

dedication to human services is not limited to just the CFFA. She serves on the Board for the Bleeding and Clotting Disorders Institute and the Dirksen Congressional Center. She also served the public in the 18th congressional district for two decades. Additionally, Merna is a member of the Peoria Rotary Club, Illinois Human Services Partnership, and serves on numerous committees, like the Peoria Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee. Building community and investing in Central Illinois, large or small, has long been a passion for Carol.

Our community has greatly benefited from the hard work and leadership of Carol Merna. I extend my sincere congratulations to her on being recognized as Central Illinois' Woman of the Year. I wish her much success as she continues to lead a life of service to the Peoria community and central Illinois.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE REV. PHILLIP R. BYRUM

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 12, 2020

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the decades of dedicated public service of a great North Carolinian, role model and man of faith, the Rev. Phillip R. Byrum—known to many as Father Phil.

Born in 1941, Rev Phillip R. Byrum is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina—son of the late Robert and Margaret Byrum. He attended Greensboro Public Schools and graduated from Greensboro College in 1963 with a degree in philosophy and religion.

He went on to attend the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, graduating in 1966. He was assigned to St. Michael's Church in Tarboro, North Carolina and St. Mary's Church in Speed, North Carolina. He was ordained to the Priesthood on June 24, 1967, at Christ Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Father Phil was married to the former Anne Stuart Barnette in 1966. They became parents to two sons, Robert Stuart, born 1968 and John Keith, born in 1970. He is also a proud grandfather of seven grandchildren and great-grandfather of one.

Father Phil and his family moved to Albemarle, North Carolina in 1969, where he became the Rector of Christ Church. He and his family spent a joyful 22 years in this parish, with both sons attending local schools, and leaving to attend and graduate from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Serving with passion and humility, Father Phil was a dedicated minister to his congregation and was heavily involved in many facets of community life, as well as the work of the Diocese of North Carolina. For many years, he chaired the Commission on Liturgy and Music, and directed a music and worship camp for children on behalf of the Diocese for 19 years. He also began a long relationship with the Society of St. Margaret in Boston, Massachusetts where he served as a visiting chaplain to the Sisters for many years.

In May 1991, Rev. Byrum accepted a call to become Rector of St. Timothy's Church in Wilson, North Carolina. Shortly after, a temporary assignment stretched into nearly 30 years of

service as Father Phil was asked to serve as priest-in-charge of a historic African American church in East Wilson, St. Mark's Church.

Father Phil completed his service in ministry from St. Timothy's in 2000, and focused his ministry service on St. Mark's, while also serving La Iglesia de la Guadalupe, the Spanish-speaking church officially recognized as a congregation in 1998 and shares St. Mark's facilities. Father Phil devoted his service in ministry at St. Mark's and La Guadalupe until his final retirement in 2020.

Father Phil had the privilege of leading his congregations at St. Mark's and La Guadalupe in serving the community with worship services in English and Spanish and through community outreach programs such as food ministries, tutoring programs, and assistance programs for those facing critical situations in their lives.

On February 29, 2020, Father Phil retired from active ministry and will continue to live in his home community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and honoring the Rev. Phillip R. Byrum as he is recognized for his many years of service. His lifelong contribution to his congregations and community cannot be overstated.

LITTLE PUB COMPANY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 12, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Little Pub Company for receiving Commerce City's Business Appreciation 2020 Retail Investment Award for Leadership.

The Retail Investment Award for Leadership honors a retailer or commercial developer who contributed to the city's economic vitality through the introduction of a new business that brought new employment and/or new capital investment to the city in the last year. Founded in Denver in 1994, Little Pub Company currently operates over 20 restaurants and/or bars across the Denver metropolitan area. Each location is unique—names and defining characteristics are specific to each neighborhood in which they are built.

Little Pub Company was a pioneer in Commerce City. The company built the northern range's first free-standing full-service restaurant and bar in 2019, State House 38. The 5,424 square-foot restaurant brought 75 new jobs to the city in 2019. The name pays tribute to Colorado, the 38th state in the Union. Inside, the walls are decorated with photos illustrating the history of Commerce City.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Little Pub Company for this well-deserved recognition from Commerce City.

HONORING BRYAN JOSEPH KELLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 12, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bryan Joseph

Keller. Brian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bryan Joseph Keller for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. MICHAEL A. EVANS

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 12, 2020

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Michael A. Evans, a medical expert, an entrepreneur and a dear friend. Dr. Evans was known throughout Indiana and the nation for his excellent work in the field of toxicology, but he was much more than that. A businessman, Mike founded two nationally recognized laboratories in Indianapolis, AIT Laboratories and AIT Bioscience. Mike was commended by the State of Indiana for his many successes. Hoosiers are forever grateful for Mike's significant contributions to the City of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana as a whole.

Michael Evans was born on October 19, 1943, in New Albany, Indiana. He graduated from Our Lady of Providence High School and went on to attend St. Joseph's College where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree. Upon his graduation, Mike served our nation as a platoon sergeant and an Army Ranger in Vietnam. Mike was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Silver Star Medal for valor in combat.

After returning from his service, Mike earned his doctorate degree in toxicology from the Indiana University School of Medicine. After receiving his degree, Dr. Evans spent twenty years within the field of toxicology working as a researcher for government agencies, testifying as an expert witness and training the next generation as a professor. Dr. Evans also did private research in laboratories including those at Indiana University School of Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

In 1990, Dr. Evans created AIT Laboratories, a toxicology and forensics lab that does testing and research for law enforcement, corporations, government agencies, pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, physicians, pain management professionals, medical examiners, attorneys, and courts of law. He went on to serve as the president and CEO until 2012. In 2012, Dr. Evans created AIT Bioscience which is an integrated bioanalytical contract research organization (CRO), supported by a state-of-the-art electronic laboratory environment.