

Whereas, this remarkable man gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life; Mr. Boone inspired others to do the same by witnessing him walk the walk and talk the talk, he opened doors for others to enter; and

Whereas, Mr. Boone led by doing behind the scenes and on the front lines for many; Mr. Boone was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a brother and a friend; he was our warrior, our patriarch, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of the community until his end; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow an honorable distinction and recognition on Mr. John Oscar Boone, Sr., for his leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Georgia and throughout the Nation; as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Mr. John Oscar Boone, Sr., of Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honorable Distinction"—Mr. John Oscar Boone, Sr., U.S. Citizen of Distinction, in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 8th day of December, 2012.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MICHAEL DAVID VARNER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Michael David Varner, who passed away on February 6, 2013. During his long and distinguished career in education, Mr. Varner served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals throughout Northwest Florida. After an arduous battle with brain cancer, the loss of a great man and unparalleled public servant and educator is felt not only here at home, but across the state of Florida.

Mr. Varner was born on October 8, 1953, in Highland Falls, New York. Upon graduating in 1971 from Niceville High School in Northwest Florida, Mr. Varner attended Okaloosa-Walton Community College, as well as, the University of South Florida. He continued his education at the University of West Florida, where he earned a Bachelors of Science and Masters of Science in Teaching.

Mr. Varner's passion for educating led him to Tate High School, where he taught biology for 35 years. He also served as an adjunct professor at Pensacola State College for ten years. During his years as an educator, his commitment was always to the students and helping them reach their goals, both in and out of the classroom. Mr. Varner coached soccer, sponsored Student Government and Exchange Club, and served as sponsor to both the sophomore and senior classes for students at Tate High School.

Mr. Varner has been widely recognized and honored for his years of teaching and service to the community with "Who's Who Among Teachers," Florida Biology Teacher of the Year, and most recently with the Escambia

County Teacher of the Year award in 2011. While the list of Mr. Varner's achievements extends far beyond what is noted here, they all highlight his unwavering devotion to improving the lives of those around him and to bettering his community through service.

In addition to his devotion to his students, Mr. Varner was a man of faith and committed to his parish. For nearly 20 years, he assisted Youth Ministry with planning, organizing, and assisting in many diocesan youth events. He was also a talented musician, who used his gift of music to write and play songs for church services and school functions.

Northwest Florida, Escambia County, Florida, and the many students whose lives were touched by Mr. Varner, mourn the loss of an exceptional man. His contributions and service to the community and this great nation will forever be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the exemplary life of Michael David Varner. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers to his wife Kathleen, his sons Jason and Brian, his parents Richard and Madeleine, his siblings Valarie and Richard, and Mr. Varner's entire family and friends. He will be truly missed by all.

HONORING DAVE OWENS

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dave Owens, a Colorado businessman with a strong commitment to his community. As the owner of FASTSIGNS Greeley, Dave has built a business that has created jobs and provided economic value to Greeley and beyond. Small businesses throughout the area have come to rely on FASTSIGNS and the services it provides.

In addition to growing and managing a successful business, Dave has invested both time and resources into the community.

Dave and his company have sponsored countless events, charities, youth groups, and causes. His support has benefited the children of the Boys and Girls Club of Weld County, the survivors of domestic violence at A Woman's Place, and the countless many who depend on the services of the United Way. And when the men and women of the armed services return home from abroad, they often see a welcome home banner donated by Dave.

On February 7, 2013, Dave was honored at the Greeley Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Awards. He was recognized for his creativity and imagination as a business owner as well as his leadership and involvement in support of his community.

I join the Greeley Chamber of Commerce in congratulating Dave Owens, and I wish him continued success in business and his many civic involvements.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR UNITED WAY OF TUCSON
AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, which has been recognized as a leader among its peers.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is in the top 2 percent of all United Way organizations in the country, according to a new business performance index developed by United Way Worldwide. This special status is based on leadership abilities, engagement in the community and for developing and implementing community strategies that get results.

That means that they are among the top 24 United Ways in the country—and I couldn't be prouder to have them serving Southern Arizona.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona serves a community of more than 1 million residents. Only 55 of the 1,215 United Way organizations in the nation are that large.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona was recognized for its impact promoting early literacy skills, engaging youth in afterschool programs, helping families become more financially stable and helping seniors remain healthy and active.

I especially want to recognize the accomplishments of Tony Penn, president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona. As a leader in his field, Mr. Penn and the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona will be asked to share their best practices with other United Way organizations around the country.

Mr. Penn and his organization are deeply committed to getting more children into high-quality childcare, providing mentors for underserved teens, preparing free tax returns for low- to moderate-income families and providing volunteer opportunities to seniors to keep them healthy and engaged in the community.

I know firsthand the impact that the United Way can have on a community, having had the honor to serve on the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona's board. Southern Arizonans are lucky to have the dedicated and talented staff of the United Way helping to strengthen our community each and every day.

I am proud to recognize the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona as well as its board members and its staff under the direction of Tony Penn for their significant contributions to our community.

REMEMBERING EDWARD L.
MAXWELL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn this week of the passing of Edward L. Maxwell, an old friend who was a community