

efforts to transform the educational experience of underprivileged youth in Merced have created new pathways of opportunity for students.

Professor Ogletree has used his career experience as a Professor of Law at Harvard to give back to his hometown. Born in Merced, California, Professor Ogletree attended public schools and earned admission to Stanford University. He earned his Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Political Science. Upon receiving his Master's degree, Professor Ogletree earned his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. To list the publications authored, awards received, and lives changed by Professor Ogletree would present a task comparable to the writing of a small novel. Professor Ogletree's passion to promote equality of law under the constitution is a theme that has persisted throughout his entire career.

From 2002 to 2007, Professor Ogletree established a scholarship program with \$50,000 in Merced. The scholarship offered low income youth a chance to work in recreation programs over the summer for up to 100 hours, making \$7.00 an hour. Professor Ogletree has extended numerous scholarships to high schools in Merced County, including Golden Valley High School, Merced High School, and El Capitan High School. The tens of thousands of dollars he has offered to students in memory of fellow educators, family members, and friends, have substantially altered future education for Merced students around the country. To this day, the Charles Ogletree Family Scholarships are still offered to high school students in Merced.

As a Professor of Law and Founder and Executive Director of the Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Professor Ogletree will continue to promote the cause of equality. His unfailing willingness to give back to the people of Merced reminds us that his career is not one that has forgotten its humble roots.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in wishing Professor Ogletree continued success in his remarkable career as an academic and advocate for equality and justice. His life is a reminder of the success that follows an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and the charity that can come in its wake.

#### HONORING BERNICE SPRECKMAN

### HON. ELIOT L. EMGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an amazing public servant and an even better friend, former Westchester County Legislator Bernice Spreckman, who recently resigned after serving for 20 years as the Representative for the county's 14th District.

A longtime resident of Yonkers, Bernice was first elected in 1995 to the 14th district's legislative seat where she proudly represented and passionately advocated for the hard-working taxpayers of Yonkers and parts of Mount Vernon. Prior to becoming a county legislator, she served in several posts in Yonkers City government, including three terms as 2nd ward Council Member, Council Member-at-large, Vice Mayor and Chair of the City Council's Committees on Rules and Real Estate; she was also elected the first female President

of the New York State Councilman's Association.

As County Legislator, Bernice was a tireless advocate for senior citizens, working to expand the epic program; organized an annual lobby day in Albany; worked in a bi-partisan manor to pass universal design legislation to benefit senior citizens and the disabled community; co-hosted an annual legislative speakout; and worked with State representatives to enact new "independent living" legislation to help protect seniors from being wrongfully displaced.

But for all of her great accomplishments, Bernice's greatest joy in life was always family. She has enjoyed the love and support of her wonderful family; her late husband Harry, who was her constant companion and champion supporter; her devoted sons Alan, and his wife Jill, Rory, Howie, and his wife Dana; she is the loving grandmother to Andrew, Evan, Jake, Jaclyn, Brian, Craig, Mason, Jackson and Julianna.

Though we never sat on the same side of the aisle, I always knew I could count on Bernice when it came to working together on behalf of our shared constituents. She was a tremendous force for good in the community, and I want to congratulate her on a remarkable career.

#### HONORING JOHN MONTY "JACK" ALLEN

### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of John Monty "Jack" Allen, who passed away on September 11, 2016. Jack was a wonderful friend and beloved member of our community whose passing is deeply felt. I have known Jack for all his life, and he will be greatly missed.

John Monty "Jack" Allen was born in 1946, the eldest of two children. Although an avid traveler, Jack lived his entire life in San Jose, California. Jack's family, the Aiellos, settled in Santa Clara Valley in Delight, Contadina Canning Company. Jack's father, Pete, owned a furniture store in Downtown San Jose for more than 50 years, was one of the founders of the Century Club, and was a mentor to me. His uncle, Jack, owned Paolo's Restaurant, a popular destination for local celebrities, including Joe DiMaggio and many elected officials. In fact, my husband, John, proposed to me at Paolo's.

Jack attended Trace Elementary, Hoover Junior High, and Lincoln High Schools, all within walking distance of his family home. He was indoctrinated into local politics from a very young age through his parents' involvement with the Democratic Party, and he volunteered for Democratic candidates and causes throughout his life.

