

The members of the family honored as recipients include Dr. Samuel Shaheen and his wife, Holly, brother and sister-in-law, Peter and Kari Shaheen, sister and brother-in-law, Sabrina and Kevin Cronin, and parents Patricia and the late Dr. Samuel "Doc" Shaheen.

As the Member of Congress representing the Fifth District of Michigan, I am honored to have constituents like Dr. Samuel J. Shaheen and his family. Much can be said of the many charitable accomplishments of this wonderful family. The Temple Theatre, the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum and the Saginaw Art Museum have all benefited so much as a result of Dr. Shaheen's personal contributions of time, effort, fundraising and selfless giving.

Through his efforts with the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and Saginaw Future, Sam has also worked diligently for the economic betterment of the local community—developing both a thriving surgical practice and building a dynamic real estate development company. These results have provided community leaders with inspiration, hope and an unprecedented level of optimism.

Dr. Samuel J. Shaheen and his family are people of tremendous substance and accomplishment. Sam has vision and makes things happen through an unwavering commitment to achieving results for his community. The charitable impact he has made is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dr. Samuel J. Shaheen and his family for their strong leadership and unyielding commitment to philanthropy.

CONGRATULATING JEFF KESTER  
ON WINNING THE R. LAYNE MORRILL  
AWARD

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jeff Kester, current board president of the Greater Springfield Board of REALTORS, on being presented the R. Layne Morrill Award by the Member Boards and Associations of the Missouri REALTORS.

The R. Layne Morrill Award aims to recognize one person who has made it their goal, through political involvement, to advance REALTORS in Missouri's legislative agenda.

Jeff Kester has spent 21 years as an advocate for Missouri REALTORS.

I am honored to recognize Jeff Kester, and I congratulate him on receiving the 2016 R. Layne Morrill Award.

FRANCESC DE PAULA SOLER

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to once again pay tribute to Francesc de Paula Soler, a gifted and world-renowned musician.

Mr. Soler grew up in Spain and comes from a Catalan family of well-known artists. He began studying the guitar at the age of six and was completely immersed in it by age 11,

earning the highest honors in the prestigious Conservatorio Superior de Musica in Barcelona, Spain. Mr. Soler received rigorous training from legendary guitarists Andres Segovia, known as the "Father of Classical Guitar," and Narciso Yepes.

Mr. Soler has become a legend in his own right due to his unique skills in conveying emotions through the strings of his guitar. Mr. Soler has performed in music halls and auditoriums throughout the United States and Europe for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Some of the venues include the Library of Congress, the Levine School of Music and the Acheson Auditorium at the United States Department of State.

Commonly known as the "Poet of the Guitar," Mr. Soler has received numerous awards and recognitions, including: Medal of St. Vladimir of the Russian Orthodox Church, Honorary Citizen of Dallas, Honorary Citizen of Corpus Christi, Golden Key of the Corpus Christi City, Medal of the U.S. Military Academy and the Plaque of the Catalan Catholic Church Council.

In commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month and the positive contributions of Hispanic-Americans throughout our nation's history, Mr. Soler will once again grace the Library of Congress with his music. I encourage all of my colleagues to attend Mr. Soler's concert on September 16, 2016 as we commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the death of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, author of the most influential work of literature in the Spanish language—Don Quijote de la Mancha.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Francesc de Paula Soler for his contributions to the world of music.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. GARY  
ESAJIAN

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Gary Esajian on being honored as the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce 2016 Agriculturalist of the Year.

Mr. Gary Esajian's family has lived in the Central Valley since the 1920's, and as a third generation Kings County farmer, he has greatly contributed to the community throughout his life. Mr. Esajian has shown dedication to his hometown of Lemoore and the Central Valley for decades through both his community work and success as a farmer. As a farmer, Mr. Esajian grows many different crops including almonds, pistachios, garlic, tomatoes, wine grapes, walnuts, and onions.

Mr. Esajian has further shown his service to the community by serving as the Westlands Water District Board of Directors for fourteen years, as a Board member of the San Joaquin Valley Cotton Board, and as the Director of a Suncrest Bank in Visalia. In regards to California's current drought issue, Mr. Esajian conducted a study on water in California, specifically the impacts to Kings and Fresno Counties, which has benefited his peers greatly.

Known for being unassuming and humble, upon receiving his award Mr. Esajian credited his family's long agricultural history and not his own success. He is also known for being a

hardworking and organized man, who successfully achieves whatever he puts his mind to.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Mr. Gary Esajian on his dedicated service to the Central Valley and on being honored as the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce 2016 Agriculturalist of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO KIM AVEY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kim Avey for being honored in her community as the 2016 Good Egg Days Citizen of the Year.

Ms. Avey is a great volunteer throughout the community, helping at Scoop the Loop and the local skating rink. She also works as a rural mail delivery person, well-known to go out of her way to make sure her route patrons get their mail in the best shape and in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Kim Avey in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on receiving this award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 8, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed a roll call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: "aye" on roll call vote No. 491.

IN RECOGNITION OF OTIS  
REDDING, JR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a brilliant artist, homegrown legend, and loving father, the Late Great Otis Redding, Jr. In recognition of Otis Redding's contribution to music that touched souls across the world, the Redding Foundation will be celebrating what would be his 75th birthday the weekend of September 9 through September 11, 2016 in Macon, Georgia.

Otis Redding was born in Dawson, Georgia on September 9, 1941. At a young age, he and his family moved to Macon, where he began singing at Vineville Baptist Church. Embracing his budding musicianship, he joined the school band at Ballard-Hudson High School and competed in the Douglass Theatre talent show. After winning the talent show fifteen consecutive times, he was no longer allowed to compete. However, this certainly did

not discourage him from embarking on his path to becoming the King of Soul.

