

HONORING THE LIFE OF AMOS
LYNCH

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life achievements of Amos H. Lynch, Sr.

Amos served as a leader in civil rights, business, and journalism in Columbus and throughout Ohio. Amos was relentless in pushing for a more equal and prosperous city, state, and country and he inspired a generation to continue to improve on his vision. The City of Columbus is a better place because of Amos' efforts and dedication. I am honored to have known him.

When Amos graduated from Columbus South High School in 1943, he had already spent years writing for neighborhood papers. He would go on to establish three newspapers in Columbus: the Ohio Sentinel, the Call and Post, and the Columbus Post. As a student at The Ohio State University at the height of World War II, he was drafted into the Navy and served the next three years treating wounded members of the military in New York and Illinois.

During his 2013 induction into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame, he stated "I learned early in my life that the written word is the most powerful tool for acquiring equal civil rights for all, and that newspapers were the best method for getting the word out." Amos tirelessly called for greater economic opportunities for African-Americans and integration in schools and housing.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I would like to recognize Amos for his devotion to the great state of Ohio and to all of the communities that have benefitted from his invaluable contributions.

HONORING MS. SHAR KNUTSON

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Shar Knutson, who on October 15th, 2015 will retire from her post as the first woman to serve as president of Minnesota AFL-CIO. Ms. Knutson has led the 300,000-member state branch of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) since 2009.

The Labor movement runs deep for Ms. Knutson, who was raised in a union family and worked a union job as a single parent, experiencing firsthand the benefits of organizing for improving lives.

Prior to her election in August 2009, Ms. Knutson served as president of the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation for a decade. One of her signature victories occurred in 1999, when she led a coalition of labor and community leaders to successfully oppose then-St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman's effort to outsource the city's public water works to a non-union firm.

Before her union work, she was a policy analyst to former St. Paul Mayor Jim Scheibel, specializing in labor, health and immigration issues. She served on the Greater Twin Cities United Way board as well as the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs Advisory Council.

As head of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, Ms. Knutson helped lead the coalition that successfully raised Minnesota's minimum wage, coordinated efforts that kept a "Right to Work" constitutional amendment off the ballot, and increased political participation among union members. Also under her leadership, the Minnesota AFL-CIO successfully passed legislation extending unemployment benefits for locked out workers, opened up new avenues for women and young workers to be involved in the labor movement, and built an infrastructure to support affiliate unions in their organizing efforts.

I am privileged to recognize the decades of tireless advocacy of Ms. Shar Knutson, whose contributions to Minnesota's workers will be felt for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS AT
MOYERS CORNERS FIRE DE-
PARTMENT

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Chief Frank Crispin, Deputy Chief Steve Zaferakis, Firefighter Phil Vogt, Firefighter Ryan Whitmore, and Firefighter Jeremy Corsaro of the Moyers Corners Fire Department. On December 25, 2014, Moyers Corners Fire Department was alerted to a residential fire in Liverpool, New York. Upon arrival, these five members of the Fire Department were advised that there were victims within the residence. Working collectively, these firefighters quickly rescued the two individuals trapped within the residence. Without hesitation, upon removing the victims from the residence, these firefighters began emergency medical efforts on the victims, one of which was found to be in full cardiac arrest. Due to the rescue and life-saving medical efforts of these firefighters, both victims survived the incident, were transported to Upstate Hospital, and are recovering from their injuries.

The bravery and heroism of Deputy Chief Crispin, Deputy Chief Zaferakis, Firefighter Vogt, Firefighter Whitmore, and Firefighter Corsaro displayed on Christmas Day of 2014, have earned them the 2015 Firemen's Association of the State of New York's Firefighters of the Year Award. I am proud to recognize these courageous individuals for their service to Central New York and congratulate them on their receipt of the FASNY 2015 Firefighters of the Year Award.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SILVETTE WOMEN'S GOLF CLUB

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th Anniversary of the Silvette Women's Golf Club of Staten Island.

Established in 1935, the Silvette Women's Golf Club is the oldest women's public golf club in the State of New York. The Silvettes started out as a group of ten women who came together to organize friendly tournaments. After only three years, the Silvettes grew in membership as their weekly tournaments became increasingly popular with a prize of two dollars for first and second place.