Jack graduated from San Jose State University and became a Certified Public Accountant, a role that he held for the last forty years of his life. At any time, he served more than 400 clients, from small businesses to family members to corporations and trusts. He was known by all as a generous, efficient, and dedicated accountant, as evidenced by the loyalty of his clients.

Jack married Janice Paul in 1974, and they settled in the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose in 1976, raising three boys—all of whom attended local schools and shared Jack's passion for politics and history.

Jack was a curious and well-traveled soul, having crisscrossed Europe on a number of occasions, not to mention extensive domestic travels that took him to nearly all 50 states. His wife, Janice, was his favorite travel companion, even after their divorce. (Indeed, they had trips in the works at the time of his sudden passing.)

Jack was also dedicated to serving others and volunteered his time as treasurer and board member for local clubs and charities, from the San Jose Library Foundation to the Democratic Century Club and many more. He could always be counted on to be there for a friend—or a total stranger—in need and would never hesitate to help those who could not help themselves.

For all of this, Jack never sought fanfare, nor acclaim. His reward was the action itself and the knowledge that he made his corner of the world a little brighter for having been there.

He is survived by sons Peter, Chris, and Danny; their mother, Janice; sister, Judy; nieces Corinne and Tina; cousins Carolyn, Jenny, and John; dog, Cooper; and countless friends.

Mr. Speaker, our San Jose community mourns the passing of Jack Allen, but we are grateful for his life, his generosity, and his contributions.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF KEITH ORR AND MARTIN CONTRERAS FOR THEIR COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keith Orr and Martin Contreras, two Ann Arbor LGBTQ businessmen and activists, on the date of UNIFIED—HIV Health and Beyond's 13th Annual Wine Cellar fundraiser. Mr. Orr and Mr. Contreras are successful business owners who have worked tirelessly to raise awareness and provide resources to the LGBTQ community in southeast Michigan.

Mr. Contreras and Mr. Orr have played a crucial role in building the LGBTQ community through their business and philanthropic initiatives. In 1995, they founded /aut/Bar, a gay bar and restaurant that today serves as a key pillar of the LGBTQ community in the Ann Arbor area. The couple also runs Common Language Books, an LGBTQ bookstore that also hosts authors, forums and serves as a social center for the gay community. Additionally, Mr. Contreras and Mr. Orr have been involved in many charitable causes, including UNIFIED—HIV Health and Beyond, which provides care, prevention and outreach services to individuals affected by HIV in southeast Michigan. Their sponsorship and support has been critical to the growth and development of UNIFIED and has allowed the organization to provide better care throughout the region.

Mr. Contreras and Mr. Orr's involvement in the LGBTQ and greater Ann Arbor area has helped make the city a great place to live and

work. Their businesses not only effectively serve the gay community, but they also contribute to the multicultural and welcoming environment that has been critical to the growth and development of Ann Arbor. It is my hope that Mr. Contreras and Mr. Orr will remain active in promoting the values of tolerance and respect. Their leadership has effectively served the city's residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Keith Orr and Martin Contreras for their success in business and impactful leadership in the community. Their success and activism are worthy of commendation, and it is my hope that they continue to play a leading role in the Ann Arbor community in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATING SOKA GAKKAI  
INTERNATIONAL

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Soka Gakkai International (SGI), the Buddhist association of more than 12 million people, on celebrating 86 years since its founding.

On November 18, 1930, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda founded the Soka Gakkai in Tokyo, Japan to spread the Buddhist ideals of equality, respect for all life and the connection of self and the environment. Makiguchi served as the first president of The Soka Gakkai and was succeeded by Toda as the second Soka Gakkai president. With the desire to further spread Buddhist philosophy across the world, Daisaku Ikeda founded Soka Gakkai International while he served as the third president of Soka Gakkai.

Today, Ikeda and the other founding presidents' work is evident in the 12 million individuals in 192 countries and territories who share the same beliefs and mission the founders established years ago. Most notably, the American branch of Soka Gakkai International is the largest and most diverse Buddhist community in the United States with 350,000 members organized in more than 500 chapters nationwide. In combination with its 100 centers, the members all actively engage in the promotion of sustainable living, human rights, and peace.

November the 18th has come to symbolize a day when each SGI member strengthens their own determination and sense of responsibility to be ambassadors of goodwill in the communities they serve. In the DFW Metroplex, members of Soka Gakkai International provide enormous contributions to the community they serve where their members are making individual contributions for peace and freedom.

