

to attend Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey where she was able to pursue her love for helping others and giving back to the community by joining Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority. During her time at Seton Hall University, Ms. Rillo developed a strong interest in law and politics, gaining firsthand experience as an intern for the Honorable Judge Dennis Cavanaugh while he served the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey's Third Circuit. Given Ms. Rillo's competitive nature, she graduated early with her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Kayla joined my team as a Legislative Correspondent in my Washington, DC office in July 2016. In this role, Ms. Rillo was instrumental to my team through composing constituent correspondence that was critical to building relationships with the citizens of California's Twenty First Congressional District. In February 2018, Kayla was promoted to the position of Legislative Assistant, where she worked on critical pieces of legislation, especially the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill. As a member of my team, Ms. Rillo was greatly respected by her peers for her professionalism, loyalty, and dedication to her work.

Outside of work, Kayla participates in a local softball league, enjoys exploring DC with friends, travelling to new places, and spending time with her family. Most recently, Ms. Rillo became a proud aunt to her new nephew, Cesar Ricardo Correa, IV.

Ms. Rillo's time with my office will come to an end on January 3, 2019 when I leave my office as the 116th Congress begins. I have no doubt that she will continue to be successful and grow professionally in her future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Ms. Kayla Rillo for her public service to the people of California's Central Valley and wishing her well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, due to flight scheduling, I was unable to vote on December 19, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Nos. 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, and 446.

RECOGNIZING MR. PARKER GREENE

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, one of South Georgia's most influential and storied residents, Mr. Parker Greene, passed away. I, like many, was saddened to hear the news of his passing and offer my continued prayers to his wife Lucy, as well as his family and community, during this time.

In 1970, Parker and Dr. Lucy Greene moved to Valdosta, Georgia and quickly be-

came integral members of the local community. Shortly after coming to town, Parker signed up to serve on the Chamber of Commerce military affairs board where he worked to maintain a strong relationship between the community and Moody Air Force Base, which calls the surrounding Lowndes County and South Georgia region home. Over the years, Parker and Lucy continued in various roles to strengthen the partnership between Moody, Lowndes County and Valdosta. They worked with military officials and local, state and federal leaders to prevent the base from being closed or realigned with other missions.

In 2005, Parker was named by then-Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue to the Georgia Military Affairs Committee, where he advocated for all Georgia military installations and facilitated communication between the Governor's office and Pentagon and Air Force officials. Parker also served on the first Air Combat Command's civilian advisory council, where he acted as a liaison between the Air Combat Command and local community leaders.

For this stalwart service to our nation and South Georgia, Parker was awarded the Loyce W. Turner Award for Public Service given by Valdosta State University Public Administration Advisory Council and the Air Force Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest honor the Air Force bestows on a civilian. Greene was also awarded the first ever Chief of Staff of the Air Force Award for Exceptional Public Service by Gen. T. Michael Moseley, the 18th Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force.

In his passing, countless U.S. Air Force leaders, including Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, have offered their condolences and thanks for nearly 50 years of civilian service to our nation's Airmen.

Earlier this year, the South Georgia region was named a "Great American Defense Community" by the Association of Defense Communities and USAA. This honor is a testament to the years long, tireless work of local leaders in South Georgia, including Mr. Greene and his wife Lucy.

While we mourn the loss of Mr. Greene, we also celebrate his life well lived and his invaluable contributions to South Georgia which will be remembered for decades to come.

Goodspeed, Parker Greene.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JEAN FULLER

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize California State Senator Jean L. Fuller, who retires this year from the California State Senate following an exemplary career of public service. Over her career, Jean served two terms in the State Senate and two terms in the State Assembly representing portions of Kern, Tulare, Inyo, and San Bernardino counties.

Born and raised in Shafter, California, Jean began her long career of public service as an educator, teaching elementary school in Lemoore, California. Later, Jean moved to Los Angeles County where she served in a variety of roles in the Keppel Union School District,

culminating in her service as the District Superintendent from 1990 to 1999. Over her career in education, Jean gained firsthand knowledge of the issues impacting students and their teachers, building a passion that pushed her to dedicate her life to public service. From 1999 to 2006, Jean returned home to Kern County to serve as Superintendent of the Bakersfield City School District (BCSD), the largest elementary school district in the State of California. During her time with BCSD, Jean managed the district's 3,500 staff members to foster a safe and constructive learning environment for the 28,000 students the district served.

