

Bill Tunnell's impact on Southwest Alabama and our entire state cannot really be put into words. He has succeeded in transforming Battleship Memorial Park into one of Alabama's premier tourist destinations and a top landmark along the entire Gulf Coast. Throughout the process, he has always kept the focus on inspiring patriotism and honoring those who have served our country.

Bill moved to Mobile in 1979, where he worked in the hotel and hospitality industry until 1991. It was that year that he took over as marketing and public relations director for Battleship Memorial Park. In 1997, he was named executive director.

Through busy crowds, hurricanes, and economic downturns, Bill Tunnell's steady leadership helped ensure the USS Alabama and Battleship Memorial Park remains well maintained and open to visitors. Most recently, Bill successfully organized and planned events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Battleship Memorial Park.

Among his many awards and honors, Bill Tunnell was the first ever inductee of the Alabama Tourism Hall of Fame, winner of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce Community Leader of the Year award, and recipient of the Alabama Restaurant Association and Alabama Hospitality Association's Tourism Promoter of the Year award. He was named an "Honorary Veteran" in 2011 by the South Alabama Veterans Council, who partnered with Mr. Tunnell on countless projects and events. These are just a handful of his many honors and achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call Bill Tunnell a friend. He is a truly outstanding individual who has never hesitated to put others above himself. Bill recently said that it is not actually the ship that makes Battleship Memorial Park. Instead, he said it is "the heart and soul of all the people who've attached themselves" to the ship. No one has put more of their "heart and soul" into the ship and the park than Bill Tunnell.

So, on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to wish Bill and his wife, Cynthia, all the best in retirement, and I hope Bill gets to spend some quality time working on his golf game. Thank you for your service and dedication to our community, our veterans, and the State of Alabama.

HONORING BEVERLY CLEARY ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today, treasured children's author Beverly Cleary turns a remarkable 100 years old. Born in McMinnville, Oregon, Beverly Cleary later moved to Northeast Portland. Her neighborhood there, especially Klickitat Street, became the setting for her series featuring Henry Huggins, Ramona Quimby, and countless other characters who continue to hold a special place in the bookshelves and hearts of parents, children, and librarians around the world.

Cleary's books spoke to generations of children from Oregon, across the country, and around the globe. Many of her stories were inspired by her own childhood in Northeast Port-

land, and almost everyone can identify with the imaginative Ramona or the studious Beezus—or a little bit of both. Although Cleary's stories evolved as our nation changed, her stories about a family working hard to make ends meet or facing the challenges of adolescence are timeless in their representation of childhood for so many young people.

Cleary's love for her characters and respect for her young audience are evident in the national traditions she created. I am proud to honor her 100th birthday today, and look forward to watching her legacy continue to grow and flourish as she inspires a new generation of readers.

HONORING BETTY HARTY

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staten Island resident Betty Harty's contributions to our community and tireless service to great causes.

A native of Staten Island, Betty has been heavily involved in the Boy Scouts organization, which she joined roughly forty-nine years ago. Betty served as Den Mother and a Den leader Coach for Pack Eight, Messiah Lutheran Church for twelve years, before becoming an Advancement Chairperson, a position she held for thirty-nine years. Additionally, Betty served as Pack Eight and Group Eight Commissioner for twenty years, and is now a member of Troop 26—Castleton Hill Messiah Church.

Betty also has been a member of the District Committee. She served as the Cub Roundtable and Cub Adult Treasury. Betty also chaired the Cub Pow Wow Treasury for Staten Island Council. Currently, Betty is on the Advancement Committee for Staten Island Council for Eagle Scouts. She has been on the Staten Island Council Committee for seventeen years.

Betty has been active with parent-teacher associations at P.S. 36, Bernstein Intermediate and Tottenville High. She was a leading volunteer for five years at P.S. 36, a library volunteer, and taught in the after school center. Betty was team mother for the South Shore Little League and the Babe Ruth League. She has also been engaged in teaching Sunday school.

Twenty years ago, Betty became involved with the Have a Heart Foundation, the Staten Island based organization that helps raise financial aid for people to fund therapy treatments not covered by insurance. This wonderful foundation helps mitigate some of the expensive medical costs in New York, and is a member of the Staten Island Children's Campaign.

Mr. Speaker, Betty Harty's dedication to serving our community and positively influencing our youth is the essence of a model humanitarian. I thank her for all of her great work and I am proud to honor this great woman who has consistently touched the lives of people across Staten Island.

HONORING DON AMADOR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative GARAMENDI and Representative HUFFMAN, rise to recognize and honor Mr. Amador for his great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates like Mr. Amador. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Mr. Amador to further our mutual goal of preserving our nation's great open spaces, and we look forward to collaborating in the future.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon Air National Guard.

The Oregon Air National Guard was born on April 18, 1941, when Oregon's own Major G. Robert Dodson sent the celebrated message, "We've got people, we've got a place, and we're ready!" to the National Guard Bureau and was allowed to activate the 123rd Observation Squadron. For the next seventy-five years the Citizen Airmen of the Oregon Air National Guard have been serving Oregon and the Nation with distinction.

During World War II, the 123rd Observation Squadron patrolled the skies of the Pacific Northwest protecting our nation.

Several years later Oregon Air National Guard pilots continued to serve our nation by flying over one thousand combat missions during the Korean War.

As the Cold War took shape, the Citizen Airmen of the Oregon Air National Guard stood up to protect the Pacific Northwest. Since 1958, they have been on air defense alert twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week patrolling the skies from northern California to the Canadian border.

