

Thirty-five years ago she and her husband Jerry made Redwood City their home. They have two grown daughters, Andrea Koenig and Amanda Pierce, both of whom have made them very proud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Barbara Pierce for her unwavering commitment to the residents of Redwood City. A compassionate steward of the interests of children and the environment, a stalwart supporter of strong public safety services, and a woman who dedicated tens of thousands of hours of her personal time to the interests of others, Barbara is now leaving for some well-deserved rest. It is beyond her ability, however, to simply retire, and retirement for Barbara Pierce will likely involve watching her former council colleagues on the local community access channel rather than being there in person. Barbara Pierce never earned an Emmy for her performance on the City Council, but she earned the love and respect of her community, an award that counts for much more than a statue, and an award that will echo throughout generations yet to come.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF DEPUTY
SHERIFF BEN BAILEY'S SERVICE
TO UNION COUNTY, NORTH
CAROLINA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Union County Chief Deputy Sheriff Ben Bailey for his faithful service over the last 30 years to the citizens of Union County, located in North Carolina's 8th Congressional District. Chief Deputy Sheriff Bailey will be stepping down from his position at the Union County Sheriff's Office in order to pursue a unique career opportunity as a Federal Bureau of Investigation Fellow at the National Counter Terrorism Center in Washington, DC.

Chief Deputy Bailey has dedicated himself to serving and protecting his community throughout his 30 year career in law enforcement. Of those 30 years, he held the position of Chief Deputy Sheriff in Union County for the last 13 years, which makes him the longest serving Chief Deputy Sheriff in Union County's history. In this role, Chief Deputy Bailey served as the second-in-command to the Sheriff of Union County and was responsible for the management of a 300 member law enforcement agency.

In addition to his responsibilities within the Union County Sheriff's Office, Chief Deputy Bailey has also been actively involved in the broader law enforcement community in North Carolina. In 2011, he was given the honor to serve as the North Carolina Chapter President of the FBI National Academy Associates Executive Board. He also serves on several community college boards, such as the Cybercrime Advisory Board at both South Piedmont Community College and Stanly Community College, as well as the Alumni Executive Board of the Justice Academy's Management Development Program under the North Carolina Department of Justice. Chief Deputy Bailey also participates in the FBI's Joint Terrorism Taskforce, the U.S. Secret

Service's Electronic Crime Task Force, and is a Department of Homeland Security certified instructor in Weapons of Mass Destruction awareness-level response.

Chief Deputy Bailey has been a devoted member of the Union County community, even when he is not in uniform. Chief Deputy Bailey is a state certified criminal justice instructor, using his gifts as an educator to teach students at South Piedmont Community College about the basics of law enforcement and how to effectively manage a law enforcement agency. He has also served on several local boards, including the Union County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the United Way. Our state and local community have greatly benefitted from his servant leadership, both as an officer of the law and as an extraordinary citizen.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking my friend Chief Deputy Sheriff Ben Bailey for his outstanding service to the people of Union County and wishing him well as he moves on to the next chapter of his distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO ANNA KILLPACK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Anna Killpack of Neola, Iowa, for her selection as the 22nd annual LIFE Group Mother Mary Vincent McDermott Award honoree. The award is sponsored by the CHI Health Life Group. Anna received this award for her commitment, compassion, and dedication to helping those with mental illness.

When Anna's son was diagnosed with schizophrenia at age 13, Anna became passionate about working and advocating for individuals with mental illnesses. Since then, she has gone above and beyond her calling to stand up for those who need it most. Anna has volunteered on a number of Iowa's mental health committees and councils as a tireless advocate.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Anna for her years of hard work and dedication. Her contributions have been invaluable to Iowa's mental health community. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Anna for her accomplishments in advocating for mental health treatment and understanding, and I wish her nothing but continued success.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the Houston Cougars capped off their thrilling season with a 24-13 win against the tough Temple Owls in the American Athletic Conference Championship Game. Though Houston only won by 11, the team led

from the opening gun until as Willie Nelson says "The Party was Over". With this win, the Cougars finished the regular season 12-1 and now have a matchup against the Number 9 Florida State Seminoles in the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl to look forward to.

