

19, 2018 in Branson, Missouri. Tia Coleman was one of only two survivors from her family of 11, losing her husband Glenn and her children Reece (nine years old), Evan (seven years old), and Arya (one year old). Tia's 13 year old nephew, Donovan Coleman, was the other surviving family member, losing his mother Angela, his younger brother Maxwell (two years old), his uncles Ervin (76 years old) and Butch (70 years old), and his aunt Belinda (69 years old). Boarding a duck boat on Table Rock Lake started out as a fun outing for family members but turned into an unspeakable tragedy when the boat capsized and sank. Seventeen of the 31 passengers on board were killed.

Investigations by state and federal authorities are still underway and lawsuits are pending over the specifics of this incident. But there is a long record of problems associated with duck boat operations that can be addressed now. Since 1999 more than 40 people have died in duck boats accidents, the vast majority of them from drowning when the vessel sinks. In 2002, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued recommendations to improve the safety of the vessels in cases of flooding or sinking, but little has been done to implement those measures. We know from these past incidents that more can be done to make these vessels safe. Congress does not need to wait to act.

While we wait to learn more about the specific circumstances and causes that led to the tragedy on Table Rock Lake, this legislation would implement the NTSB's past recommendations to improve the ability of duck boats (officially referred to as "amphibious passenger vessels") to stay afloat in a flooding or sinking situation.

Specifically, this bill would direct the Coast Guard to issue regulations within 180 days to require operators of amphibious passenger vessels to retrofit their vessels to provide reserve buoyancy. Vessel operators would have no longer than two years to comply with the requirements.

While vessel operators work to comply with the reserve buoyancy requirements, this bill directs them to implement interim measures to improve vessel safety, including:

a. Remove canopies from vessels for waterborne operations, or replacing canopies with structures that do not restrict escape in the event of flooding or sinking;

b. If canopies are removed, require that all passengers wear a personal flotation device while the vessel is on the water;

c. Permanently close all unnecessary access plugs and reduce through-hull penetrations to the minimum number and size necessary;

d. Install independently-powered electric bilge pumps;

e. Install not fewer than four independently-powered bilge alarms;

f. Mandate inspection of vessels in water after each through-hull penetration;

g. Verify watertight integrity of vessels in the water at the outset of each waterborne departure; and

h. Otherwise comply with existing Coast Guard regulations related to the inspection, configuration, and operation of such vessels.

Those vessels that do not meet the 180-day deadline to implement interim safety measures, as well as those that do not meet the two-year deadline to install reserve buoyancy

systems, would be prohibited from operating on U.S. waterways until they are in compliance.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill to make common-sense corrections to the persistent safety problems facing duck boats so that no other family must face the kind of tragedy faced by my constituents on Table Rock Lake. I want to thank my colleague, Senator MCCASKILL, for introducing the companion measure, S. 3301, and I urge the House to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENEVIEVE
SHIROMA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Genevieve Shiroma as she retires from her post as Board Member of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Shiroma for her leadership and commitment to the residents of Ward 4 and all of California.

Elected to the SMUD Board in November 1998, Ms. Shiroma has served the many residents in her region, Ward 4. During her tenure, she has been elected as president of the Board four times, indicating the impressive work she has accomplished since her first election.

Since graduating from University of California, Davis with a bachelor's degree in Material Science and Engineering, Ms. Shiroma has achieved an illustrious career in local and state government and has long been an advocate for policies benefiting all Californians. With over two decades of experience at the California Air Resources Board, Ms. Shiroma has excelled in her field and has been an important leader in improving air quality programs and regulations, which has undoubtedly improved the health and well being of Californians. In addition to her work with the State and the SMUD Board, Ms. Shiroma has also been serving on the Agricultural Labor Relations Board for the State of California since 1999.

Ms. Shiroma is also a civic leader in our region, lending her time to numerous non-profit organizations. She has served on the Boards of the Sierra-Curtis Neighborhood Association, United Way California Capital Region, B Street Theatre, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, and the Friends Committee for My Sister's House. Ms. Shiroma is also a Senior Fellow with the American Leadership Forum Mountain Valley Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends and fellow SMUD Board Members join to celebrate Ms. Shiroma's successful and impactful career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her exemplary leadership and contribution to our community.

HONORING DALE BUWALDA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime member of my staff, Dale Buwalda, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Dale has been on our team for nearly four years now, serving as our Field Director in Indiana. Over the years, he has represented our office at hundreds of events around Indiana, helped organize and plan the Muncie and Lawrenceburg job fairs, and has helped numerous individuals navigate the federal bureaucracy and receive the help they need.

On a personal note, I've known Dale for almost twenty years. He is one of my favorite people in Indiana politics. I admire Dale's loyalty, intellect, and positive spirit. Dale is the kind of leader who strengthens any team.

I want to thank Dale for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for Dale and his family.

RECOGNIZING ELECTION WINNERS

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the following local winners of this November's elections for positions covering all or part of the Fifteenth Congressional District of California, which I have the honor of representing. I look forward to working with them on behalf of the East Bay over the coming years.

State Senate, 10th District: Bob Wieckowski

State Assembly, 16th District: Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

State Assembly, 20th District: Bill Quirk

Alameda County Assessor: Phong La

Pleasanton Mayor: Jerry Thorne

Pleasanton City Council: Kathy Narum, Julie Testa

Dublin Mayor: David Gregory Haubert

Dublin City Council: Jean Josey, Shawn Kumagai

Livermore Mayor: John E. Marchand

Livermore City Council: Bob Woerner,

Trish Munro

Fremont City Council, District 1: Teresa

Keng

Fremont City Council, District 2: Rick

Jones

Fremont City Council, District 3: Jenny

Kassan

Fremont City Council, District 4: Yang

Shao

Hayward Mayor: Barbara Halliday

Hayward City Council: Aisha Wahab, Sara

Lamnin

San Leandro Mayor: Pauline Russo Cutter

San Leandro City Council, District 1:

Deborah Cox

Union City City Council: Emily Duncan,

Jamie Patino, Pat D. Gacoscos

San Ramon Mayor: Bill Clarkson

San Ramon City Council: David E. "Dave"

Hudson, Sabina Zafar

Danville Town Council: Karen G. Stepper,

Robert Storer

Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

(AC Transit) Director, At-Large: Joel Young