

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ANNA AMERICA LAROSA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ann Laughlin, an outstanding constituent from my district who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Born on January 13, 1925, in the Bronx, New York, Ann's parents had recently arrived in the United States from Italy. As was the custom of her family, being the first-born daughter, she was named Anna, followed by the country of birth: Anna America LaRosa. Ann had one brother, Jack, and the family eventually settled in Bucks County.

Ann's father, Frank, was forever grateful for the freedom and opportunities he found in America. He loved this country and passed along that love to Ann, who proudly flew an American flag from her Doylestown balcony for many years. Ann learned important life lessons from her father during their many weekend excursions around New York City. He taught her compassion and an understanding of others, which are evident in the fine person she is today.

Ann graduated from Trenton High School and soon began working in Philadelphia where she met her husband, Hodge. On March 26, 1949, they eloped, beginning their life together. Their first home was in Philadelphia where their son Richard was born. In 1958, they moved to Levittown, Pennsylvania where they formed many lifelong friendships.

Ann has two grandchildren, Scott and Madeline. Ann loves to exchange photos and texts messages with her family and many friends. She is an avid reader of biographies and the newspaper, and she loves to watch old movies; both are habits she learned from her father.

As we celebrate her 100 years of life, we are grateful for the wonderful example of how to live life that she has shown to all who know her.

HONORING STAFF SEARGENT FELIX LOPEZ ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Felix Lopez was born on February 17, 1925, in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. He was raised with his brother, Lorenzo, by his single mother, Calixta Bonano. SSG Lopez entered the Army voluntarily in 1943 at the age of 17 and served as a rifleman with the 65th Infantry Regiment—known as the Borinqueneers—in Europe during World War II. He was later

called to duty in 1952 to serve in the Korean War. SSG Lopez remained on active duty and served with the 972nd Signal Battalion, USARPAC, in Qui Nhon, Vietnam.

After numerous postings throughout the United States, including three tours in Germany, SSG Lopez retired from the military in 1971 with over 23 years of dedicated service. He then returned to Puerto Rico and became a U.S. Marshal. SSG Lopez proudly served the Puerto Rican people until 1978, when he moved with his family to Orlando, Florida.

For his selfless and dedicated military service, SSG Lopez's awards and decorations include an Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal (5th award), American Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (with Germany clasp), Nation Defense Service Medal (with bronze silver star), Korean Service Medal (with two bronze service stars), Vietnam Service Medal (with two bronze serving stars), United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon (with Devise—1960), and Expert Badge (with carbine bar & rifle bar).

On April 13, 2016, in Washington, D.C., SSG Lopez and members of the Borinqueneers were presented with a Congressional Gold Medal for the regiment's valorous service in WWI, WWII, and Korea.

He is lovingly known as Felix "The Cat" Lopez, his favorite childhood cartoon. He has dedicated his life to his wife, Carmen, and three daughters, Maria, Mayra, and Sonia; his six grandchildren, Lourdes, Wendy, Kelly, Christian, Jonathan, and Giovanni; his nine great grandchildren, Joshua, Alyssa, Lorian, Alina, Briana, Lymarie, Lera, Emma, and Camilla; and his 3 great-great grandchildren, Victoria, Valentina, and Jenesis.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF CHARLES F. KONECNY'S 93RD BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a constituent of mine, Charles F. Konecny, on his 93rd birthday. Charles Konecny is a proud husband, father, grandfather, and Korean War Veteran. Konecny is a resident of Bowling Green, Ohio and has been a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church for more than six decades.

Charles was born on February 13, 1932. He began his service to our country in the U.S. Army when he was drafted in September of 1952 during the Korean War. Serving as a Corporal and doppler transmitter operator in the U.S. Army, Charles was first sent to Fort Meade in Maryland and then headed to the U.S. Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County, Maryland. In October of 1952, Charles was transferred to Redstone Arsenal

located in Huntsville, Alabama, where he studied missile maintenance. Then, in March of 1953, Charles was transferred to White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico and continued his service as a doppler transmitter operator. In July of 1954, Charles was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful to men like Charles who honorably served his Nation and fellow countrymen. Today, on Charles' 93rd birthday, we recognize his unwavering service to our country and thank him for his service.

TRIBUTE TO STUART K. SPENCER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend, Navy veteran, and acclaimed political adviser, Stuart (Stu) Spencer, who passed away in Palm Desert on Sunday, January 12, 2025. Stu was an incredibly influential and accomplished political leader in addition to being a personal friend, and he will be deeply missed.

In 1927, Stu was born in Phoenix, Arizona. His family relocated to southern California just two years later. After high school, Stu enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served as a radar specialist onboard the USS *Rocky Mount* command ship. Following his discharge from the Navy, Stu earned a degree from California State University, Los Angeles. He worked as the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Alhambra for many years before leaping into the world of politics. After volunteering on various campaigns, Stu was hired by the Los Angeles County GOP as an organizer. The following year, Stu joined together with his partner, Bill Roberts, to establish the Spencer-Roberts political consulting firm. Over the many years since its formation, the firm would go on to manage more than 400 campaigns.

In 1964, Stu managed the unsuccessful presidential primary campaign of Nelson Rockefeller, who ultimately lost to Barry Goldwater. His luck and life would change dramatically one year later when then-actor Ronald Reagan asked Stu to manage his longshot bid for governor in California. In a remarkable campaign guided by Stu, Reagan was elected governor in 1966 and then re-elected in 1970. In 1976, Stu had agreed to manage President Gerald Ford's election campaign before Reagan's decision to challenge Ford in a primary. Stu stayed loyal to Ford throughout that campaign but was asked by Reagan to manage his campaign for president in 1980. Throughout Reagan's eight years in the White House, Stu was a trusted aide close by his side. When he presented Stu with the Presidential Citizens Medal in 1989, Reagan said "he prevented more than a few poor decisions and aided in more than a few very good decisions." In 1993, Spencer was inducted into the Association of American Political Consultants Hall of Fame.

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