

RECOGNITION OF THE NEWLY UNVEILED NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to the memory of the armed soldiers who resisted communism in Poland during the period between 1944 and 1963, men and women who are referred to as the "Doomed Soldiers." The monument at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, was unveiled on September 18, 2016 and respectfully dedicated to those who fought and defended Poland against the aggressive occupation by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. The monument honoring these patriots was erected by the Smolensk Disaster Commemoration Committee with the help of many Polish Americans. Historically, the fight for freedom began in 1939. The brave Polish people continued to struggle for independence, underground, also opposing the communist regime in the post-World War II era. The monument at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa is a way to preserve their place in Poland's history. On behalf of the constituents of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Andrzej Duda, president of the Republic of Poland. I offer my sincerest gratitude for his presence at the dedication on September 18, 2016 and for representing today's Polish citizens who steadfastly honor the memory of those who sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom they enjoy today.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM O'DONNELL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Jim O'Donnell who has been a pediatrician with Kaiser Permanente for 35 years. For the last 16 years he served in a vital leadership role as Physician-in-Chief at the Redwood City Medical Center. Jim is everything a patient can hope for in a physician. He is brilliant, warm, funny, and up to date on the latest research and technology. In addition to his pediatric caseload, Dr. O'Donnell cared for my parents and I could not have imagined a more skilled physician to offer care to them.

Dr. O'Donnell is a visionary. He led the negotiations and planning for the new Redwood City hospital that opened in December 2014. At the ribbon cutting, Kaiser CEO Bernard Tyson noted that he was initially skeptical of the proposal for a new hospital. Now I ask everyone to imagine a poker game between Jim O'Donnell and Bernard Tyson. Let me assure you that it was never an even match. Jim bluffed many times, and eventually Bernard Tyson was forced to fold. South County Kaiser patients won the pot, and it was quite lucrative—perhaps a bit costly for Mr. Tyson—but the hospital is truly amazing.

In addition to its ultra-modern equipment, the hospital offers green architecture and a

soothing environment filled with warm colors and beautiful artwork. The hospital is also a designated stroke center. The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association have awarded it the "Get With The Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award" for providing patients with the best possible care. U.S. News & World Report named it a high performing hospital for neuroscience.

Planning a new hospital and seeing patients wasn't enough, and thus Jim was also instrumental in opening the San Mateo Medical Offices in 2011. He is always looking for new and creative ways to improve care for patients. Jim O'Donnell is Kaiser's Johnny Appleseed of clinic and hospital construction. I suspect that his name is well known by Kaiser's capital allocation committee, and most likely because Jim is as prudent with Kaiser's construction dollars as he is with the health of his patients.

Dr. O'Donnell grew up in a small farming community in Iowa. His interest in public service and his honing of great people skills began early when he worked in his father's general store. He developed a deep fascination with science. Combining those three ingredients naturally led him to medicine. He received his medical degree from the University of Iowa, College of Medicine in Iowa City. He completed his medical internship and residency at the University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is also a 1998 graduate of the Kenan Flagler School of Business Advanced Leadership Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

The reason he chose pediatrics is obvious. He loves children. His awe watching young children grow up and his passion to help them develop into productive and healthy adolescents are palpable.

After he finished his residency in 1980, Jim moved to the Bay Area. He chose Kaiser Permanente because he liked its preventative focus and its integrated model of care. We are immensely fortunate that Jim settled here and made Redwood City his home with his husband, Michael, and he says his most joyful experience in life is time with his two daughters, Emma and Audie.

For 15 years, Jim O'Donnell has served on Redwood City 2020, a partnership among the City of Redwood City, the elementary and high school districts, San Mateo County, Stanford University, the Sequoia Healthcare District and Kaiser Permanente designed to support the success of all youth and families and to engage and strengthen the community. Jim's strategic thinking, problem-solving ability and passion have benefited everyone in that partnership and our community at large. In his well-deserved retirement, Jim will enjoy more time with his family and finally have more time to read, hike, cook and take advantage of our great Bay Area restaurants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Dr. Jim O'Donnell, a top-notch doctor, devoted family man, and extraordinary human being who I am very fortunate to call my good friend. While he is leaving Kaiser Permanente, he leaves behind a first-class hospital with a world-class medical team. His vision for a healthy Redwood City has come alive under his stewardship. His child—the hospital—and the staff that animate the child will now say farewell to their father, but the lessons learned from Jim's instruction will save lives for decades yet to come.

