

## HONORING EMPRESS AMBULANCE SERVICES

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the great companies in my district, Empress Ambulance, which has provided outstanding emergency medical service to the City of Yonkers for over three decades.

In 1985, when Dan and Lenore Minerva acquired Empress Ambulance it was their mission, that since has been handed down to their sons Michael, Daniel and Matthew, that patient care and compassion would be the cornerstone on which the company would be built.

As the landscape in the healthcare industry changed for hospitals over the years, so too has it changed dramatically in the pre-hospital seam: These days an EMS company needs to have trained professionals and state of the art equipment to manage a medical emergency on the street or in someone's home. Empress has accepted this challenge and today they are the preeminent provider of pre-hospital care and ambulance transportation services in our region. With over 90 vehicles and more than 400 highly trained and compassionate employees, Empress is answering the call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In recent years, Empress has seen unprecedented growth in the region. In addition to Yonkers, Empress Ambulance is currently the emergency medical services provider for the cities of New Rochelle, White Plains, Mount Vernon and Pelham. Additionally, the company provides advanced life support services in Yorktown and basic life support supplemental staff in Hawthorne, Mohegan Lake and Peekskill. They have also recently been named the provider of choice to operate four 911 advanced life support ambulances by Montefiore Medical Center for the Fire Department of New York 911 System.

This year, St. Joseph's Medical Center is honoring Empress Ambulance Service for the remarkable contributions the company has made to both the Center and the community as a whole. I want to take the opportunity to congratulate the entire Empress team, and thank them for all their incredible work in our area.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO HARRY S. TRUMAN FOR RECEIVING THE PRESTIGIOUS HONOR OF BEING NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harry S. Truman Elementary School for receiving the prestigious honor of being named a National Blue Ribbon School.

Harry S. Truman was one of 329 schools nationwide to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School.

This national award recognizes schools that practice exemplary teaching and learning. For

34 years, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has been rewarding excellence in students and faculty and to date fewer than 8,500 schools have been granted this honor.

Harry S. Truman Elementary was granted this award in large part due to their high academic performance on standardized tests. This is a distinguished award that recognizes the academic success of a school.

I am honored to recognize Harry S. Truman Elementary School for their hard work and dedication in educating our future leaders of Missouri. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District I ask all of my colleagues to join me to congratulate Harry S. Truman Elementary School.

## HONORING MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in celebration of its 60th Anniversary and its six-decade history of service to the community of Fort Worth, Texas.

Founded in 1956, Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church began through its commitment to fellowship. Since its founding, Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church has committed its efforts to establishing a safe environment for all those seeking spiritual guidance and the desire to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching, teaching, and ministry. For six decades, Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church's ministry team has inspired and positively changed the lives of people throughout Fort Worth.

For the past twenty years, Bishop B.C. McPherson II has led Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church's membership and its affiliate company Sininian Development Inc. (SDI), a community development organization. Together, they have invigorated the Southside communities of Fort Worth through crime reduction and affordable housing. Bishop McPherson has ensured throughout his tenure that every member can still receive a personal word with him even as the Church has grown its congregation.

Mount Sinai not only offers fellowship for those seeking spiritual guidance at the church in Fort Worth, but also extends its services through its Real Alive Word, R.A.W., online classes. These classes offer spiritual seekers with biblical foundations, syntax, culture and much more. Both traditional and non-traditional religious avenues have contributed to an increase in the number of new hopeful leaders in the DFW Metroplex.

I honor Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church's 60th Anniversary celebration and its dedication to the spiritual development of Fort Worth community.

## CONGRATULATING ROBYN STUART ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE GRAPEVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Senior Officer Robyn Stuart on her well-earned retirement from the Grapevine Police Department, in the city of Grapevine, Texas, after twenty-two years of dedicated service.

Stuart's esteemed career began with the Brownfield Police Department in 1993 where she served with distinction until joining the Fort Worth Marshal's Office in 1995 as a Deputy Marshal.

In 1996 she began her service in Grapevine, where she honorably served her community with the highest degree of professionalism for more than two decades. Throughout her tenure with the department, Stuart received seven commendation letters recognizing her outstanding service and dedication to the City of Grapevine.