In 1958, Otis Redding officially began his professional music career when he joined Johnny Jenkins and the Pinetoppers. After the group finished recording with Booker T. and the MGs, Mr. Redding wanted to use the last few minutes at the end of the session to sing for everyone. As he started to sing what would become his first hit single of 17 hit singles in a row, "These Arms of Mine," everyone in the studio became captivated by his voice. Jim Stewart, then co-owner of Stax Records, came running into the studio and began yelling, "That's it! That's it! Where is everybody? We gotta get this on tape!"

A man with his own voice and a unique sound, Otis Redding's short but spectacular music career led to his releasing hit single after hit single, including "I've Been Loving You Too Long," "Respect," and "Try A Little Tenderness." On his journey to becoming the King of Soul, he performed across the country and the world with shows in the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Caribbean. In 1965, his business acumen allowed him to create his own label: Jotis Records. His concerts were box office smashes, some of the biggest of any performer during his time.

In 1966, Otis Redding received the NAACP Lifetime Membership Award. The National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS) nominated him for awards in three categories for his recordings from 1967. He also accrued countless other honors and recognition for his music after his passing in December 1967, most notably of which are two 1969 Grammys for Best R&B Vocal Performance and Best Rhythm & Blues Song for his number one hit single, "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay," the 1999 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award; and his 1998, 2011, and 2015 Grammy Hall of Fame Inductions.

Otis Redding was much more than his beautiful voice. Above all else, he was a family man. He married his wife, Zelma, in August of 1961 and together, they raised three wonderful children: Dexter, Karla, and Otis Redding, III. Mrs. Redding also adopted Demetria after Mr. Redding's passing. There was a special place in Otis Redding's heart and soul reserved only for his family. He worked tirelessly to provide for them. His ambition, drive, and sacrifices paid off when he was able to move his family to "The Big O Ranch" in 1965, a 300-acre property in Round Oak, Georgia.

Reflected in the mission of the Otis Redding Foundation, which was established in 2007 by Mrs. Zelma Redding in her late husband's honor, Otis Redding was dedicated to improving the quality of life for his community through education and empowerment. Those who knew Otis Redding personally speak fondly of him and his closest friends described him as a wonderful person to be around, and always 100 percent full of energy. They remember him being big in every way: physically, in his talent, in wisdom about other people, and in his love for his family and community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in recognizing Otis Redding, Jr. for his remarkable accomplishments as a pioneering and world-renowned musician. His timeless talent and everlasting legacy live on in the hearts of those who loved him and will

continue to be remembered by generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY AND WALTER  
COZIAHR

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Nancy and Walter Coziahr of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married June 8, 1956 in Council Bluffs.

Nancy and Walter's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Mary, David, Tom, and Jane, as well as their eight grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories and for continued hope for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING GEORGE ALTAMURA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Altamura, who is being recognized for his support of young Latino leaders at the 33rd Annual Napa County Hispanic Network Scholarship Gala.

Mr. Altamura was born in Buffalo, New York, and fulfilled a long-held dream when he moved to California in 1949 following his high school graduation. After settling in Napa County, Mr. Altamura worked as a carpenter's apprentice before he eventually earned his contractor's license. Only three years after moving to Napa County, Mr. Altamura started his own company, Altamura Enterprises and embarked on a successful career purchasing and developing property.

Just as impressive as Mr. Altamura's professional successes is his dedication to giving back to our community. Together with his wife Jackie, Mr. Altamura has been an incredible supporter of our Latino community and has sponsored multiple scholarships through the Hispanic Network each year for more than two decades. Many of the young leaders the Altamuras' have supported now live and work throughout Napa County, ensuring that the Altamuras' legacy of civic engagement and community service will be carried on for generations to come.

Mr. Altamura is the founder and president of Hands Across the Valley and the Napa Sheriff's Youth Activity, both of which aim to help those in need, and young people in particular, throughout our community. Furthermore, Mr. Altamura has supported the important work of organizations like Queen of the Valley Hospital, Uptown Theater Napa, and Meals on Wheels.

Mr. Speaker, George Altamura has not only achieved his own American dream, but he has worked hard to ensure that young people throughout our community will have a fair shot at achieving theirs, too. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring the Department of the Navy Office of the General Counsel as it celebrates 75 years of providing timely, effective, and candid legal advice and counsel to the Navy and Marine Corps.

The origins of DON OGC can be traced back to 1862, when the first civilian attorney was appointed to serve as Solicitor of the Navy. However, it was not until September 10, 1941, when James Forrestal, then Under Secretary of the Navy, recruited attorneys from private practice and formally established DON OGC's predecessor organization, the Procurement Legal Division, to consistently address the numerous legal issues surrounding the rapid increase in volume and complexity of ship and aircraft acquisition during World War II mobilization efforts.

Over the last three quarters of a century, what began as a small cadre of civilian attorneys has evolved into an elite government law firm composed of civilian and military attorneys, and professional support staff, located in 140 offices worldwide. In addition, DON OGC has expanded its practice areas beyond business and commercial law to include acquisition integrity, federal employment/labor law, environmental law, fiscal law, intellectual property law, real estate law, ethics and standards of conduct, energy law, Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act, intelligence law, cyber security law, arms control law, legislation, and litigation, to ensure its attorneys possess the expertise needed to support the multifaceted mission of the warfighter.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate DON OGC on 75 years of dedicated service to our Sailors and Marines across the globe, and wish DON OGC continued success in expertly navigating the legal challenges confronting the Navy and the Marine Corps and significantly contributing to the national defense.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS AND DAVID  
AISTROPE

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lois and David Aistrophe of Randolph, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on June 10, 2016.

Lois and David's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Duane, Doug,