

I met Mr. Farrell at his organization's Juneteenth Celebration in Palm Beach, Florida, during the summer of 2015. Since then, I have witnessed his steadfast commitment to developing the highest standards and best practices for increasing civic engagement among minority communities.

Mr. Farrell's organization was also recently approved by the Florida Department of State to serve as a Third-Party Voter Registration Organization. With increased grassroots activity, active social media and daily communication with thousands of citizens, I have no doubt that Mr. Farrell will continue to be successful.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud his hard work and wish him the best in the future.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES
CALVIN (BILL) ROBERTSON
BRIDGE DEDICATION

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today we honor lifelong Wayne County resident, Private First Class James Calvin (Bill) Robertson, decorated combat veteran, farmer, friend, and family man.

Born on the 4th of July, 1923, PFC Robertson trained as an Army Cannoneer and shipped to the Asiatic Pacific Theater of Operations in 1945 to protect American ground forces from enemy aircraft at Iwo Jima. His Anti-Aircraft Artillery unit's mission: To keep the airstrips open and safe for refueling B29 bombers on their way to targets on the Japanese mainland.

For this critical service, PFC Robertson was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, The Good Conduct Medal, The American Theater Ribbon, and the Asian-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Service Stars. His battalion enabled American forces to invade Japan and change the trajectory of the war in favor of the Allies. But he rarely spoke of his military sacrifice, seared into our minds by the iconic U.S. Marine Corp monument of soldiers raising the American flag high above the Iwo Jima battlefield in February 1945. PFC Robertson simply acknowledged that he was there.

He returned to Wayne County in December 1945, married, and purchased farmland through which the Middle Butler Creek flows. Many family memories were made with his eight children, on this land, in this creek, and throughout his 90 years.

We dedicate the Butler Creek Bridge to the memory of Private First Class James Calvin (Bill) Robertson, World War II hero, who not only ensured the lives lost at Iwo Jima were not lost in vain, but who left a legacy of service and sacrifice.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
EDWARD D. BERGIN, JR.

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Edward Bergin,

Jr., who passed away on August 12, 2017 at the age of 74. Mr. Bergin served an impressive five terms as mayor of Waterbury, Connecticut, and his strong and dedicated leadership guided the city through substantial economic change. Those of us in Connecticut will remember Mayor Bergin as a devoted public servant who exemplified what an elected official strives to be. He wanted to improve his community and help every person he represented.

Mayor Bergin was a fierce advocate for Waterbury, and his roots in a blue-collar Irish family made him keenly conscious of the challenges facing the city. He grew up with a strong appreciation for public service, as his father, Edward Bergin, Sr., was elected to four terms as mayor of the city. The community knew Mayor Bergin for his commitment to Waterbury and his willingness to meet with and listen to people from all political perspectives.

As mayor, Bergin led a number of critical initiatives to preserve important parts of Waterbury's history, while also championing the city's revitalization. Mayor Bergin successfully fought to stop the demolition of the Palace Theater, which would later be restored, preserving an important part of the city's past. He also launched a large economic development project to tear down the Scovill manufacturing plant in the core of Waterbury to make room for the Brass Mill Center Mall. Mayor Bergin has a well-deserved reputation for astute management and organization of the government.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Edward Bergin was a dedicated public servant who spent his career making Waterbury a better city. It is fitting and proper that we honor his legacy here today. All those who knew him will cherish his memory, and the citizens of Waterbury will long remember his contributions to the city.

TRIBUTE TO JOE HERRING

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joe Herring for 31 years of distinguished economic development service to the citizens of South-Central Idaho and on the occasion of his retirement from his current position as President of Region IV Development Association, Inc.

In 1980, Mr. Herring came to Idaho to pursue a graduate degree in geography and land use planning after completing his undergraduate studies at New Mexico State University. Like other transplants to Idaho, Mr. Herring was drawn to the state's wild places and exceptional natural beauty.

Mr. Herring's career in economic development began in 1980 as a land use planner in Moscow, Idaho—taking a part-time job that soon turned into a passion for assisting Idaho's rural communities. In 1986, he joined Region IV Development Association, Inc. as its Executive Director and set in motion a decades' long career working to improve the lives and livelihoods of Idaho residents. Under his leadership, the small regional planning organization grew from offering only work force training into supporting a wide variety of programs to promote job creation, economic development, community development, downtown re-

vitalization, business financing, and many others.

During Mr. Herring's tenure, Region IV Development has been able to facilitate more than \$1.2 billion in public and private sector investment in the eight counties of South-Central Idaho. These public improvement and business projects have supported the creation of more than 5,000 new employment opportunities for Idahoans. From the development of new drinking water systems to the construction of small rural clinics, from industrial park development to building new technical education facilities, Mr. Herring's impact on communities throughout rural Idaho has been significant.

With a focus on expanding community and economic development in South-Central Idaho, Mr. Herring has founded, incorporated, and led a number of organizations that have contributed to the growth and sustainability of rural communities throughout Idaho. Looking to bring state, federal and private sector resources to bear on local issues, Mr. Herring has served Idahoans in many capacities including as chairman of the Idaho Rural Transportation Advisory Council, the Idaho Rural Partnership, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Idaho-Nevada Community Development Financial Institution, and the South-Central Community Action Partnership. Mr. Herring has shown exceptional commitment to strengthening support networks available to foster small businesses and to help rural communities attract economic investments. To that end, Mr. Herring was responsible for bringing the Small Business Development Center to the region. He was also instrumental to the incorporation of the Southern Idaho Tourism and the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization. Mr. Herring has led an amazing career dedicated to serving the people of Idaho.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank Mr. Herring for his service and commitment to economic development in Idaho. On behalf of a grateful state, I wish him well in the next chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING RODNEY R. LEWIS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Rodney R. Lewis, who has been proudly serving as the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Lewis Energy Group for more than 35 years.

Rodney R. Lewis was born in St. Louis, Missouri on July 13, 1954, but grew up in the city of Laredo, where he spent his summers working on his grandparents' ranch. He graduated from United High School in Laredo, Texas in 1972, and then from Texas A&M International University with a degree in criminal justice.

Rodney Lewis started his career in the oil industry in 1978 by working for Stampede Energy and the R.L. Burns Corporation. Eventually, through hard work and support from his family, Lewis became the proud owner of his own well, and in January of 1983, Lewis Petro Properties was created. Over its 35 years, Lewis Petro Properties grew into Lewis Energy Group, a fully integrated E&P company with its