

she joined Community Sunset Temple #1132, Daughters of Elks, IBPOE Elks of the World. She was promptly elected as Doorkeeper and in 2006 she was elected as the Treasurer. There she has embraced in all facets of Elksdom. Some of the positions she holds are: Assistant Vice Loyal Daughter of Unity Past Daughter Rulers Council (Westchester & Rockland), she is a member of the New York State Daughters of Elks—Royal Court Department, Treasurer/Financial Secretary of the Past State President Circle of Westchester, Rockland and Sullivan Counties. This year she is the Chairperson of the Mid-Winter Conference for The New York State IBPOE of W.

She also belongs to the Yonkers African-American Heritage Committee, a not-for-profit community based organization that partners with several other such organizations, such as: Sister To Sister, YMCA, YWCA and The Yonkers Public Library. Mrs. Johnson joined the YAAHC in 2005, and was named Financial Secretary, a job she has kept, along with several appointed positions such as: Chairperson-Nominating Committee, Joint-Chair-Scholarship Committee and Assistant Corresponding Secretary.

In May 2009, Senior Center #9, located at Terrace City Lodge #1499 appointed her Communication/Publicity Director.

She and her husband, John (Worshipful Master of James H. Farrell #34, PH) have been married for 31 years. They have two children, Mrs. LaTasha Pagan and John, Jr., and a granddaughter Karissma. She is also a mother and grandmother to her extended family—Ms. Capricia McClellan and her children and her grandchildren.

I am proud to join the Luther V. Garrison Sr. Masonic Foundation in honoring Audrey Smith-Johnson as Woman of the Year for her many contributions to her community.

**HONORING THE MARIA
KONOPNICKA POLISH LANGUAGE
SCHOOL OF CHICAGO AND OAK
LAWN, ILLINOIS ON ITS 40TH AN-
NIVERSARY**

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School in Chicago and Oak Lawn, Illinois. This year the school will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Chicagoland is home to the largest population of people of Polish descent living outside of Poland. The Polish Language School, named for the great Polish poet, novelist, and activist, Maria Konopnicka, serves this population by offering kindergarten through high school students the opportunity to connect with and explore their Polish heritage. For forty years the school has excelled in teaching its students Polish language, history, and culture. Thousands of children have learned about Polish cultural heritage as well as the role Poles play in the United States and the world community, now and in the future. With its emphasis on civic responsibility, the school shapes students dedicated to supporting and improving Chicago's communities, and I am proud to have it in my district.

While the school stresses the importance of its students, the community surrounding the school appreciates the hard work and dedication of all the staff at the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School. Parents and students understand the school's success is thanks to the unceasing devotion of teachers and administrative staff who work relentlessly for the benefit of the students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding faculties and students, both past and present, at the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School, and congratulating them on this special 40th anniversary. May the school continue to exhibit excellence in teaching students about Polish cultural heritage and language for years to come.

**HONORING THE BEAR CREEK BOYS
SOCCER TEAM**

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2013 Bear Creek High School boys soccer team. On November 23, the Bear Creek Grizzlies won the 1B/2B state championship, ending their impressive season with a record of 21–2–0. I congratulate them on this impressive achievement.

This championship victory was especially fulfilling for Bear Creek High School because it settled a rivalry between them and Grace Academy. The Grizzlies' only two losses during the season were to Grace Academy, with both of those games ending in 0–0 draws and decided by penalty kicks. Tied 0–0 at halftime, the Grizzlies would not let history repeat again, and they came together to win the state championship game by a score of 2–0.

I would like to give special recognition to Jesse Leuenberger and Nathan Sim who scored the two goals of the state final. Goalkeeper Blake Denniston also played a pivotal role in the final game, earning a shutout in the championship game.

The Grizzlies' defense racked up 16 shutouts this season and the offense outscored its opponents by 87–7.

The Grizzlies' impressive record this season is also a testament to the team's high level of coaching. Coach Chad Pohlman provided the boys with encouragement and training necessary to achieve this notable feat.

Again, I congratulate the Bear Creek boys soccer team on all of their success. Their accomplishments and success are hard-earned and well-deserved.

**IN RECOGNITION OF ANGELA
SANFILIPPO AND J.J. BARTLETT**

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Angela Sanfilippo and Mr. J.J. Bartlett, this year's recipients of the Offshore Mariners' Wives "Friends of the Fishing Industry" awards.