Over her twenty-two year career, Stuart has completed more than 1,580 hours of training and has achieved the certification of Master Peace Officer. Additionally, she has served as a member of the Grapevine Police Department SWAT team, specializing as a hostage negotiator; a National Academy of Professional Driving (NAPD) instructor; and as a member of the Grapevine Police Department Critical Incident Stress Management/Peer Support Team.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the tireless efforts Senior Officer Robyn Stuart has contributed to the safety and security of the City of Grapevine. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Robyn Stuart and her many years of service.

## HONORING MICHAEL MINERVA

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those who dedicate their lives to serving others professionally are a true asset to the community. For 28 years, Michael Minerva has been an asset to Westchester, through his amazing work with Empress Ambulance Service and our friends at St. Joseph's Medical Center.

Mike got his start in Yonkers working for American Ambulette, the company his parents, Dan and Lenore started in 1976. It was during this time that Mike was first introduced to the leadership and mission at St. Joseph's Medical Center.

In 1985, his family bought Empress Ambulance Service. For the next twenty years, Mike was fortunate to work side by side with the biggest driving force of his professional career, his mentor, business partner and "Mom" Lenore Minerva.

In 2008 Mike was promoted to President of Empress and has worked tirelessly to continue to grow the business and provide the highest

level of pre-hospital care in the State. Under his guidance, Empress has been recognized as the leader in the ambulance industry with over 400 EMS professionals on staff and a fleet of over 90 vehicles. Mike was asked to serve on the Saint Joseph's Medical Center's Board of Directors in 2005, and his extensive knowledge of the healthcare industry, especially in the field of emergency services has been a tremendous asset to Saint Joseph's Medical Center for the many years he has served as a member of its Board of Trustees.

Mike also finds many ways to give back to the community that has afforded him so much. In addition to volunteering his time to Saint Joseph's Medical Center's Board of Trustees, where he is part of the Executive Committee, he is also on the Board of the Yonkers Police Athletic League and the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce.

But Mike's great love is always family. He has been married to his high school sweetheart, Bobbi, for over 27 years. Together they have raised five wonderful and accomplished children. Danielle, the head athletic trainer for Mercy College, Hayle, a full-time performer for Disney World FL, Michael, a recent college graduate who now works at Empress, and Jack and Lyndsey, a junior and sophomore respectively at Pleasantville High School.

This year, St. Joseph's Medical Center is honoring Mike at their annual Autumn in New York Ball. He is incredible deserving of this great honor. Congratulations to Mike and his family.

#### 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

#### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I do support many of the measures in the 21st Century Cures Act. It will increase choice, access, and quality in health care for all Americans by accelerating the discovery and development of new treatments for patients. The bill ensures our nation's standing as the biomedical innovation capital of the world. It provides funding at the National Institutes for Health to support cancer research and make progress in prevention, screening, treatment, and care.

The 21st Century Cures act will establish a data collection system to track the incidence and prevalence of neurological conditions, which includes MS. This new data system could one day lead to a cure for debilitating diseases, which have aspects we currently do not understand.

I wish this bill contained the "Right-to-Try," which would give my constituents Matt Bellina and Frank Mongiello, both diagnosed with ALS, access to experimental and clinical stage treatments to improve their quality of life.

But this bill does emphasize rare disease research and provides funding which will have a meaningful impact on those afflicted with rare diseases like ALS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and mitochondrial disease. As a member of the Mitochondrial Disease Caucus and Rare Disease Caucus, I know this bill will have a big impact for those like Liz Kennerley, who has been a passionate advocate for all those suffering from mitochondrial disease and other rare diseases.

By establishing new review pathways at the FDA, 21st Century Cures will advance new drug therapies for patients with rare, serious, or life-threatening disease. It gives my young constituents living with Duchenne's, like Jake Wesley, a chance to live a longer, better life.