On September 11, 2001, the citizen-airmen of the Oregon Air National Guard were among the first in the air. After ensuring the security of our homeland they again went overseas to provide vital support to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Seventy-five years after their founding the Oregon Air National Guard continues to protect the skies of the Pacific Northwest, support our Nation's mission abroad, and stand ready to provide disaster relief for the great state Oregon and our Nation.

Today the Oregon Air National Guard is made up of 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, and the Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Oregon.

Oregonians are proud of the hallowed legacy of our citizen airmen and airwomen. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon Air National Guard and honoring those who have and continue to serve their country and the great state of Oregon.

HONORING DAMIAN MURRIEL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Damian Murriel.

It sounds strange, but owning and operating a funeral home has been a childhood dream for Mr. Damian Murriel—at least it has been ever since he started working in the business.

Damian Murriel began his first job in a funeral home at the age of 16. Then a sophomore in high school, Damian Murriel performed various custodial services at Cook's Funeral Home. When he graduated from Forest Hill High School in 1994 he left for Gupton-Jones School of Mortuary Science. Two years later after he completed his schooling and became a licensed funeral director and embalmer, he began traveling, doing internships and apprenticeships in other states, including brief stints in Illinois and Indiana. In 2000 he left for a job as funeral director of Gregory B. Levett and Sons Funeral Home in Atlanta, Georgia, where the wake for TLC's Lisa 'Left Eye' Lopes was held.

On April 17, 2003 Damian Murriel's life-long dream to own and operate a funeral home became a reality. "I never lost sight of what I was pursuing." Damian Murriel said. "I want to clean up the area and enhance the community with the funeral home." Murriel said. Murriel's motto is: "Serving Families in Their Time of Need." He is a member of the Mississippi Funeral Directors and Morticians Association.

RETIREMENT OF WALTER G.
WARGACKI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of Walter G. Wargacki—the great Mayor of Wallington, NJ—who celebrated his retirement on April 1, 2016.

Walter Gerald Wargacki, Jr. was born on April 26, 1938, to Walter John Wargacki and Mary Dancsisin Wargacki. His service to the public began as early as 1965 when he joined the Wallington Fire Department, Park Roe Hose Company #3. He eventually was promoted to the rank of Fire Chief in 1986 for his outstanding service in the line of duty.

Yet, his service to the public was not limited to emergency services. In the same year he joined the Wallington Fire Department, he was also elected to the Wallington Board of Education where he eventually served as Board President for three terms. During his tenure, he led the way in evaluating accreditation for the Township's high school system. Furthermore, he planned the renovation and replacement of the century-old Lincoln School. Mr. Wargacki's dedication to this task was no less exemplary than his outstanding service as a fire fighter.

Upon completion of his tenure as Fire Chief and as a member of the Board of Education, Mr. Wargacki served proudly as the Mayor of Wallington for over 24 years. Through his hard work and dedication, he improved the Township of Wallington both aesthetically and communally. For instance, he oversaw the construction of new parks and recreation areas such as Liberty Crossing Park and Centennial Field. Undoubtedly, these and other initiatives helped create the welcoming environment for families that Wallington is known for today.

Furthermore, he designated a newly constructed facility for the Wallington Emergency Squad—a testament to his years of service and dedication to emergency services. Indeed, under his leadership, the Township of Wallington has been in extraordinarily capable hands, and his leave from office will not go unnoticed amongst members of the community.

I have the great honor of representing the residents of Wallington in Congress and it gives me great pride to recognize one of their native sons who has spent his life serving the public. I can say with personal knowledge that Walt is not only a good leader, but also a good friend—the kind who can be counted on both in good times and in bad times.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of public servants such as Mayor Walter G. Wargacki of Wallington.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, denizens of Wallington, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Mayor Walter G. Wargacki.

CONGRATULATING RONALD AND
BARBARA MCCALL

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ronald and Barbara McCall of Mountain Grove, Missouri on receiving this year's Century Farm Award. Receiving this honor is no easy task, and the McCalls have exemplified hard work, perseverance, and dedication to the community throughout their lives. The McCall family originally purchased the farm 101 years ago on February 11, 1915.

Qualifying to be a Century Farm is a great feat. The farm must be in the same family for at least 100 consecutive years and the original tract of land has to be more than 40 acres. These farms represent an important part of American heritage, feeding generations upon generations and greatly improving the quality of life of Missourians. Their integrity and determination serve as a prime example for farmers across the nation.

I applaud the hard work and achievements of the McCalls and look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future. It is my pleasure to recognize the McCalls before the House of Representatives.

HONORING FRANCIS HARTY

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staten Island resident Francis Harty for his positive contributions to our community.

Francis was born and raised in Westerleigh, Staten Island. He graduated from Port Richmond High School and went on to work at Procter and Gamble Co. Francis has been married to his high school sweetheart, Betty, for almost sixty-one years, and they have three children together.

When Francis' son wanted to join the Cub Scouts, he also joined the Boy Scouts at the Messiah Lutheran Church. He served twenty-seven years as Scoutmaster and had one hundred Eagle Scouts in Group Eight. Francis retired as Scoutmaster in 2000, but continued to work on all District events, as well as the Council Dinner and the Fall Outing. Francis held several positions on the District Committee and the Staten Island Council. He has had an extensive influence on the programs by being heavily involved in various training programs that lay the foundations for the Boy Scouts organization's programs.

Francis has been awarded many honors to recognize his services. He has received the Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, the Ten Mile River Award, The Good Scout Award, the Paul Intermediate School Service to Youth Award, and the Staten Island Museum Circle of Friends for Youth Volunteerism in 1994.

Outside of scouting, Francis was the Vice President for the Have a Heart Foundation for twenty-four years. He helps run the annual Golf Outing and the five kilometer race to raise funds for patients with therapy needs