The Silvettes continue to play in many tournaments as well as interclub matches with other women's golf clubs in New York and New Jersey. However, their most important event is the annual Silvette Memorial Classic. On the first day of the Classic, the Silvettes meet in the morning on the green of the 6th hole and in a gesture of remembrance, each golfer draws the name of a deceased Silvette and plays in her memory.

Throughout their history, the Silvettes have been active in their community, and have held many tournaments to benefit various charities over the years. Their dedication to the game and their community shows why the Silvettes have had such a presence since 1935.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in honoring the Silvette Women's Golf Club of Staten Island on their 80th Anniversary.

HONORING CASA ALLEGRA
COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Casa Allegra Community Services (CACS), which has been providing residential support, community integration and income earning opportunities for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities in the San Francisco Bay Area for four decades.

In 1975, Chris Bonfiglio and Eileen Falvey co-founded CACS in San Rafael, California to provide housing for five young people with disabilities facing unexpected homelessness. They not only succeeded in their goal, but have grown the organization significantly from its origins. Today CACS runs two long-term care homes along with numerous living, educational, and career programs for individuals with disabilities in seven counties across the region.

The hard work undertaken by the staff and leadership at CACS has impacted many in its 40 years. CACS' efforts extend beyond meeting basic needs—which it performs well and with compassion—by striving to encourage people with disabilities to lead meaningful lives.

CACS has played a crucial and necessary role in our community by serving as a voice for those who need it most. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor and thank Casa Allegra Community Services on their 40th Anniversary for their commitment to bettering the lives of those with disabilities.

HONORING COMMUNITY CHAMPION
DR. WILLIAM DICUCCIO

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize one of my constituents from Western Pennsylvania, Dr. William DiCuccio. Dr. DiCuccio is a prestigious medical professional in Butler County, and his sincere desire to serve has had an international impact.

Dr. DiCuccio received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Saint Vincent College and then went on to attend Medical School at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Shortly after graduation Dr. DiCuccio opened his own family practice, William A. DiCuccio M.D. & Associates, where he worked for the following 30 years. Throughout his career, Dr. DiCuccio has maintained an honorable reputation while serving in various prominent positions within the community. These positions include Vice President of Medical Affairs for Butler Health System, Medical Director for Butler County Prison, and his current position as Medical Director, at Sunnyview Nursing Home. Dr. DiCuccio humbly embraced each of these roles, taking full advantage of his ability to positively influence the lives of those around him.

Due to his professionalism and expertise, Dr. DiCuccio's involvement has been an asset to various advisory boards, including Butler County Community College (Vice Chairman, Board of Directors), World Servants (Board Member), Community Health Clinic of Butler (Chairman/Board Member), St. Vincent College-Boyer School (Board Member), Gaiser Center (Board Member), and Mission Development Villa Hermosa-Dominican Republic (Director). In addition, Dr. DiCuccio has voluntarily participated in a number of civic organizations and professional societies, continuously giving back to the community. He is currently an active member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Geriatrics Society, Pennsylvania Medical Society, and the Butler County Medical Society.

When he's not caring for patients, Dr. DiCuccio enjoys spending time with his family, participating within his church, traveling, and golfing. These very interests were the driving factors behind Dr. DiCuccio's first trip to the Dominican Republic, a trip which would forever change his life. While traveling abroad, Dr. DiCuccio and his wife, Marge, visited a small barrio called Villa Hermosa, a poverty-stricken town located about 70 miles from the Dominican Republic's capital city, Santo Domingo. Villa Hermosa, which means "beautiful village" in English, is home to 4,500 of the most genuine people, whose positive attitudes remain resilient despite their lack of basic necessities.

Villa Hermosa consisted of miles of shacks, constructed from scrap metal. The community was without drinking water, sewage systems, and electricity; however, there was an abundance of joy. The children that ran through the streets did not have clothing on their backs or shoes on their feet, yet there were smiles on their faces. The time spent with these wonder-

ful people was inspirational and life-changing for Dr. DiCuccio and within an hour of departure from Villa Hermosa, he realized God led him there for a very specific purpose.

