

around the clock. Currently, as we head into the new year, I rededicate myself to being their partner in making towns and communities even safer, more prosperous, and more affordable.

Alpine Mayor Paul Tomasko
Bergenfield Mayor Norman Schmelz
Dumont Councilman Carl Manna
Emerson Mayor Lou Lamatina
Fair Lawn Councilwoman Lisa Swain
Franklin Lakes Mayor Frank Bivona
Glen Rock Mayor Bruce Packer
Hackensack Mayor John LaBrosse
Harrington Park Mayor Paul Hoeschler
Mahwah Mayor Bill Laforet
Montvale Mayor Mike Ghassali
Oakland Mayor Linda Schwager
Paramus Mayor Rich LaBarbiera
Park Ridge Mayor Keith Misciagna
Ramsey Mayor Deirdre Dillon
River Edge Councilman Thomas Papaleo
Rochelle Park Committeeman Michael Warren
Teaneck Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin
Westwood Mayor John Birkner
Wyckoff Mayor Rudy Boonstra
Wyckoff Administrator Bob Shannon

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WALTER HOWLETT, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of the late Walter Howlett, Jr. Walter was a beloved member of the Birmingham community, investing not only in the city's business development but in community development as well.

Walter was born to Walter Howlett, Sr. and Laura Richardson Howlett, the second of seven children. Walter grew up understanding the importance of a good education. His parents often stressed that a quality education was the key to improving one's lot in life.

A proud graduate of A.H. Parker High School in Birmingham, Walter took his parents' advice to heart, holding dreams of attaining a business degree. But those dreams were put on hold when he was drafted into the United States Army shortly after finishing high school.

After serving for a year in the military, Walter returned home and completed his college education. Attending both Jefferson State Community College and the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Walter attained a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and went on to earn his Certified Public Accountant license.

As his parents had said, Walter's education would indeed impact his lot in life. Soon after graduation he became a beloved protégé of civil rights activist, A.G. Gaston. Mr. Gaston created the first black bank and the first African American funeral homes along with countless other firsts for the black community.

It was his endearment and admiration for Mr. Gaston that helped to spur a more than 30-year career with the Gaston Corp., devoting countless hours to the development of some of Birmingham's most affluent and successful black-owned businesses. In 2003,

Walter was appointed CEO of the A.G. Gaston Construction Co.

In spite of all his success in business, Walter still considered his family and faith to be his highest priorities, specifically his four children: Mondra Howlett, Cadeshia Howlett Samuel, Tameka Howlett, and Damien Howlett, and his wife, Deborah Howlett.

The Howletts' love story began in 2012. Shortly after the loss of his mother, friends and family say the meeting was a true blessing in Walter's life, and that she put a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face. Two years later, in September of 2014, the couple exchanged vows. Mrs. Howlett says her life's greatest joy was the time they had together. Walter was an active member of Bethel Baptist Church in Collegeville, participating in various areas of ministry from the choir to serving as an usher. Walter lived by the motto, "find a need and fill it," a lesson learned by Mr. Gaston. He believed service to one's community was not an obligation but a privilege. In the course of his life Walter served on numerous boards including the United Way of Central Birmingham, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. He considered it a great joy to give back to the community he said gave him so much.

In his passing Walter leaves behind four siblings including: Birdie Lee Howlett, Patricia Howlett Peterson, James Lee Howlett, and Fredia Gail Howlett, his other siblings Willie Maud Jenkins and Jay Jerome Howlett are both deceased.

On a personal note, Walter was a cherished mentor and a dear friend. He was a dedicated servant-leader who knew the importance of "each one, teach one." Walter believed in mentoring young people and I was grateful that he was so supportive of my candidacy and always offered his wise counsel. His commitment to excellence and passion for business and entrepreneurship will live on through the many lives he touched.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Walter Howlett, Jr. We pay tribute to his distinguished career and contributions for the betterment of the State of Alabama, and extend deep appreciation for his exemplary service to the community of Birmingham, Alabama.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHARLES BURRELL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the contributions of an extraordinary Denverite, Charles Burrell, who on November 28th was inducted into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame.