In 2006, Jean brought her years of knowledge and experience in education to Sacramento, representing the 32nd State Assembly District for four years. By 2010, Jean was successfully elected to represent the 18th and later 16th Senate Districts, where she became known as a consensus-builder among her colleagues. Jean was elected by her colleagues to serve as the Republican Leader of the California State Senate in 2015, becoming the first woman to hold this important top leadership post. During her tenure in the State Legislature, Jean achieved significant legislative success despite Republican minorities in both legislative chambers. Among her achievements, Jean secured tens of millions of dollars in funding to benefit public schools near military bases when her bill, SB 111, was signed into law with broad bipartisan support. Additionally, Jean advanced significant legislation to fight Valley Fever, a rare but potentially life-threatening disease that is endemic to our community. Through her efforts, Jean secured \$3 million for Valley Fever research for use at the Valley Fever Institute at Kern Medical Center in Bakersfield. Jean's success in the fight against this disease is a significant step forward in finding a cure for an ailment that impacts so many in California's Central Valley.

Anyone wishing to serve the public would do well in emulating Jean's tireless work ethic, can-do attitude, and sagacious command of the issues impacting our communities and our state. Jean is unquestionably one of California's most beloved legislators and has paved a career exemplifying the best of public service. Her commitment to fight for her principles with civility, and her constant search for consensus and solutions among her Senate colleagues reflects the deep and enduring respect and admiration she has across the political spectrum. But perhaps one of the most honorable traits of a public servant is one that Jean is universally known for: keeping her word. From hard-fought policy battles on the Senate Floor to her annual travel commitment to her friends with the Camp Fire Girls of America, Jean could always be counted on, and her presence will be sorely missed in and around our community and in the California State Legislature. Jean's transition to a private life is a loss to our community, though I know she will spend her well-deserved retirement to focus on the things she loves most: her family and friends, and traveling and flying with her beloved husband, Russell. As Jean begins this new chapter of her life, on behalf of a most grateful community, state, and nation, I would like to express my profound appreciation to her and to wish her and her family all the best.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER EDWARD
TAVLIAN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Alexander Edward Tavlian for his years of service to my office and the 21st Congressional District.

Mr. Tavlian was born on April 1, 1992 in Fresno, California. After graduating from Clovis West High School in 2010, Alex received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from University of California, Davis in 2014. He continued his education soon after, earning his Juris Doctor from California Western School of Law in 2017. He is now a member of the State Bar of California and a licensed attorney.

Alex first became a member of my Congressional Team in 2013 when he served as a summer intern in Washington, D.C. Mr. Tavlian's hard working demeanor and extreme talent left a strong impression on me and my staff, maintaining a close relationship with my office as he pursued other ventures. He re-joined my Congressional Team in 2017, serving as our Deputy District Director. Alex managed special projects and strategic initiatives, advising staff on pertinent district-level issues and coordinating media opportunities. He proved to be a strong asset across the 21st Congressional District, creating meaningful connections with community leaders and leading staff with wisdom and inspiration. Alex's wide breadth of policy knowledge combined with effective organizational leadership made him an invaluable member of my team and a true public servant to the people of California's Central Valley.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Tavlian has shown strong passion and immense talent in the field of politics. He founded Sultana Media in 2014, a strategic communications and digital media firm serving political and public affairs campaigns. Servicing campaigns, presidential and local, Alex has become well known for his dedication and commitment to his clients. This past election cycle, Alex served as team Valadao's Campaign Manager.

Aside from politics, Alex also has a passion for the Nation's legal system. He has worked for and studied under multiple legal entities, including private law firms, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Attorney's Office. Being a licensed attorney himself, Alex brings a fresh legal perspective into each of his professional avenues.

Outside of work, Alex enjoys traveling across California, taking advantage of the sights to perfect his photography skills. He also is an avid sports fan, taking every opportunity to watch San Francisco Giants base ball and Oakland Raiders football.

