

the Korean War until 1953. After he was discharged from the military, he began working for his uncle Ernest at Quality Sheet Metal Works. He worked hard at the company and eventually became the co-owner with his cousin Sidney. He led the company until it closed in 1992.

Mr. Mathias built his first house in Chicago after marrying Joanne Decker in 1955. Soon after, they had two children, Linda and Larry. The family relocated to Homewood in 1970, where Joanne passed away in 1990. Mr. Mathias later remarried Adrienne Cohen in 1993, and the couple remained together until her passing in 2012.

Presently, Mr. Mathias is active and engaged member of his local community. He is involved in several veterans groups including the Homewood VFW 807 and the Pvt. Sam Veivelt Post of the Jewish War Veterans of America, where he serves as Quartermaster and Corresponding Secretary. In recognition of his service in the Korean War, he participated in the Chicago Honor Flight in 2016 to visit the Memorial in Washington, D.C. He also enjoys traveling and spending time with family.

I heartily congratulate Mr. Mathias on his 90th birthday, and thank him for his service to our community and nation.

**SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS
SMALL BUSINESS CONTINUATION
ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 499, the "Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act."

H.R. 499 amends the Small Business Act to clarify the treatment of surviving spouses for purposes of the service-disabled veteran-owned small business definition.

This act will provide the surviving spouse of a service-disabled veteran with federal contracting preference as a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

On Monday we celebrated Veterans Day to show our veterans and military families how important they are to us and how grateful we are for them each and every day.

I offer my deepest gratitude to our nation's troops and reservists, their families, and the 21.6 million veterans, including 29,126 here in the 18th Congressional District. 21.6 million brave men and women are veterans of our nation's military service.

This includes more than 2 million women, 2.7 million African American men and women, 1.5 million Hispanic men and women, 342,000 Asian American Pacific Islanders, and 178,000 American Indians.

The memory of the fallen are never forgotten.

Each Veterans Day, Americans come together to remember those who have served our country around the world in the name of freedom and democracy.

The debt that we owe to them is immeasurable.

Their sacrifices, and those of their families, are freedom's foundation.

This bill will help veteran families by extending additional benefits to the surviving spouses of deceased veterans across the country, including at home in Harris County.

By allowing the spouses of deceased service-disabled veterans to retain their status as a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business, they will remain competitive in the federal contracting market.

After the years of service their family members provide to our country in support of their loved ones who sever the military, veterans' spouses have earned the reliability this bill provides to them and their businesses.

Current law allows surviving spouses of 100 percent service-disabled veteran business owners to continue receiving preferences for contracts with the VA, but the benefit does not extend to the spouses of veterans with a disability less than 100 percent.

The bipartisan bill introduced today will extend the benefit to these spouses for three years, helping ensure their businesses are not upended after the death of their veteran spouse.

I thank my colleague, Congressman CHABOT for sponsoring this legislation to support families of Veterans who so bravely supported the freedoms of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 499 to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the treatment of surviving spouses for purposes of the service-disabled veteran-owned small business definition.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF DOCTOR
BILL NOBLE**

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2019

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, last week, Wheeling lost a compassionate doctor and an all-around good man. So, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Bill Noble of Wheeling, West Virginia. Bill was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, teacher and cardiologist.

My wife, Mary, a nurse, worked with Bill for many years at Ohio Valley Medical Center where he not only served as chief of cardiology, but was also a dedicated teacher. He was recognized as teacher of the year several times by the medical residents, but his greatest passion was for his work as a cardiologist. Bill touched the lives of thousands in the area and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Dawn, his two children and his extended family as they mourn his passing. He will be missed.

**RECOGNIZING STEVE FARUS AND
HIS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE DUNCAN FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2019

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Duncan Falls Fire Depart-

ment's 1st Assistant Chief, Steve Farus, for the forty years he has dedicated to Wayne Township and the surrounding area.

Assistant Chief Farus's career, now spanning more than four decades, exemplifies a selfless commitment to public service. After graduating from Philo High School in 1971, Steve joined the U.S. Navy, where he served honorably for four years. Upon his return to civilian life, Assistant Chief Farus graduated from college and joined the Duncan Falls Volunteer Fire Department. In this role, Steve has continually gone above and beyond his call of duty. His dedication has manifested itself in numerous ways, including in his co-founding of Duncan Falls Safety Town—an educational program through which he has delivered countless safety demonstrations to school, church, and other civic groups across the Wayne community.

In addition, Steve is a long-serving member of the Muskingum County Firefighters Association, where he was instrumental in acquiring a Fire Safety Trailer for the Duncan Falls Fire Department. Today, the trailer is used for children's safety demonstrations and is a favorite stop on the many station tours that Steve coordinates for members of the community. For his remarkable service, Assistant Chief Farus has been honored with several awards, including the Zanesville Sertoma Service to Mankind Award and the Gardner Insurance Community Protector Award.

Beyond his work with the Fire Department, Steve has further served Wayne Township as the owner and operator of the Clyde Thompson Funeral home since 1985. He and his wife, DuAnne, are the proud parents of Scott, Matthew, and Stacey, and now have 6 grandchildren.

As family, friends, and Wayne Township gather to recognize Steve's outstanding career, I salute him for his commitment to advocating for safety and for his ongoing service above self. Assistant Chief Farus can take great pride in all he has accomplished and the positive impact that his work has had and will continue to have.

I thank Steve for his devotion to bettering Wayne Township, Ohio, and in turn, I honor him for his incredible record of achievement.

**HONORING AMBASSADOR JOHN
O'KEEFE**

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2019

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ambassador John O'Keefe, who is retiring after a distinguished diplomatic and public service career including, most recently, eleven years at the helm of the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress.

Open World is a unique exchange program for emerging democracies, particularly former Soviet and communist states. This program leverages the energy of Members of Congress and their constituents, bringing current and rising foreign leaders to Washington and other communities throughout our country for dialogue and cultural exposure. Open World now maintains a vast network of more than 29,000 alumni.