HONORING EL CONCILIO

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge and honor El Concilio, the Council for the Spanish Speaking, for their participation in the Sixteenth Annual Binational Health Week, taking place this October.

Since October 2001, El Concilio has led the Binational Health Week of Stanislaus County in a collaborative effort with a number of partner organizations, including the Tzu Chi Foundation and the Health Initiative of the Americas. This unprecedented effort is overseen by multi-agency taskforces, and conducts health promotion and education activities for the Latino population in the United States. To date, over 1,000,000 people in our country have benefited from the health care activities provided during the Binational Health Week.

Binational Health Week represents an international effort between the United States, Mexico, Canada, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Uruguay and Peru to improve the quality of life for members of underserved populations by expanding their access to health care, increasing their health insurance coverage, and addressing their unmet health needs.

The Health Initiative of the Americas, and the consular network here in the United States, are coordinating the Sixteenth Annual Binational Health Week. Activities throughout the country will be centered on the communities that have a high level of need for accessible health care.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending El Concilio upon their efforts to improve public health for the Latino community by participating in the Sixteenth Annual Binational Health Week.

COMMEMORATING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPPER HANOVER TOWNSHIP

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the residents, businesses and Board of Supervisors of Upper Hanover Township as they celebrate 275 years as a municipality in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Settled by German-speaking immigrants seeking religious tolerance and economic opportunity, Upper Hanover Township was formally incorporated in 1741. During the Township's early years, agriculture thrived thanks to the rich soil and skilled German farmers. The building construction industry blossomed as a result of an abundance of granite boulders mined from the Hosensack Hills and easily-accessible water from the Perkiomen Creek, which powered five gristmills and four sawmills.

Today, more than 7,100 people call Upper Hanover Township home. At just over 21 square miles, Upper Hanover is geographically

the fourth-largest Township in Montgomery County. And the Township ranks second in Montgomery County with just more than 1,500 acres of permanently preserved farmland. The major employers in the Township include Blommer Chocolate, the largest cocoa processor and ingredient chocolate supplier in North America, and Knoll Inc., a modern home and office furniture manufacturer.

The community will commemorate the Township's 275th anniversary on Saturday, September 17, 2016 during a day of activities in Camelot Park. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the residents, business owners and community leaders as Upper Hanover marks this memorable milestone.

IN MEMORY OF MARK VALENTE
III

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected in 2001, I am grateful Mark and Claudia Valente were among the first to give me and Roxanne counsel on service to the public. The following obituary is a fitting tribute to his service for American families. I especially appreciate his affection for Italian-American heritage with my son recently completing a three year tour in Italy with my three Italian-speaking grandchildren:

Former Grosse Pointe Park resident Mark Valente III passed away in his home in Springfield, VA on August 3, 2016. Mark was born July 27, 1956, in Detroit, MI. He graduated in 1974 from University Liggett School, earned an accounting degree from his beloved Villanova University, class of 1978, then went on to earn a Law Degree from the University of Detroit School of Law.

Mark left Grosse Pointe in 1984 to work in the Office of Public Liaison at the White House under President Ronald Reagan. In 1986, he became the Director, Coalition Development Department at the Republican National Committee. In 1989 Mark worked as Director, in the Office of Congressional Relations, at the US Office of Personnel Management for President George H.W. Bush.

After leaving government service, Mark formed a Washington, DC based government relations firm, Valente & Associates, providing legislative analysis and government relations advice. He worked there until his death. Mark was elected to the Grosse Pointe Park city council at age 24, the youngest in the city's history and was the president of the Detroit Young Republicans during that time.

Most recently Mark, a proud grandson of Italian immigrants who emigrated from Abruzzo, Italy, served on the national board of the National Italian American Foundation where he held the leadership role as chairman of the Public Policy and Government Relations Committee and was a board member of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Also, he chaired the Board of the Center for Marketing and Public Policy Research at Villanova University School of Business.

Mark was a long-time supporter of the Baseball Hall of Fame (HOF) and a member of its Champions Program. He was a frequent

host of and participant in the HOF events in Washington, DC and other baseball cities. A member of the Detroit Athletic Club, Capitol Hill Club in Washington, DC, and Springfield Golf and Country Club in VA. Mark was a devoted Detroit Tigers fan and loved to play golf with his friends. He also was a coach and umpire for Little League and Grosse Pointe Park Babe Ruth league.