I've known Charlie my whole life. His distinguished career included playing in the Al Rose Trio founded by my uncle, Al Rose, together with Lee Arrelano. It was the first racially integrated jazz group in Colorado, and in the 1950s and '60s, they played at some of Denver's best-known destinations for music. When my uncle died unexpectedly at a relatively early age, Charlie volunteered to be my "honorary uncle," a role he has embraced.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1920 and raised in Detroit, Charles Burrell studied music at Cass-Technical High School, then one of the most prestigious music schools in the nation. Although a dedicated student of classical music, Charlie and his friends embraced jazz and practiced it whenever possible. At seventeen, he was even asked to join the Lionel Hampton Big Band, affording him the opportunity to travel the country with some of the jazz greats of the time.

Charlie attended the New England Conservatory of Music and then joined the Navy, where he was selected to join the first-ever all-Black Navy band, which was used in recruiting to help encourage African-American enlistment. After an honorable discharge, he attended Wayne State University with an eye toward teaching music in the public schools, and eventually made his way to Denver to do just that in 1949.

A chance meeting with John VanBuskirk, the lead bass player with the Denver Symphony Orchestra, led to an audition, and Charlie became the first person of color in the nation to be hired by a major orchestra.

Charlie is equally comfortable in an orchestra or a jazz band. He was known to finish a performance at the DSO and then wrap up his evening playing jazz at the Rossonian Hotel in the Five Points neighborhood.

In 1959, Charlie became the first person of color to join the San Francisco Symphony, fulfilling a childhood dream. He played under conductor Pierre Monteux until 1965.

Always a generous man, Charlie has been an inspiration and mentor to many, including his niece, the two-time Grammy award-winning vocalist Dianne Reeves, and his cousin the renowned pianist George Duke.

At ninety-seven, Charlie has proved that age is just a number, frequently playing live bass on KUVU, Denver's preeminent jazz station.

Charles Burrell has been called the Jackie Robinson of classical music for his ability, class, and poise, helping forge change in American institutions that weren't always inclined to widen their circles.

It is my honor today to add to the accolades of this accomplished trailblazer.

IN HONOR OF BOB AND DONNA FRYER'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Bob and Donna Fryer on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Bob and Donna on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

TRIBUTE TO A TOP-TIER
COMMUNICATOR

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of gratitude to recognize the professional achievements and service of my friend, Susan Phalen. Formerly the Communications Director for the House Homeland Security Committee, Susan now holds the title of Director of External Affairs at FEMA.

Susan's role as Communications Director transcended beyond her leadership in strategy and messaging. Susan's positive demeanor, PR-savvy mindset, and determination made her presence not only a valued component in my day-to-day but a real delight. She served as a spokesperson, confidant and trusted senior advisor whose counsel I always held in the highest regard.

Her expertise in media relations helped to elevate Committee Member and press interaction by hosting "meet and greets" and "pen and pads" to facilitate dialogue and solidify relationships. Susan's talents were most notably on display in her work assisting on CODEL trips abroad. Her interpersonal skills and proficiency in public diplomacy shone throughout trips to Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. She led over one hundred TV interviews during her tenure and oversaw the roll out of nine major Committee reports.

Susan's ability to think outside the box set her apart in developing messages for both domestic and international audiences in the national security space. She had a unique way of seeing things and consistently aimed to address a bigger picture in the anticipation of later trends. This is a skill she acquired from her impressive background in handling crisis communication scenarios in pressure-filled war zones.

Before joining my Committee three years ago, Susan was the Communications Director of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and spent more than 15 years as a high-profile communications specialist working in various national security and foreign policy posts with the U.S. State Department among others. She was deployed on nine different tours to Baghdad's dangerous "Green Zone" before spending time in Afghanistan as Director of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs for the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

It is not surprising that with this type of background, Susan took on the responsibility as Director of Communications for my Committee with ease and great effectiveness. She left a legacy that has already proven steadfast among her former colleagues and myself. Susan's quick wit, vivacious spirit, and ability to see humor in all things is missed profoundly.

