

future leaders of this great city for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mayor Elizabeth Minor for her exemplary service and unwavering dedication to the people of Winchester, Virginia. It is an honor to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
BONNIE L. VALKMAN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding life and legacy of Bonnie L. Valkman, age 62, who passed away on Monday, November 24, 2014. A respected leader in her community, Bonnie will be remembered for her enthusiastic community involvement.

Bonnie was born on December 22, 1951, in West Bend, Wisconsin, to the late Walter and Joan Michaels. She was a resident of Wauconda, Illinois, for 28 years. Bonnie was the beloved wife of Greg and loving Mother of Laura Baker. Bonnie was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Bonnie Valkman leaves behind a legacy of kindness, devotion, and faith. She was a loving and devoted wife and mother, a kind and thoughtful friend, and, above all, a woman of deep faith. She attended the Willow Creek Community Church. Bonnie's outlook on life touched the lives of many and made her community a better place. I am saddened by the loss of such a valuable member of the community and extend my heartfelt condolences to her family.

CONGRATULATING KATHY LONG

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Kathy Long upon her retirement from outstanding and invaluable public service to the residents of the Third District on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. For well over two decades, her steadfast leadership and immeasurable contributions to our community have been held in the highest regard throughout the region.

Supervisor Long's commitment to the success of Ventura County is truly commendable. She has been relentless in her efforts to promote Ventura County's economic growth and vitality, protect and strengthen Naval Base Ventura County, prioritize public safety and support the social safety net, conserve our natural resources, preserve our agricultural sector, as well as address the needs of Ventura County's veterans. Moreover, she has ensured a better future for Ventura County and its residents through her remarkable advocacy and tenacity.

Supervisor Long's service to Ventura County extends well beyond her role on the Board of Supervisors. She has continually sought

and worked to be an agent of change in her community through other undertakings including active participation on the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Collaborative-Ventura County, as Co-Chair of the Regional Defense Partnership for the 21st Century, as Chair of the County of Ventura Medical Oversight Committee, as Commissioner of the First 5 Commission, and through her establishment of the Ventura County Women's Economic Roundtable. In addition, Supervisor Long has served as the Ventura County Board of Supervisor's representative to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and served on the Executive Board as Chair of the Urban Counties Caucus. She has also served as Co-Chair of the Women's Leadership Forum, Poverty Working Group, and Coastal Counties Regional Association.

In recognition of her tremendous and impactful work, Supervisor Long was recognized as "Woman of the Year" in 2015 by the California State Legislature, "Legislator of the Year" in 2013 by the Chamber of Commerce Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, awarded the "Housing Hero Award" in 2011 by the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, received the American Red Cross Clara Barton "Public Servant of the Year" award in 2005, and was acknowledged as the "Public Servant of the Year" for 2002-2003 by the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce.

I humbly applaud Supervisor Kathy Long for her demonstrative dedication and tireless efforts to our community, and Ventura County as a whole. It has been my great honor to work with Supervisor Long throughout the years. I have been fortunate to call her a colleague, an ally, and a friend.

Supervisor Long has established a wonderful legacy of hard work and good governance in the public sector, and she has shown that she has a huge heart for Ventura County. As she retires from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and enters a whole new chapter in her life, I am confident that this is not the end of her endeavors as an advocate on behalf of our community.

IN HONOR OF J. LAMAR REESE,
JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a respected civic leader, outstanding citizen, and friend of longstanding, the Honorable J. Lamar Reese, Jr. Sadly, Lamar passed away on Saturday, December 10, 2016. Funeral services to celebrate his life will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church in Albany, Georgia.

John Lamar Reese, Jr. was born on February 14, 1933 in Rome, Georgia. His family later moved to LaGrange, Georgia, where he graduated from LaGrange High School in 1951. He attended the Georgia Institute of Technology and graduated in 1955 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management. While at Georgia Tech, he was a member of the Chi Phi Fraternity and the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps.

After graduation, Lamar served our nation honorably as a lieutenant in the United States Navy for two years. In 1957, he moved to Albany, Georgia where he founded Reese Construction Company and was a founding partner of LRA Constructors.

Lamar Reese was widely known as a driving force in his community. He served on various boards and organizations including the Albany Board of Realtors; Albany Home Builders Association, and the Kiwanis Club. He was a board member of SunTrust Bank, Darton College, the Hospital Authority of Albany/Dougherty County, and the Albany Chamber of Commerce, where he was awarded the Chamber's first Lifetime Service Award.

Further demonstrating his enduring community commitment, Lamar dedicated his time and talents to serving the city of Albany, Dougherty County, and the State of Georgia. He served on the Dougherty County Board of Education for sixteen years, including thirteen years as Chairman. The Dougherty County Board of Education established the Lamar Reese School of the Arts in honor of Lamar's contributions to the education of young people in Dougherty County.

Lamar also served as Chairman of the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners for four years and was elected President of the Georgia School Boards Association. He was a longtime member and advocate for the Albany YMCA and the Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church, where he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and on the Administrative Board. A devoted alumnus of Georgia Tech, he was a trustee of the Alumni Association, member of the Scheller School of Management Advisory Board, recipient of the Dean Griffin Community Service Award, and President of the Albany Area Georgia Tech Club.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." Lamar Reese is one such great soul, who served humanity in a special way. He devoted many years of dedicated service to the people of Dougherty County through his meaningful contribution of energy, skill, and genuine passion. He was an honorable human being who loved deeply and, in return, was deeply loved. His impression on this earth extends beyond himself to the very well-being of Dougherty County, and for it he will be remembered by the community for time to come.

On a personal note, Lamar was a friend of longstanding. I have truly been blessed by his friendship, counsel, and inspiration throughout the years.

Lamar is survived by his loving wife, Sandra, dedicated sons, John, Marvin, and Franklin, eight wonderful grandchildren, a great-granddaughter and a host of other family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District salute J. Lamar Reese, Jr. for his dedicated service and exceptional impact on Dougherty County. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to the Reese family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.