Mark is survived by his wife Claudia (Barker), mother Maria (Ballerini), father Marco Jr., brothers: JB, Richard, Dean, and brother-in-law Craig Barker, nieces and nephew and twelve godchildren. Mark was predeceased by his grandparents Ballerini and Valente.

A memorial service is planned at St. Clair of Montefalco Catholic Church, located at the corner of Mack Avenue and Outer Drive in Grosse Pointe Park on August 25th at 10:30 am. Visitation at 10 am. A second memorial service will be held on Wednesday, September 14th at 2:00 pm at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 313 2nd Street SE, Washington, DC. Followed by a reception at the Capitol Hill Club. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be directed to the scholarship being established in the name of Mark Valente III at Villanova University School of Business, ATTN: Clay Center at VSB, 800 E. Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA 19085.

THE RETIREMENT OF AIRPORT
DIRECTOR JOHN MARTIN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. John Martin upon his retirement as the Airport Director of San Francisco International Airport. Mr. Martin is leaving his position after 21 years at the helm, and after 36 years working in various capacities for the airport commission.

SFO is a rapidly expanding enterprise, directly or indirectly employing 45,000 people. John Martin is therefore in charge of a small city and one that links this nation with nations around the globe. His accomplishments reflect this global reach.

John piloted the airport through a \$2.4 billion expansion including the construction of a beautiful international terminal, the extension of the Bay Area's major rapid transit line—BART—into the terminal, and the creation of a self-guided tram line. He was instrumental in recruiting Virgin America to establish its headquarters in San Mateo County, bringing jobs at a time when the economy desperately needed an injection of investment. John Martin has also worked closely with my office to prove that a third-party contractor operating airport screening services can, if the contract is structured and supervised well, provide superior service to passengers.

All airport directors have dreams but when their construction projects go awry, some have nightmares as well. In contrast, John successfully undertook the largest public works project of the era. Terminal 2 was rebuilt and now serves as the launching point for Virgin America and American Airlines. The FAA has a new and beautiful tower at SFO, designed by John's staff and built, as is true of all work at the airport, using highly skilled union labor that

proves its value with every weld, hammer blow or polished surface.

As he explained to me a few weeks ago during a security tour of the airport, fair wages and working conditions materially contribute to airport security. Instead of a revolving door of disgruntled employees, SFO is notable for trying to create a healthy atmosphere where people may earn their livings safely and with dignity. Indeed, there's an ordinance to assure a livable wage.

SFO will soon undertake \$4.3 billion in construction leading to a new four star hotel, the redevelopment of Terminal 1 and the boarding area of Terminal 3, and an extension of the AirTrain system. This 10 year capital improvement program will bring more than 36,000 construction jobs to San Mateo County.

The airport's finances are in excellent shape, in part because of John's dedication to earning extra money from passengers shopping at the airport's various shops. It is rumored that his retail managers have their own version of a biblical admonition: "It is easier for a rich man to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for an airport visitor to pass by a See's candy store."

John is a gifted public policy leader in the Bay Area, supporting California's high speed rail system to relieve pressure on his airport, advocating for mass transit throughout the Bay Area, and encouraging coordination between his airport and the other two major airports in our region. He was the founding president of the California Airports Council and served on the executive board of the Bay Area Council, a major public policy advocacy organization.

I was once walking through a terminal with him and he paused momentarily to pick up a piece of trash and tossed it into the wastebasket. A few steps later he noticed that a door wasn't working and phoned airport staff to have it dealt with immediately. Farmers are often noted for the pride that they take in tilling their own fields. John is an excellent farmer and rightfully proud of the field called San Francisco International Airport.

Mr. Speaker, we wish John Martin well in his next phase in life. Hopefully he will now have the time to travel and to reflect upon his public service. I feel privileged to have served with him and I submit, given all his outstanding contributions, that one of the terminals should be named after him. He deserves to be acknowledged and remembered for the accomplishments of his career that will endure beyond his own era at San Francisco International Airport.

HONORING MS. MARGARET
"MAGGIE" OWEN POOLE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to honor the life of Ms. Margaret "Maggie" Owen Poole, of Max Meadows, Virginia, who passed away on September 7, 2016. She was born November 22, 1932, daughter of the late William N. and Lula Metcalf Owen.

I was always impressed with Maggie's work ethic and energy. Elected in 2007 to the Wythe County Board of Supervisors, she