Today, I am honored to be able to put the spotlight on her. While her time at our Committee was only a snapshot into the incredible career she continues to build, her friendship and counsel remain constant. She has already proven to be a steady hand at FEMA during the recent hurricanes, and I am excited to see what she will accomplish next.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,
TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to reiterate the importance of dynamic scoring as part of the tax legislative process.

Ever since 1996, when the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation began to investigate how best to apply macroeconomic analysis to tax legislation, Congressional scorekeepers have continued to hone their expertise and produce ever more sophisticated analyses of various tax reforms. All of this hard work culminated in 2015 when macroeconomic analysis, commonly known as "dynamic scoring," was formally adopted in the House of Representatives for the purposes of official cost estimates for major legislation.

Ever since the formal adoption of dynamic scoring, first in the House and later in the Senate, the goal has been to produce pro-growth tax reform that was informed by the dynamic scoring process. Although a dynamic estimate was not used for official scoring purposes with respect to H.R. 1 due to constraints in the reconciliation process, macroeconomic analysis will be critical to major legislative efforts in the years ahead. It is important that members of Congress be informed by non-partisan analysis about whether legislation under consideration would shrink or grow the economy as well as how that change in growth would affect the nation's finances and, most importantly, the American people.

IN HONOR OF CINDY KNIGHT
BEING NAMED SENIOR OF THE
YEAR BY THE SENIOR CENTER
OF JACKSON HOLE

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Cindy Knight for being named Senior of the Year by the Senior Center of Jackson Hole. This outstanding accomplishment is a sign of her hard work, leadership, and commitment to the town and people of Jackson.

Throughout her life, Cindy has been committed to helping those in her community, and her passion for promoting literacy is no exception. Being named Senior of the Year is a testament to her leadership and commitment to our community. I am grateful for all that she does to support the people of Jackson and our great state.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Cindy for earning the Senior of the Year Award. She and her family deserve to be extremely proud of this accomplishment.

JUDGE JOHN J. TOOMEY

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge John J. Toomey of St. James, New York. As a soldier in Vietnam, he earned two Bronze Stars and was decorated for valor. Upon returning to the U.S., he graduated from Stony Brook University in 1972 and Hamline University Law School in 1976.

John worked as an Assistant Town Attorney for the Town of Smithtown between 1976 and 1979. He served as a member of the Tenth Judicial Grievance Committee from 1995 until 2002, when he was elected to the District Court bench. In 2010, he was chosen to be the first Presiding Judge of the newly formed Suffolk County Veteran's Court. He considers this to be the highlight of his judicial career. Judge Toomey was elected to the Suffolk County Court in 2011 and is an Acting Surrogate and Acting Supreme Court Justice.

He has earned many awards and recognitions, including the 2008 Judge of the Year award from the Suffolk County Bar Association, the 2014 Peter Sweisgood Award from the Lawyers helping Lawyers Committee of the Suffolk County Bar Association, and he has also been named Man of the Year by the Suffolk County Court Officers' Association.

In addition to his service in the military and on the bench, Judge Toomey has also been an active volunteer with the Saint James Fire Department.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to Judge Toomey for his decades of selfless service.

TRIBUTE TO DARYL BUSCH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

MR. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to former Perris Mayor Daryl Busch, who passed away in California on Sunday, December 3, 2017. Daryl served the residents of Perris, California, as their mayor from 1999 to 2016, and he will be deeply missed.

Daryl was born on January 31, 1941 in St. Louis, Missouri. The family later moved to the small town of Greenville, Illinois, and while still a teenager, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served three years as a shipboard radar operator on the USS Picking and USS Bryce Canyon. After leaving the service, Daryl and his family re-located to California where he worked as a banker. A promotion to bank manager brought the Busch family to Perris in 1975. Following his career in finance, Mr. Busch owned and operated Amigos Tres Restaurant on D Street before beginning his service in public office.

Daryl was elected to and served six terms as mayor of Perris. During that time he made a tremendous impact on the community, including overseeing the development of projects like the Drop Zone aquatics center, the Big League Dreams sports complex, Mercado Park and Mercado Apartments, the