This January, Mr. Tavlian will be moving onto new ventures. Knowing Alex, his character and work ethic, I have no doubt he will achieve many great things in his future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Alexander Edward Tavlian for his public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing him the very best in this next chapter of his life.

MASTER SERGEANT JOSHUA
WHEELER

HON. ROBERT PITTENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, Joshua Wheeler, a Master Sergeant in the United States Army, was killed in Iraq in October 2015 during a battle with ISIS. A highly-decorated combat veteran, he was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Medal of Patriotism. Shortly before his death, he and his wife constructed a new home where they planned to raise their infant son together. The Wheeler's mortgage lender and servicer, Ditech Financial LLC, partnered with Lt. Colonel Richard Cantwell (Ret.), Chairman of the Patriot Military Foundation, to ensure Ashley was financially able to keep the home. I am happy that entities like this recognize the enormous sacrifice of all service members and their families, particularly Gold Star families like the Wheelers.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EASTERN
HANOVER VOLUNTEER FIRE DE-
PARTMENT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Eastern Hanover Volunteer Fire Department, a brave group of men and women who every day put their service to the community above self.

The Eastern Hanover Volunteer Fire Department was formed in October of 1967 with four charter members who placed second mortgages on their homes to pay for the new station. Since its founding the members of the Eastern Hanover Volunteer Fire Department have operated primarily on donations from the community for many years while also hosting fund raising events including Bingo games, chicken dinners, crab feasts and door-to-door fund drives. Since then, the Eastern Hanover Volunteer Fire Department has experienced significant growth and currently has twenty-four volunteer members and twenty lifetime members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Eastern Hanover Volunteer Fire Department. Words alone cannot express our gratitude. May God bless the operations of the Eastern Hanover Volunteer Fire Department, and I look forward to seeing their excellence for many years into the future.

THANKING JACQUELINE "JACKIE"
HURDA FOR HER SERVICE TO
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Jackie Hurda for more than forty years

of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives in several administrative and support roles. She lives in Virginia's 11th District, and I am proud to represent her in Congress.

Jackie is retiring after working for the House of Representatives for more than four decades. Her career with the House began when she moved from Pennsylvania to the Washington, D.C. area in March 1978 to work for the Honorable Richard Taylor "Dick" Schulze of Pennsylvania. Jackie served as the systems administrator until Congressman Schulze's retirement in 1993. She worked in the same capacity for the Honorable Jim Kolbe of Arizona from 1993 until 2000.

In 2000, Jackie transferred to the Office of Financial Counseling under the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), where she remained until her retirement. She started as a data entry specialist, but her work ethic and eye for detail resulted in a promotion to Financial Counselor within one year. She provided financial guidance and services to House offices to help ensure their expenditures adhered to applicable rules and accounting standards. Jackie's knowledge, experience, and attentiveness made her an invaluable asset to the House of Representatives over the years. She is well respected by her co-workers and colleagues.

Jackie and her husband Gary have four children; Abby, Randy, Maggie, and Gretchen; she has two grandchildren, Jake and Emma. Her parents, Fred and Rachel Graeff recently moved from Pennsylvania to live with her in Springfield, Virginia. Jackie is also active in her church and teaches Sunday school to three-year-olds.

I congratulate Jackie, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her distinguished service to the House and the nation it serves. I wish her and her family all the best as she begins this new chapter in her life.

HONORING PASTOR KENNY
FOREMAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Kenny Foreman, who passed away on December 16, 2018. I spoke three years ago on the impact he made on Santa Clara County and it saddens me that he has left us so soon. He was a beloved member of our community whose passing is deeply felt.

Pastor Kenny Foreman dedicated his life to the ministry. He started to travel the country at age seventeen as an evangelist minister. With his wife, Shirley, he continued his commitment to his beliefs and established the Cathedral of Faith in 1965. Since then Pastor Foreman was a pillar in our community's spiritual life. He has touched thousands of lives with a congregation of more than 12,000 members with over 70 ministries.

As his life's work, the Cathedral of Light, serves the spiritual needs of the community and gives help to those in need. One of the ministries, "Reaching Out," is a food assistance program that operates one of the largest and most efficient food programs in the state of California. Their mission is to serve the low-