanivadekar, and a New Delhi journalist, Prasad Venkateswara Kunduri.

These Fellows brought a great deal of depth and perspective to the office at a time when relationship between United States of America and India was expanding like never before. Today, the U.S. and India are engaged across more than 60 fields.

Prasad, in particular came at a time when we in the Congress were deeply engaged and debating the Civil Nuclear Deal with India. I valued his perspective and understanding of the intricacies of discourse within India on the issue as well as the impact the process could have on U.S.-India relations and domestic politics.

During 2007–2008, Prasad spent a year in Washington, D.C. Since his return, he remains in contact with me and my office. He continues to share his experiences as a Fellow with his colleagues to promote a greater understanding of how the U.S. Congress works.

When I have traveled to India he is engaged in events related to my trip. I continue to appreciate his perspective when working on issues related to India.

Since we do not have a regular official delegation-level exchange program between the U.S. Congress and Parliament of India many of us travel to India as part of various programs organized by different groups or Co-Dels which include special events like one that retraced Martin Luther King's journey in India. Events organized by former Fellows like Prasad help bridge the gap between U.S. law-makers and people.

These Fellows who come to Washington, D.C. and spend a year on The Hill, help create a relationship with U.S. law-makers, staff, policy planners, advocacy groups and colleagues in the program. What they take back enriches the United States' relationship with these communities.

The Fulbright-APSA Congressional Fellowship Program was part of APSA's Congressional Fellowship Program. It was established over 60 years ago and remains a highly selective, non-partisan, early-to-mid career program devoted to expanding knowledge and awareness of Congress. The program enjoys a reputation for excellence among those concerned with the quality of government and the ways in which democracies function. The APSA-Congressional Fellowship ended after a five year run.

Appreciating the initiative and contribution of the program, I urge the Fulbright Board to reconsider and fund APSA Congressional Fellowship.

HONORING KAELIN HAGEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kaelin Hagen. Kaelin 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 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kaelin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kaelin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kaelin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

RECOGNIZING EARLINE ROGERS UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, today it is with profound respect that I take this time to

honor one of Indiana's foremost citizens, State Senator Earline Rogers. A retired public school teacher, Earline has consistently distinguished herself as a pillar of her community, a voice for children, and a selfless public servant. Serving in the Indiana General Assembly for thirty-four years, Senator Rogers will be retiring this year after a truly monumental career.

Born in Gary, Indiana, Earline Rogers was inspired at an early age to be a force for positive change by her father, Earl Smith Sr., and her mother, Robbie. Employed as a steelworker, Earl worked tirelessly alongside his wife to support Earline and her four siblings, Gerry, Bobby, Earl Jr., and Denice. Taking on two part-time jobs in addition to his full-time position at the steel mill, Earl was determined to see his children graduate high school and attend college. Earline fulfilled her parents' dream and graduated as senior class president with honors from Roosevelt High School in Gary, and went on to earn Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Education from Indiana University. Following her undergraduate studies, Earline began her career teaching in the Gary Community School Corporation, and soon became active in the American Federation of Teachers union, working to provide teachers with the best resources to educate their students and provide them with pathways to success. Senator Rogers was elected to the Gary Common Council in 1980, and broke barriers serving as the Council's first female president. In 1982, Senator Rogers was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives, and in 1990, she became a member of the Indiana Senate where she has served for the past twenty-six years representing Indiana Senate District 3.

In particular, Senator Rogers has most recently served as the Indiana Senate Minority Whip, and as the Ranking Minority Member on the Education and Career Development Committee as well as the Family and Children Services Committee. Senator Rogers had also served on the Appropriations, Homeland Security and Transportation, Veterans Affairs and the Military, and Pensions and Labor Committees, and as a member of the Indiana Education Roundtable.

Since entering public service, Senator Rogers has established herself as one of Indiana's most accomplished and effective legislators, working across the aisle with her colleagues to improve the lives of all Hoosiers, notably to protect the safety, rights, and educational opportunities of our youngest citizens. In particular, Senator Rogers authored Jojo's Law, which mandates that all vehicles for ten or more passengers utilized by public schools, preschools, or licensed day care centers must meet the same safety standards as school buses. Senator Rogers also created Heather's Law, which requires the Indiana Department of Education to develop programs for Indiana schools to better educate students about dating violence. Moreover, she has led efforts to increase anti-bullying education statewide and safeguard our students from forms of harassment outside the classroom, such as cyberbullying. In addition, Earline Rogers was instrumental in the passage of legislation that raised the minimum age of the death penalty to 18 years of age in Indiana. Finally, Senator Rogers wrote Indiana's first bilingual-literacy program and successfully provided funding for Northwest Indiana school repair and prospective teacher training. Earline's record as an