What's most amazing about the Cougars' successful season is the fact that it was engineered by a rookie head coach. Tom Herman, a national championship winning offensive coordinator at Ohio State and recipient of the Broyles Award for the nation's top assistant coach, stepped in as a first-time head coach this season. Success like that in a coach's first season is hard to come by. Herman's Houston team was led by its do-it-all quarterback, Greg Ward Jr., who finished the season with 2,590 passing yards, 16 touchdowns, and only 5 interceptions. The all-conference quarterback also tacked on 1,041 rushing yards and 19 touchdown runs for good measure. The excitement of watching this team play had me reminiscing back to 1989, when Coach Jack Pardee's run-and-shoot offense led the Cougars to a 9-win season and quarterback Andre Ware took home the Heisman Trophy.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Herman and the Houston Cougars aren't finished yet. After the Cougars' New Year's Eve duel with perennial powerhouse Florida State, the team will refocus its sights on coming back strong again next year. With the Cougars locking in Coach Herman to a contract extension and returning many of its key contributors, this team will be a force next year and hopefully for years to come. As a University of Houston alum, I look forward to spending December 31st ringing in the New Year with friends, family, and another Cougars victory. Go Cougars.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN
FREDERICK PETERS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Frederick Peters of Edison, New Jersey on his 50th year of service to the Edison Police Auxiliary. Captain Peters' outstanding commitment to the organization and community will be honored at the Auxiliary's Annual Holiday Dinner on December 19, 2015 and it is my privilege to join them in recognizing this remarkable achievement.

Captain Peters joined the Edison Police Auxiliary on August 1, 1966. Throughout his 50 years as a volunteer officer, Captain Peters has distinguished himself as a leader, holding positions as Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. Currently Captain of Administration, Captain Peters maintains his commitment to serving the organization.

Captain Peters has dedicated his life to serving his community and nation. In addition to his service to Edison, Captain Peters is a veteran of the United States Navy. Captain Peters received an honorable discharge from the Navy after 3 years and 2 months of active duty aboard the USS *Harwood*. From his service to our country to his service to his community, Captain Peters continues to exhibit an unwavering commitment to duty.

Mr. Speaker, once again, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Captain Frederick

Peters for his 50 years of service to the Edison Police Auxiliary and I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking Captain Peters for his honorable service to our great nation. His remarkable dedication and duty to his community and nation are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID
BRAUNSTEIN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor David Braunstein for his eight years of service on the Belmont City Council, once as Mayor in 2009 and again in 2015. Mayor Braunstein leaves with a distinguished legacy of service to the residents of Belmont.

During his tenure on the council, he served as a member of the Joint Notre Dame de Namur and Belmont City Council committee, the city's audit committee, is the former chair of the library community task force, former chair of the library steering committee and former chair of the library bond committee. David Braunstein has also been a board member of the Center for Independence of the Disabled, and was a member of the city's economic development committee.

Education is a core value in Belmont. David Braunstein is deeply committed to this value as evidenced by his career as a teacher at Carlmont High School and through his related council activities. While on the council, he has served as part of the city-school district committee known as 2 + 2 which identifies ways in which the district and city may collaborate to the benefit of Belmont residents.

Belmont is a city filled with the joyful sounds of children laughing. Three of those children are Mayor Braunstein's: Isaac, Noah and Yakira. They attend Ralston Middle School and Fox Elementary School where David and his wife, Patricia, are actively involved in school life. Even though he is incredibly busy as Mayor and as a teacher, David Braunstein made time in his life to be an AYSO and Little League coach, and served as a volunteer football coach at Carlmont High School. For David Braunstein, kids count.

Community building is in Mayor Braunstein's DNA. He has served on the National Night Out Planning Committee and helped to create one of the largest National Nights Out on the Peninsula. He is a tireless advocate to make our neighborhoods better and safer places, and served on the San Mateo County Emergency Services Council.

During his time on the council, Mayor Braunstein has conducted himself in a collaborative manner, both with his council colleagues and elected officials from other cities. He is proud to have been part of purchase of Ralston Avenue Vista Point which offers incredible views. The city purchased 34 acres, sold some land, made a profit and was able to preserve open space.