Dr. William and Marge DiCuccio started the "Hope Project" which has collaborated with World Servants, various churches, and individual sponsorships, all focused on the same objective of improving the quality of life for others. Since Dr. DiCuccio took the initiative, the transformations within Villa Hermosa have been immeasurable: The local church, which serves as the heart of the community, has been repaired and expanded, allowing them to accommodate for large crowds. A brand new grade school, where 400 students are educated, fed, immunized, clothed, and cared for in general, has been constructed and developed. In addition, this school brings countless benefits to the surrounding community, one of those being the fact that it employs a number of local residents, including seven teachers, a psychologist, a principal, a secretary, and cleaning staff. In order to produce clean drinking water, a well was drilled and a water purification plant was constructed. This plant produces 4,000 gallons of water per hour, sold to benefit the people of Villa Hermosa. Most recently, a medical clinic was constructed and is currently being run by Medical Missions International. This clinic is combating the leading cause of death in the Dominican Republic, namely the spread of communicable diseases.

In serving God, his family, and all of those in need, Dr. DiCuccio is an absolute inspiration. His compassion and generosity has positively influenced the lives of so many, and will continue to do so for years to come. Therefore, on behalf of the Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania, along with Villa Hermosa, I would like to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. William DiCuccio, an admirable professional, a selfless individual, and a true Community Champion.

CELEBRATING LIBERIAN
INDEPENDENCE

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 168th anniversary of independence for the Republic of Liberia.

In 1847, after decades under the rule of the American Colonization Society, the Republic of Liberia declared its independence in order to establish a free, sovereign state in West Africa.

Today, my home state of Rhode Island is home to a thriving Liberian-American community of 15,000 men, women, and children who help make our state such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

I am delighted today to celebrate this great country, its people, their traditions, its strong ties to the United States, and the lasting impact this community has made in Rhode Island and other places all across America.

Last year, I had the honor of visiting Liberia with the United Nations Foundation and speaking with officials there about ways to

strengthen ties between our two countries and support peacekeeping efforts in West Africa.

I extend my best wishes and congratulations to Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and to all those celebrating in Liberia and around the world this week.

CELEBRATING THE MINNESOTA
SPOKESMAN-RECORDER'S 80TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder on its 80th Anniversary. The Spokesman-Recorder is the oldest African-American business in Minnesota and one of the oldest African-American newspapers in the United States. A longstanding pillar and voice of the Minnesota African-American community since its inception in 1934, the Spokesman-Recorder remains a journalistic force to this day.

Started as two separate papers, the Minneapolis Spokesman and the St. Paul Recorder were founded on August 10, 1934 by Cecil E. Newman. Mr. Newman was truly invested in the lives and communities his papers reached. He designed both papers as communication vehicles to unite, educate, inspire and empower the Twin Cities African-American community. When founding his publications, Mr. Newman was quoted as saying, "I didn't have enough money to begin one newspaper, so I began publishing two."

Mr. Newman was an important voice in the civil rights era, advising Senators Hubert H. Humphrey (D-MN) and Clifford P. Case (R-NJ) throughout the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as well as Senator Walter F. Mondale (D-MN) on the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Mr. Newman's commitment to civil and human rights and his bipartisan advocacy gained the papers respect and influence.

Now one publication, the Spokesman-Recorder, has been a springboard for African-American talent and continues to nurture and support talented writers, photographers and journalists. The Spokesman-Recorder helped launch the careers of internationally-renowned photographer and writer Gordon Parks and honored U.S. journalist and former Ambassador to Finland, Carl Rowan.

After Mr. Newman's passing in 1976, his wife Launa took the helm as publisher. Mrs. Newman remained in that role for 32 years until she handed the reins to their granddaughter, Tracey Williams-Dillard, in 2008. Ms. Williams-Dillard has worked to continue Cecil Newman's legacy and the Spokesman-Recorder now connects the entire state of Minnesota through print and digital content.

I am proud to represent the congressional district that the Spokesman-Recorder and the Newman family call home. Today, I congratulate the Spokesman-Recorder for its accomplishments, its lasting legacy, and the decades of hard work required to publish one of the top African-American owned newspapers in the United States.