

Texas proud. CSM de Leon's work on his final tour—where he was assigned to the Space and Missile Defense Command in Colorado—helped provide critical services to the President, the Department of Defense, and a host of government agencies.

De Leon has earned numerous military decorations, including the Legion of Merit Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and countless other awards and recognitions. His work and record speak for themselves, and I extend to him my sincerest gratitude for his service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor CSM Russell de Leon for his three decades of military service to this nation. I join my colleagues in Congress in wishing him, his wife Eufemia, and their daughter Amanda, the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING PHIL MEMBRERE
FOR HIS DEDICATION TO HIS
NEIGHBORS IN NEED AND THE
FISH FOOD BANKS OF PIERCE
COUNTY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil Membrere, who will "retire" this year after 14 years as a dedicated volunteer for the FISH Food Banks of Pierce County in Tacoma, WA. Phil is widely recognized at FISH Food Banks as one of the most committed volunteers that the organization has ever seen.

Phil Membrere began serving at FISH Food Banks in 2002 after a serious auto accident forced him to retire from his career as a union truck driver. He used his skills in logistics and transportation to assist FISH with the pick-up and processing of locally donated food and quickly became instrumental to the success of the daily operations.

After years of being counted on by FISH Administrative Staff, Phil spent the last few years helping to lead this organization on day-to-day operations and helping to streamline other administrative processes. His service has been especially impactful at the Southeast Tacoma FISH Food Bank, where he has helped facilitate numerous large donations from the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

Mr. Speaker, for the past fourteen years, Phil Membrere has been a loyal, full-time volunteer at FISH Food Banks of Pierce County. He has treated his neighbors in need with the compassion, dignity, and respect that they deserve. Phil has taken pride in this role, reporting to his post five days a week and undoubtedly inspiring others to serve their community. The countless local families that he assisted are all stronger, healthier, and have a brighter future because of his service. The contributions of Phil and his fellow volunteers embody the values that make our community and our country a great place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the leadership and staff at FISH Food Banks of Pierce County, Phil's friends and family, and the greater Tacoma-Pierce County Community in expressing my gratitude today in the United States Congress for Phil Membrere's 14 years

of volunteer service. As the proud Representative of Washington's 6th Congressional District in the House of Representatives, I offer my best wishes for a happy "second" retirement and wish Phil an early happy 70th birthday.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF BILL
HOLMES

HON. MARTHA MCSALLY

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Bill Holmes, a man lovingly referred to as "Mr. Tucson" for his substantial contributions to the people of Southern Arizona.

Bill was born in Yuma, Arizona, where he attended Union High School. After graduation, he toured with the international music group, "Up with People," which aims to bridge cultural barriers and bring people together through music and service.

Through his talents and commitment to service, Bill touched countless lives in Tucson. At the time of his death, he was the managing partner and CEO of Agape Hospice and Palliative Care, helping provide comfort and care to those in their final hours. He previously served as managing partner for CPR2U LLC, a health care education company; senior consultant for Up With People; chief operating officer of the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce; and community relations manager for Wells Fargo.

Bill gave back to our community in so many ways, evidenced by the many civic organizations to which he lent his time and energy. He was Chairman of the Board of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and was involved with the Saguaro Girl Scouts Council, Chicanos Por La Causa, El Rio Foundation, Catholic Community Services, Angel Charities, and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Those who knew Bill or had the chance to meet him know he always had a smile on his face. He was a generous, caring, and vibrant leader of our community. His death will no doubt leave a void for many who loved and knew him, but his legacy will carry on, and his enormous impact on Tucson, the city he loved so dearly, will be felt long into the future.

HONORING MATHILDE FREUND

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mathilde Freund on her 100th birthday.

Mathilde Freund was born in Vienna, Austria in 1916. She married her husband in 1937. Within a few months, Hitler's army entered Vienna, Austria and by August of 1938, Mathilde, her husband, her parents, and all her able bodied relatives quickly fled to Paris, France where they again had to suddenly flee, this time to Lyon, France. Once there, the men in her family all volunteered to fight with the French army in Northern Africa. By 1943 they were back in Lyon, where her husband was eventually captured and deported to Bu-

chenwald where he died days before liberation. Her only brother, Alfred, was taken hostage on August 18, 1944 in Lyon, and then shot along with more than 100 other men at the Lyon Airport less than a week later.

In 1952, Mathilde came to New York with her mother and daughter where she settled on the Upper West Side. Embracing New York, and her new life in the United States, Mathilde earned several degrees and worked for many years as a medical social worker at the Beth Israel Cancer Detection Center and later at the French Hospital until it closed in 1977, when she retired. She lost her own daughter to breast cancer a little over 10 years ago, but is very blessed to have an extremely loving grandson and five great grandchildren.

Mathilde has never forgotten those difficult years between 1938 to 1945, somehow surviving in the forest and stables surrounding Lyon, and she is dedicated to telling her story to grade school and university students in New York City.

She continues to live life to the fullest as she takes classes at Fordham University, and she loves to go to the theater, museums and concerts.

Mathilde has been a vendor at the Upper West Side Green Flea (now known as Grand Bazaar NY) market since it was opened to non-PTA vendors more than 30 years ago. Grand Bazaar NY is run by the PTA of four on-site schools which benefit directly from the revenue. In recognition of her long running service, this Upper West Side market will name Sunday, July 31, 2016 in her honor.

Mathilde Freund will turn 100 years old on August 15, 2016, and I wish her a very happy birthday.

HONORING MS. ROBIN GONZALES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Robin Gonzales, who is retiring after 34 years of service to her community with the Martinez Police Department and the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Gonzales began her career in law enforcement as a Cadet with the Martinez Police Department in 1982. She joined the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department as a Dispatcher the following year, before returning to the Martinez Police Department in 1985, where she continued working as a Dispatcher. Ms. Gonzales eventually became a Police Assistant specializing in Evidence and Training, and is known for her professionalism and commitment to serving our community.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Gonzales has maintained strong connections with law enforcement organizations. She has been a member of the International Association of Identification for 30 years, and previously served as the President of the Law Enforcement Association of Property Management. To advance her investigative work, Ms. Gonzales became the first certified Crime Scene Investigator in California. Even with her busy work schedule, Ms. Gonzales finds time to teach classes at Diablo Valley College to encourage girls to study physical sciences.