David was born in San Jose. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science at UCLA and his Master's in Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University. He also holds a California Teacher Credential from San Francisco State University.

After his retirement from the city council, David Braunstein is looking forward to spending more time with his family and watching his young children grow up. He is also hoping to find more time for travel, reading, cooking and photography—children's schedules permitting.

Mr. Speaker, as the people of Belmont contemplate Mayor Braunstein's contribution to their well-being, they will recognize that he possessed superior leadership skills and leaves having accomplished his objective, and having set an outstanding example for his successors. I know the House of Representatives joins me in wishing him well in his future adventures.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,786,830,545,682.60. We've added \$8,159,953,496,769.52 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF THE VICTIMS OF
THE SAN BERNARDINO ATTACK

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the tragic shooting in San Bernardino last week and to recognize and honor the victims who lost their lives.

Despite the increasing frequency with which these kinds of events seem to occur, we never expect them to happen in our community. But this December 2nd, that is exactly what happened and tragedy hit home.

I knew the Inland Regional Center well and represented the city of San Bernardino during my time in the State Senate. And on this tragic day, five individuals who lived in cities I represent were taken from this world.

Isaac Amanias was a Fontana resident who came to this country from Eritrea looking for a better life for his children. He was described as an amazing father, brother, an amazing everything.

Sierra Clayborn, a UC Riverside graduate, previously lived in Ontario. Those who knew her say she was energetic, thoughtful, and always smiling, and she loved what she called her blooming career in public and environmental health.

Larry Daniel Kaufman, a resident of Rialto, considered himself a free spirit, loved horror movies, and talked to everyone he met.

Yvette Velasco was 27 and a Fontana resident who was full of life and loved by all who knew her. Those close to her say she embodied intelligence and ambition.

And Benetta Bettadal of Rialto was a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona, also in my district.

She came to the United States fleeing Islamic extremism and the persecution of Christians following the Iranian revolution. In a horrible twist of fate, she lost her life at the hands of the same kind of extremism that brought her to this country.

Isaac, Sierra, Larry, Yvette, Benetta. These were our neighbors. They could have been our children, our loved ones, or our friends. As our community begins to heal, we owe it to them and to the other nine victims to ask ourselves how to best honor the vibrant lives that were taken from us much too soon.

Mr. Speaker, far too many communities have felt the pain that the San Bernardino and Inland Empire community is facing right now. Far too many Americans have lost loved ones in similar acts of violence. It is now up to us in Congress to use this tragedy as a catalyst for a serious, productive, and respectful dialogue on the actions we can and must take to prevent this kind of tragedy from ever happening again. Inaction is inexcusable and an affront to the lives lost on that tragic day.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAYMOND C.
MILLER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Raymond C. Miller for his extraordinary 16 years of service on the Brisbane City Council, four terms as Mayor. Dr. Miller served from 1984–1995 and again from 2011–2015 and has made significant contributions to the city and San Mateo County.

Dr. Miller cares deeply about government transparency, accountability and responsiveness. The fiscal and environmental health of Brisbane are of utmost importance to him. This is very well reflected in the work he has done on a long list of committees, subcommittees and boards. He served on the Airport Land Use Committee, the Complete Streets Safety Committee, the City Sustainability Committee, the Open Space & Ecology Committee, the Facilities/Water Sewer Subcommittee, the Finance Subcommittee, and several others.

As a retired Political Economy and Interdisciplinary Social Science professor at San Francisco State University for 44 years, Councilman Miller has an extensive understanding of the public policy process. For example, Dr. Miller has been deeply involved in the contract negotiations for the development of the Baylands, a 600-acre site on the edge of San Francisco Bay, the evaluation of the draft Environmental Impact Report, and the development of sustainability goals.

During his last term as Mayor, Dr. Miller helped restructure the city budget to create a more user-friendly document. He worked with the council to place a business license tax for liquid storage facilities on the ballot, to approve a contract for a hotel feasibility market study for Sierra Point, and to conduct labor negotiations during tough financial times. He also spent many hours as editor of Brisbane's 50th Anniversary History Book Project.

Raymond Miller was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1934. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Public