I honor Soka Gakkai International's 86th anniversary celebration and for their lifetime commitment to peace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SWI INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS FOR BEING AWARDED THE FOUNDER AWARD DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate SWI Industrial Solutions, an outstanding non-profit that provides more than 200 individuals with disabilities meaningful and dignified work, while expanding the work forces of other manufacturers. SWI Industrial Solutions was recognized by the Missouri Association of Manufacturers (MAM) and given the Founders Award for their 50 years of business in the Springfield community.

The Founder's award honors MAM founder, the late Jack T. Gentry, and is presented to select MAM member companies that preserve the manufacturing tradition and promote and advance manufacturing in Missouri.

In these 50 years, SWI Industrial Solutions has directly impacted the local economy in a positive way and has given countless individuals the confidence and training on how to be a good employee, and how to succeed at their jobs.

It is my honor to recognize SWI Industrial Solutions for this great achievement and wish its workers a joyous and well-earned celebration of their success. By creating jobs, delivering top-class products, and exhibiting exemplary work ethic for 50 years, SWI Industrial Solutions have made southwest Missouri a better place to live. It makes me proud to serve them, and all of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District.

HONORING CAREGIVERS OUTREACH MINISTRY EMPOWERMENT INC. 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Caregivers Outreach Ministry Empowerment Inc. (C.O.M.E.) a remarkable organization in New York City that for 10 years has empowered family caregivers with accessible resources and knowledge to make comfortable choices and decisions that will have a positive impact upon the quality of life for themselves and their loved ones.

A family caregiver, sometimes called an informal caregiver is an unpaid individual—a spouse, partner, family member, friend co-worker or neighbor—assisting others with activities of daily living and/or medical tasks. In New York City, 1.25 million family caregivers provide over one billion hours of unpaid care to elderly loved ones. Nationally, there are approximately 1.3 to 1.4 million-child caregivers who are between the ages of 8 and 18 providing care to a family member. Youth caregivers are often called a "hidden population," because they suffer from a systemic lack of support from their schools and communities.

Since its founding in 2006 by Diane Leona Cooper, C.O.M.E. has worked to educate,

equip and empower community leaders with the tools to develop and implement the C.O.M.E. Outreach Support Model. The group has collaborated with a wide array of elected officials and organizations to advocate for family caregivers, and the work they have done in the community has been nothing short of remarkable.

As C.O.M.E. celebrates its 10th anniversary, I want to take the opportunity to thank their leadership team and staff for all of the good works they have done. It is wonderful to know I have such an amazing partner fighting for families in the community.

HONORING CHRIS GEORGE, RECIPIENT OF THE 2016 WILLARD M. MCCRAE COMMUNITY DIVERSITY AWARD

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join family, friends, and colleagues in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Chris George, Executive Director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), as he is honored by Liberty Bank with their 2016 Willard M. McCrae Community Diversity Award.

Named in honor of Willard McCrae, past chairman of the Liberty Bank Board of Directors and founding member of the Liberty Bank Foundation Board of Directors, this annual award honors an individual who has made an "outstanding and ongoing contribution to the cause of promoting and celebrating diversity in the communities served by Liberty Bank." I can think of no one more deserving of such a recognition than Chris George.

Chris has dedicated a lifetime to promoting human rights, social justice and equal access to all. He began his career as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Sultanate of Oman and later worked with Quakers in Lebanese villages and refugee camps. He worked with Save the Children, primarily in the West Bank/Gaza Strip, was the director of the Middle East division of Human Rights Watch, and he directed the legislative strengthening project for the Palestinian Parliament during his tenure with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

He continued that unique dedication here in Connecticut through his work at IRIS and it is that good work that has earned him this very special honor. As the Executive Director, it has been through Chris' leadership that IRIS has grown into one of the most respected, vibrant refugee resettlement programs in Connecticut. Welcoming refugees from Somali, Iraq, Congo, Sudan, Cuba, and Columbia, IRIS has helped many families navigate the many difficulties associated with resettling in a new community, country, and culture.

From the time of its founding, our nation has welcomed those from other shores, particularly those whose own home countries have become too dangerous for them to stay. Whether boarding the Mayflower to escape religious persecution or fleeing from the many countries that are today caught in the midst of civil war, America has long been a safe haven for many. Chris has long championed the contributions refugees make to our communities