

member of the original company, assumed ownership and eventually renamed it Coors Porcelain Company. During WWI, the US government sought out ceramic companies to assume the manufacture of critical products such as chemical and scientific lab ware, which had been supplied by Germany. Coors Porcelain answered the call and began making critical components in a variety of ceramic materials. In 1986, the company name was changed to Coors Ceramics Company to better reflect its core competencies in a variety of technical ceramics. In 1992, Coors Ceramics was one of four subsidiaries spun-off from the brewery family of companies and became part of ACX Technologies, a new holding company.

CoorsTek recently purchased a 300,000 sq. ft. facility in the Coors Technology Center to expand its manufacturing operations. In 2014, the company announced the opening of its new plant in the Coors Technology Center to produce premium lightweight ceramic proppants, sand-sized solid materials used to keep induced hydraulic fractures open allowing oil and gas to flow.

I extend my deepest congratulations to CoorsTek for their well-deserved Business Recognition Award.

CONGRATULATING 2015 BLUE STAR
NEIGHBOR AWARD WINNER

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mark Johnson who received the 2015 Blue Star Neighbor Award from Blue Star Families, Inc.

Mark spent the winter of 2014 clearing the steps and driveways of service members and their families while they were deployed. He demonstrated leadership, kindness, generosity and a true sense of community through his willingness to lend a helping hand, going above and beyond for his neighbor, Chief Warrant Officer Sean Durkee and the veterans in the city of Waltham, Massachusetts.

Blue Star Families, Inc. held an essay contest about neighbors who helped servicemen while deployed. Friend Kelly Durkee-Erwin, and sister of Sean, entered Mark's story in the contest. In January of 2015, Kelly was alerted that Mark's volunteerism, service and friendship would be rightfully recognized through the Blue Star Neighbor Award.

First Lady Michelle Obama, Jill Biden's Joining Forces, The Creative Coalition and Mark Johnson were recently recognized by Blue Star Families, Inc. in Washington, DC for their service, achievements and support of military families.

Mark is an inspiration to us all. His actions motivate us to strengthen our communities by giving back. I thank him for his service to Waltham families and congratulate him for his achievements.

TRIBUTE TO GARY PAGLIANO

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the career of a distinguished servant of Congress in the field of international energy and national defense. Gary Pagliano, whom I am proud to represent, will retire this month from the Congressional Research Service with 40 years of continual service to his country and to Congress, having joined CRS in 1974.

Gary graduated from the State University of New York in 1971 and received a Master's degree in Public Administration from Cornell University in 1974. He is a proud graduate of the National War College from which he received a Master's degree in National Security Strategy in 1997.

As a CRS specialist, first in energy policy and then in defense policy, Gary wrote about a variety of issues, including U.S. energy programs and policies, OPEC and world oil markets, defense acquisitions, defense contractors, the defense industrial base, and NATO. In 1984, Gary became the first CRS Senior Fellow to spend a year at the Atlantic Council, a program that then ran for many years. In 1997, he was appointed to manage CRS's Defense Budget Section, a position he held with distinction until late last year.

Over the decades, Gary Pagliano has helped set the standards of excellence for which CRS is known today. He leaves behind not only a distinguished public service career but a legacy of leadership and mentorship to colleagues, congressional staff, and defense policy analysts. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to him for his four decades of service to Congress and to our nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF LES
WILLIAMS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember an amazing American and an outstanding patriot. Mr. Les Williams has died at the age of 95. Mr. Williams was one of the heroic Tuskegee Airmen. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service to this nation. He was also a Stanford undergraduate and law school graduate, and a distinguished attorney in my district for many years.

Mr. Williams grew up in San Mateo and was part of a middle-class African American community in San Mateo until the Great Depression financially devastated his family. In order to earn money for his college education, he started a business teaching dance. When America entered World War II, Mr. Williams volunteered to join the Army Air Corps. Only after the war did he learn that his original application was denied because he was African American.

The Army drafted Mr. Williams and placed him into a laborer's job working on the docks, a job that ordinarily would have ended his flying career before it began. As disappointed as

he was, however, Mr. Williams was a patriot. As he later said, "I became a worker. I wasn't very proud of that. I had to go. One thing though, I was going to do what my country told me to do because I was an American and I'll always be an American."

Mr. Williams and others also formed a band and Mr. Williams danced. After a performance at a Kaiser shipyard, a general congratulated Mr. Williams and the band. The general also asked if he could help the men in any way and Mr. Williams immediately volunteered, again, to fly. Shortly thereafter, Les Williams was on his way to Tuskegee, Alabama, truly a rendezvous with history.

His training in Tuskegee was rigorous, but even more demanding was the culture of discrimination in Tuskegee. As he later noted, discrimination existed in his hometown of San Mateo, but it was nothing like Tuskegee. For example, failing to wait for a white person to cross the street could get you dragged from the car and beaten. This was a level of violence that Les Williams had not faced before.

Les Williams was a great pilot. He'd never been near a plane before going to ground school, but Les Williams excelled. The white officer who gave him his check out flight test had a 100% record of washing out African American students. But he didn't wash out Les Williams. At the time, the officer noted that Mr. Williams was cocky, but also noted that fighter pilots needed to be cocky. Mr. Williams eventually switched to bombers and enjoyed flying the B-25. However, the war wouldn't wait. By the time the Army Air Corps assembled a full cockpit bomber crew, the war was over.

After the war, Captain Les Williams returned to San Mateo and started a successful dance studio. Here, in his hometown, he again faced a lot of prejudice. He won the right to build his dance studio on a 3-2 vote of the City Council, with at least one resident throwing her purse at him in anger over the idea that an African American could be allowed to build a new structure in a largely white part of town. By 1947, Mr. Williams also entered Stanford University on the G.I. bill, graduating with a degree in history. He continued operating his dance studio for about 25 years and eventually returned to Stanford to study law, graduating in the 1970's. He was an active and distinguished attorney in our community for many years. He is survived by his wife, Elsie, daughters Penny and Paula, two grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, through his dedication to America Les Williams proved one thing beyond a shadow of a doubt: He was a patriot. A man who loved America and who worked hard to overcome the barriers placed in his path, he personified the energetic pursuit of opportunity in this nation. We owe the Tuskegee Airmen our gratitude for helping to break the color barrier, but we owe Les Williams our respect because he not only broke the barrier but also set the bar of achievement higher for all America.

Today, let us remember Les Williams when we think of equality under the law. At 95 years old upon his passing, Les Williams is a man who willed to each of us decades of opportunity, provided we have the wisdom to preserve and to nurture his legacy.