

Keith Romaine. Tragically, Councilman Romaine's life was cut far too short on November 14 at the age of 36.

Keith Romaine devoted himself to family and to the community he loved. Like his father, Keith believed in putting public service first. He served as a Congressional aide and small business owner before his election in 2007 to the Brookhaven Town Board. Although Keith could have simply run on his strong family name, he worked hard to establish his own identity and accomplishments.

He served as President of the Moriches Bay Civic Association where he was a tireless advocate for this community.

On the Brookhaven Town Board he worked equally as hard, serving as a full-time representative for his community. Among his accomplishments in just one term were closing the composting facility on Papermill Road in Manorville, working with other levels of government to establish a skate park, and legislation to reduce unnecessary vehicle expenses which will save Brookhaven residents millions of dollars.

Shortly after his election to the Town Council, Keith sat down with me during some of my Community Office Hours and we discussed issues where we could work together. I saw his passion for his community and so did the people he represented.

In one of his last interviews, when Councilman Romaine was asked why he wanted to serve in Town government, he gave a simple, but telling answer, "You're the closest to the people."

Keith Romaine's career was only beginning and the Town of Brookhaven and Long Island will be worse off without him. My heart goes out to Keith's father Ed, his brother Kevin, his grandfather Edward, and the entire Romaine family on this tragic loss.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KEITH
ROMAINE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the life and legacy of Keith Romaine, Brookhaven Councilman who we lost too soon on November 14, 2009 at the age of 36.

Keith will be remembered by family, friends, and constituents as a devoted public servant who worked tirelessly to improve his neighborhood and community. I offer my support to his family and friends upon the loss of a bright, intelligent, and dedicated community leader who will be sorely missed by the people of Long Island.

HONORING VENERINI ACADEMY,
WORCHESTER, MA

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of an incredible school, Venerini Academy, located in my district of

Worcester, Massachusetts. The mission of the Venerini Sisters in Worcester celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, and I am proud to recognize its many contributions to the community over the last century.

The school's and order's founder Rosa Venerini was born in Viterbo, Italy in 1656. She started the first public school for girls there, marking a milestone in the evolution of the education of women. Rosa knew the barriers women faced when life choices were limited often to marriage and the convent. Her father instilled in her a great respect for education and she wanted the same for future women. Rosa came to adopt the maxim, "educate to liberate".

In 1713, Rosa opened a school in Rome and Pope Clement XI paid her the honor of a visit. The Pope stayed the whole morning in the school listening to the class of catechism and asking the students questions. At the end of the visit, he called Rosa and her companions; he thanked her for their precious work, and said to them: "I desire that these schools spread to all of our cities." Within a short time the schools opened everywhere, teaching young women to read and other life skills such as sewing. By the time of her death in 1728, Rosa Venerini opened 40 schools across the world.

In 1909, the movement she started came to the United States, establishing its first mission outside Italy on Edward Street in Worcester, Massachusetts. Venerini Academy's hallmarks of dedicated educators and rigorous programs would become a vital part of the community and a model for many other successful missions in countries across the globe.

Madam Speaker, I am certain that the entire House of Representatives joins me in honoring and thanking the Venerini Sisters and the Venerini Academy for their contributions to our community and the education of our children, as well as expressing our hope and confidence in an even more accomplished second hundred years.

RECOGNIZING DAVID STAPLETON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, most are familiar with ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition program which embarks on the monumental task of building a new home from the ground up in just one week for a deserving family. Last week in my hometown David Stapleton, owner of David Homes took on that job.

On a visit to the site I was expecting to see the construction team's progress on the Powell family's home on Massachusetts Avenue but what I witnessed far exceeded expectations.

Under David's leadership volunteers by the thousands were transforming not one home but an entire neighborhood on Buffalo's West Side. With local organizations including WNY AmeriCorps, PUSH Buffalo and Buffalo ReUse as partners and many more from the community stepping up to help, the extreme team went house to house patching roofs, fixing porches, planting shrubs, painting siding and more.

Hailed by producers as unlike any community effort they've seen in the show's history, David's team managed 4,500 volunteers working around the clock for one week improving over 50 homes. But it didn't stop there. Their generosity inspired others, prompting food and blood drives and the construction of a community garden.

David agreed to this project knowing he could not simply go into this neighborhood and build one home. Producers feared he would lose focus but he knew he would have to do better and that he did.

Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize David Stapleton for taking on the assignment to develop a home and turning it into an opportunity to develop hope—hope for a family, a neighborhood and an entire city. What David Stapleton built last week is a better future for the Western New York Community and for that we are grateful.

HONORING COACH VERNON GLASS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, The Lamar University Cardinals in Beaumont, Texas lost one of its legends in December 2005 with the passing of former head football Coach Vernon Glass. In an effort to keep Vernon's presence in the football program alive, The University recently renamed its newly renovated practice field The Coach Vernon Glass Field of Champions.

Glass served as Lamar's head coach from 1963 through 1975. His 1964, 1965, 1966, and 1971 Cardinal teams won Southland Conference Championships and he finished his career with a 63–68–1 record. He was recognized as the NCAA College Division Coach of the year in 1964 and 1965. One of Coach Glass' former students called him 'a true champion and a great legend'. Therefore, it is only fitting for the university to recognize him by naming the practice field the "Field of Champions".

Madam Speaker, it is truly remarkable when one human being can touch so many lives. Coach Vernon Glass did just that during his years as a football Coach at Lamar University. The Second District of Texas recognizes Coach Glass for his years of dedication and service to the University and to improving the lives of the many players who played on the field under his leadership.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding received in my district as part of H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

City of Lufkin Water Project. STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project, the City