

the fourth-largest Township in Montgomery County. And the Township ranks second in Montgomery County with just more than 1,500 acres of permanently preserved farmland. The major employers in the Township include Blommer Chocolate, the largest cocoa processor and ingredient chocolate supplier in North America, and Knoll Inc., a modern home and office furniture manufacturer.

The community will commemorate the Township's 275th anniversary on Saturday, September 17, 2016 during a day of activities in Camelot Park. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the residents, business owners and community leaders as Upper Hanover marks this memorable milestone.

IN MEMORY OF MARK VALENTE
III

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected in 2001, I am grateful Mark and Claudia Valente were among the first to give me and Roxanne counsel on service to the public. The following obituary is a fitting tribute to his service for American families. I especially appreciate his affection for Italian-American heritage with my son recently completing a three year tour in Italy with my three Italian-speaking grandchildren:

Former Grosse Pointe Park resident Mark Valente III passed away in his home in Springfield, VA on August 3, 2016. Mark was born July 27, 1956, in Detroit, MI. He graduated in 1974 from University Liggett School, earned an accounting degree from his beloved Villanova University, class of 1978, then went on to earn a Law Degree from the University of Detroit School of Law.

Mark left Grosse Pointe in 1984 to work in the Office of Public Liaison at the White House under President Ronald Reagan. In 1986, he became the Director, Coalition Development Department at the Republican National Committee. In 1989 Mark worked as Director, in the Office of Congressional Relations, at the US Office of Personnel Management for President George H.W. Bush.

After leaving government service, Mark formed a Washington, DC based government relations firm, Valente & Associates, providing legislative analysis and government relations advice. He worked there until his death. Mark was elected to the Grosse Pointe Park city council at age 24, the youngest in the city's history and was the president of the Detroit Young Republicans during that time.

Most recently Mark, a proud grandson of Italian immigrants who emigrated from Abruzzo, Italy, served on the national board of the National Italian American Foundation where he held the leadership role as chairman of the Public Policy and Government Relations Committee and was a board member of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Also, he chaired the Board of the Center for Marketing and Public Policy Research at Villanova University School of Business.

Mark was a long-time supporter of the Baseball Hall of Fame (HOF) and a member of its Champions Program. He was a frequent

host of and participant in the HOF events in Washington, DC and other baseball cities. A member of the Detroit Athletic Club, Capitol Hill Club in Washington, DC, and Springfield Golf and Country Club in VA. Mark was a devoted Detroit Tigers fan and loved to play golf with his friends. He also was a coach and umpire for Little League and Grosse Pointe Park Babe Ruth league.

Mark is survived by his wife Claudia (Barker), mother Maria (Ballerini), father Marco Jr., brothers: JB, Richard, Dean, and brother-in-law Craig Barker, nieces and nephew and twelve godchildren. Mark was predeceased by his grandparents Ballerini and Valente.

A memorial service is planned at St. Clair of Montefalco Catholic Church, located at the corner of Mack Avenue and Outer Drive in Grosse Pointe Park on August 25th at 10:30 am. Visitation at 10 am. A second memorial service will be held on Wednesday, September 14th at 2:00 pm at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 313 2nd Street SE, Washington, DC. Followed by a reception at the Capitol Hill Club. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be directed to the scholarship being established in the name of Mark Valente III at Villanova University School of Business, ATTN: Clay Center at VSB, 800 E. Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA 19085.

THE RETIREMENT OF AIRPORT
DIRECTOR JOHN MARTIN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. John Martin upon his retirement as the Airport Director of San Francisco International Airport. Mr. Martin is leaving his position after 21 years at the helm, and after 36 years working in various capacities for the airport commission.

SFO is a rapidly expanding enterprise, directly or indirectly employing 45,000 people. John Martin is therefore in charge of a small city and one that links this nation with nations around the globe. His accomplishments reflect this global reach.

John piloted the airport through a \$2.4 billion expansion including the construction of a beautiful international terminal, the extension of the Bay Area's major rapid transit line—BART—into the terminal, and the creation of a self-guided tram line. He was instrumental in recruiting Virgin America to establish its headquarters in San Mateo County, bringing jobs at a time when the economy desperately needed an injection of investment. John Martin has also worked closely with my office to prove that a third-party contractor operating airport screening services can, if the contract is structured and supervised well, provide superior service to passengers.

All airport directors have dreams but when their construction projects go awry, some have nightmares as well. In contrast, John successfully undertook the largest public works project of the era. Terminal 2 was rebuilt and now serves as the launching point for Virgin America and American Airlines. The FAA has a new and beautiful tower at SFO, designed by John's staff and built, as is true of all work at the airport, using highly skilled union labor that

proves its value with every weld, hammer blow or polished surface.

As he explained to me a few weeks ago during a security tour of the airport, fair wages and working conditions materially contribute to airport security. Instead of a revolving door of disgruntled employees, SFO is notable for trying to create a healthy atmosphere where people may earn their livings safely and with dignity. Indeed, there's an ordinance to assure a livable wage.

SFO will soon undertake \$4.3 billion in construction leading to a new four star hotel, the redevelopment of Terminal 1 and the boarding area of Terminal 3, and an extension of the AirTrain system. This 10 year capital improvement program will bring more than 36,000 construction jobs to San Mateo County.

The airport's finances are in excellent shape, in part because of John's dedication to earning extra money from passengers shopping at the airport's various shops. It is rumored that his retail managers have their own version of a biblical admonition: "It is easier for a rich man to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for an airport visitor to pass by a See's candy store."

John is a gifted public policy leader in the Bay Area, supporting California's high speed rail system to relieve pressure on his airport, advocating for mass transit throughout the Bay Area, and encouraging coordination between his airport and the other two major airports in our region. He was the founding president of the California Airports Council and served on the executive board of the Bay Area Council, a major public policy advocacy organization.

I was once walking through a terminal with him and he paused momentarily to pick up a piece of trash and tossed it into the wastebasket. A few steps later he noticed that a door wasn't working and phoned airport staff to have it dealt with immediately. Farmers are often noted for the pride that they take in tilling their own fields. John is an excellent farmer and rightfully proud of the field called San Francisco International Airport.

Mr. Speaker, we wish John Martin well in his next phase in life. Hopefully he will now have the time to travel and to reflect upon his public service. I feel privileged to have served with him and I submit, given all his outstanding contributions, that one of the terminals should be named after him. He deserves to be acknowledged and remembered for the accomplishments of his career that will endure beyond his own era at San Francisco International Airport.

HONORING MS. MARGARET
"MAGGIE" OWEN POOLE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to honor the life of Ms. Margaret "Maggie" Owen Poole, of Max Meadows, Virginia, who passed away on September 7, 2016. She was born November 22, 1932, daughter of the late William N. and Lula Metcalf Owen.

I was always impressed with Maggie's work ethic and energy. Elected in 2007 to the Wythe County Board of Supervisors, she