

New York City, Chicago, and St. Louis during his career, Bill and his wife of sixty-nine years returned to Texas in 1972, to settle in Harris County.

Blessed with four loving daughters, eleven grandchildren, twenty-five great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren, Bill and his loving wife lived together for another forty-five years, until Mary Beth passed away on May 13th, 2017.

In August of 2017, the flooding brought by Hurricane Harvey left over three feet of water in Bill's family home of over forty years, severely damaging his house and ruining irreplaceable mementos of his and Mary Beth's family.

In response to this tragedy, volunteers led by former Navy SEAL, Markus Luttrell and his wife, Melanie, rallied around Bill and made it their mission to rebuild his home by his 100th birthday.

Just two months after the effort began, people from across the country raised almost \$90,000, \$15,000 more than their original goal, to fund the recovery. Thanks to the tireless efforts of these volunteers, Bill will be able to return to his home by his birthday.

As he settles into his newly refurbished home to celebrate his 100th birthday, I join Bill's family, his friends, and his community to thank the volunteers who quickly returned him to his home and wish him a happy birthday as he begins his second century of life.

RECOGNIZING KATHLEEN RAMOS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathleen Ramos, who has been a vibrant leader in the community since arriving in Vacaville, California with her young family in 1986. She quickly fell in love with the charm, generosity and spirit of Vacaville and immediately decided she would devote her time and talent to making Vacaville a great place to raise a family.

Kathleen's passion to help others is evident through her community and public service. Throughout her two decades as a top realtor for Solano County, she's helped countless families find the home of their dreams. Her desire to help the community didn't stop there; Kathleen has held leadership roles in thirteen boards and commissions, including serving five consecutive terms as president and past vice-chair on the Community Services Commission for the City of Vacaville. She also volunteers in student education programs, was past president for the Solano Community Symphony League and is a Charter Member for 100 Women Who Care About Solano County and the Vacaville Soroptimists Twilight Club.

Kathleen is married to her husband Steve; together they have three adult children and six granddaughters. She enjoys an active lifestyle and when she's not helping in the community, you can find her on the bike trails or racquetball courts.

HONORING KATHLEEN GILSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true community servant and long-time pillar of the Riverdale Community Center, Ms. Kathleen Gilson. Kathleen has worked at RCC since 1982, rising through the ranks from Administrative Assistant all the way up to Executive Director. She has done it all at RCC and this year, after 35 years of service to her community, she is celebrating her retirement.

In 1985, three years into her career at RCC, Kathleen became the Fiscal Officer and the Director of Finance and Program Operations by 1997. Then, in 2004, she became the Center's Executive Director. During her tenure as the Executive Director, RCC programs and budgets have tripled, serving over 1,000 people of all ages each year in their free youth programs and Adult and Youth Education Center. Kathleen has overseen an RCC after school program that has become one of the most successful free programs in New York City—receiving “Excellent” ratings from all funders and identified as “Exemplary.” Kathleen was also quite active outside her work life. She served on her local school board for 13 years, eight as the president, and is currently president of her homeowners' association.

Of course, Kathleen's true passion is her family. She is happily married with three children, and two grandchildren. She currently lives in Orange County, though she is a former Bronxite herself.

Kathleen Gilson has been instrumental to the success of RCC, and its amazing growth can be directly linked to her efforts, in addition to the efforts of her team. I want to congratulate Kathleen on her decades of service and thank her for all the incredible work she has done for Riverdale residents. I hope she enjoys a well-earned retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRY DUNCAN

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, Jerry Duncan from Guilford County. I am honored to acknowledge constituents who selflessly answered the call to serve and defend our freedom. A United States Army veteran of World War II and member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Duncan served his country with honor. Self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, and humility are traits this generation embodied. The tremendous strides our country has made since World War II are a direct result of these great Americans. North Carolina is truly fortunate to have Mr. Duncan, an outstanding representative of our community and country.

I join with his family, friends, and the Sixth District in thanking Jerry Duncan for his dedicated service to the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on October 31 and November 1, 2017. Had I been present for the following roll call votes:

H.R. 2521—South Carolina Peanut Parity Act of 2017—I would have voted Yea on to allow South Carolina the ability to appoint members to the Peanut Standards Board.

Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2936—I would have voted no because this motion prevented proceeding to debate a problematic forestry bill, and allowed Congress to debate and vote on the Dream Act to protect DREAMers.

H. Res. 595—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2936—Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017—I would have opposed this rule because it only allowed debate of seven amendments, and blocked the consideration of 10 germane amendments. This rule does not maintain regular order I strive for.

RECOGNIZING MICHALLE SHOWN-RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michalle Shown-Rodriguez of Fairfield, California, who has dedicated her career to community service and is a pillar of the community. Michalle currently serves as the Development Director for Child Haven, where she brings 30 years of experience in development, grant writing, and executive leadership.

Michalle's work with non-profits began with the birth of her son and subsequent involvement in co-founding a support organization in Idaho that served families with medically fragile children. She has been involved with the National Foster Parents Association, the Sierra Association of Foster Families and Ronald McDonald House Charities. Being an adoptive parent of four elementary school-age children, she had a passion to serve in an education-focused environment where she can have a direct impact on children and their parents.

Michalle's previous experience includes working for the Crisis Support Services of Alameda County where she was responsible for developing programs to support suicide prevention, crisis intervention and public education. Ms. Shown-Rodriguez holds a degree in social psychology and earned the Non-Profit Certificate at Stanford Graduate School of Business' Center for Social Innovation among other professional credentials.