

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-