The 21st Century Cures helps individuals and families in mental health crisis. It will serve to increase access to trained professionals, improves communications between doctors and families while ensuring that federal funds are applied to programs that work, supporting organizations in Bucks County like the Lenape Valley Foundation and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Enhancing crisis response, promoting early intervention, and integrating mental health, substance use and primary care will go a long way in helping the one in five individuals who have a mental health condition so they can live well and thrive.

The bill will grant funds to states to supplement opioid abuse prevention and treatment activities, such as improving prescription drug monitoring programs.

Mr. Speaker, while this bill accelerates the development of life-saving devices and therapies, the 21st Century Cures Act fails to protect patients against dangerous medical devices. For the past two years, I've sought medical device reform in Congress. I sought to raise awareness and advance legislation that protected patients and altered FDA processes and procedures to allow for maximum innovation and maximum safety. Congress ignored the victims affected by faulty, dangerous medical devices and what is more disappointing we were denied a hearing.

I support the measures in the 21st Century Cures Act, but I am concerned that it fails to provide adequate medical device protections for patients. There are two amendments missing to the 21st Century Cures Act: the Medical Device Guardians Act and Ariel Grace's Law.

#### CONGRATULATIONS RICK ZIEGENFUSS FOR RECEIVING THE 2016 MISSOURIAN AWARD DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rick Ziegenfuss, for receiving the 2016 Missourian Award. Rick is the city administrator for Hollister, Missouri. The Missourian Award recognizes native Missourians for their outstanding accomplishments in business, civic, arts or politics.

It is important that we strive to better the community we live in and it is apparent that Mr. Ziegenfuss from Missouri's 7th Congressional District has continually done that.

The Missourian Award, created by local Springfield business and community leader Ralph Slavens and his late wife Corrine, is a prestigious award that acknowledges the most accomplished citizens of Missouri and to receive the award one must have been born in the state of Missouri.

I am proud of the initiative that Mr. Ziegenfuss has taken to make the great state of Missouri the best it can be. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this tremendous honor.

HONORING RICHARD H. GREIF, MD

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished member of the community whose work at St. Joseph's Medical Center has been of great service to countless Westchester residents, Dr. Richard H. Greif.

Dr. Greif was born in New York City and grew up in Morristown, New Jersey. After high school, he attended Cornell University, majoring in biology. He then went on to medical school at New York Medical College where he was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha—the Medical Honor Society—and graduated in 1975. After medical school he completed an Internal Medical Residency at Metropolitan Hospital and a Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship at St. Vincent's Medical Center in New York City.

Dr. Greif joined the Saint Joseph's Medical Staff in 1981. He is currently President of the Medical Board and has been serving as the Co-Director of Cardiology since 2013. He has been a member of the Saint Joseph's Medical Board and Chairman of the Quality and Performance Improvement Committee for over 30 years. He has been an Assistant Professor at New York Medical College since 1981; Adjunct Professor at Manhattan College since the late 1980's and is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology.

Dr. Greif has supervised the Medical Center's Family Medicine Resident ICU and Cardiology rotations since 1981 and precepted New York Medical College students from 1983 to 2015. In the field of research he was the co-investigator in the landmark multi-center TIMI 2B trial testing thrombolytic therapy for acute myocardial infarction. He has been listed many times among "Best Doctors in Westchester" by Westchester Magazine and recognized by Castle Connolly as a "Top Doctor" in the New York Metro Area from 2006 to 2016.

Of course, Dr. Greif's true passion is his family. He resides in Westchester with his wife Victoria. They have three children; Arel, Dylan and Shana. Arel works in New York City in the media industry, Dylan is a graphic designer working and living in Brooklyn and Shana is a second year Internal Medicine Resident in Los Angeles. All three children did volunteer work at Saint Joseph's.

This year, St. Joseph's Medical Center is honoring Dr. Richard Greif at their annual Autumn in New York Ball. I want to take the opportunity to congratulate him on this wonderful honor, and thank him for all of his amazing work in the community. He is most deserving of this incredible recognition.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN J. AREIAS

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of John J. Areias, who recently passed away this week at age 96. Mr. Areias was an exceptional father, grandfather, husband, dairyman, and