In late 1994, a group of people got together and formed an organization called the Massa-

chusetts Fishermen's Partnership. The name was fitting, as it truly has been an organization or partnership of as many as eighteen distinct fishing organizations from throughout the state. The group's founders soon recognized the strong need for comprehensive health care for fishermen and their families.

One of the original founding members of the MFP and one of this year's award recipients is Mrs. Angela Sanfilippo. Ms. Sanfilippo is well known throughout the industry. For thirty-seven years she has been a constant crusader for the fishermen of Gloucester in her role as the President of the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association. She has battled to prevent the drilling for oil on Georges Bank and to keep The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary open to fishing, both commercial and recreational. Her many years of dedicated service to the local fishing industry have been invaluable to its success.

This year's second recipient of the "Friend of the Fishing Industry Award" was Mr. J.J. Bartlett. For twenty years he has served as the focal point of the "Fishing Partnership's Health Plan" and has worked tirelessly on creating and providing affordable, comprehensive health care for fishing industry families. In 2008 the Boston Business Journal named him a "40 under 40" honoree, and in 2009 he testified on rural health issues and hard to reach populations at the request of the White House Office of Health Reform. The Fishing Partnership under the guidance of Mr. Bartlett now provides access to professional counseling, assistance with health insurance applications, and offering Safety at Sea Training. The Fishing Partnership has now become the Human Resource Department for the Massachusetts fishing community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Angela Sanfilippo and Mr. J.J. Bartlett, this year's recipients of the Offshore Mariners' Wives "Friends of the Fishing Industry" awards. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their service to the local Massachusetts fishing industry.

MICHELLE CLAYMORE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Michelle Claymore for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Michelle Claymore's enthusiasm for Jefferson County's economic vitality is both evident and contagious. She helped set in motion the AddOne campaign, improving the economy one job at a time, and has attracted, expanded and retained employment through her role as the Vice President of the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation for the past 18 years. Michelle's innovative business incentive structure was instrumental in attracting the Coleman Company's corporate headquarters to relocate to Jefferson County in 2011. Understanding the importance of professional development, she started and runs the first nationally accredited economic development training program in Colorado. The program has trained over 200 students so far. Her passion for the county, its businesses and its citizens knows no bounds.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Michelle Claymore for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO FORT HILL HIGH
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Todd Appel and the Fort Hill High School football team of Cumberland, Maryland, who won the Maryland Class 1A State football championship on Saturday, December 7th.

With a 25–0 victory over Douglass High School, the Fort Hill Sentinels capped off a perfect 14–0 season. This is Fort Hill's third state football championship in their school's history and the first since 1997. Throughout the 2013 regular season and playoffs, the Sentinels dominated their opponents. In the playoffs, competing against the best teams in the state, the Sentinels outscored their opponents by an impressive 162–13 margin.

In his sixth year as head coach, Coach Appel has compiled a 66–11 record. Throughout this success, Coach Appel has proven to be not just a great coach, but a trusted mentor to many young adults in Allegany County. Thanks to his leadership, Fort Hill student-athletes have excelled both on the field and in the classroom. I wish the Fort Hill Sentinels the best of luck next season as they defend their title.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring this significant accomplishment.

HONORING RONALD SOBEL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Sobel, Area Director for Area I, is retiring from the Social Security Administration (SSA) after more than forty-two years of helping people.

Ron began his career in August 1971 as a claims representative in the East New York, Brooklyn field office and in 1974 was promoted to operations supervisor in another Brooklyn office, later transferring to the North Bronx.

Over the years, Ron was promoted to positions of increasing responsibility, including operations officer in Jackson Heights, Queens, labor relations specialist in the Office of the Assistant Regional Commissioner for Management and Budget, and Assistant District Manager in the White Plains and East Bronx, Field offices.

In 1993, Ron was named District Manager of the South Bronx Field Office and in 2009 he was promoted to his current position of Area Director for Area I.

Ron was an active member of the New York Region Management Society for thirty-seven years, serving as its President for four years. Throughout his career, Ron has received numerous awards, including a Regional Commissioner's Citation team award in 2007, individual and team Commissioner's Citations in 2007 and 2001, and a Deputy Commissioner's Citation team award in 2004.

Ron's retirement plans include enjoying time with his family, including a new granddaughter, and friends. He and his wife Susan will explore New York City, vacation in Florida, visit Europe, and travel to wherever the road leads them.

I want to thank Ron for his many years of service to the people of New York City in one of our vital governmental agencies. The help he brought to them will live on for years.