

Phil was born in New Jersey and moved to South Florida at the age of three. He attended Chaminade High School in Fort Lauderdale and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Florida Atlantic University's (FAU) College of Business in 1969. During college, Phil began to work at a Ford dealership in Pompano Beach. He was so successful he stayed after graduation, was given the opportunity to open a dealership, and never looked back.

Phil went on to found Phil Smith Management, Inc., serving as President and CEO. He operated eleven automobile dealership locations representing 25 franchises in Florida and North Carolina. His company employs 780 people. He never forgot where he came from or the people who worked for him, and started an annual college scholarship program for the children of his employees.

Phil also served as the Co-Chair of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee and sat on the Boards of the Orange Bowl Committee and the Broward Workshop, a non-profit organization that represents the interests of 100 Broward businesses and professions. Because of his community involvement, Phil was awarded with the Florida Sun Sentinel Company's 2013 Excalibur Award for Business Leader of the Year in Broward County.

He always gave back and was well-known for his civic, charitable, and philanthropic involvement throughout South Florida. He was involved with a number of advocacy groups serving the public, including the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Humane Society of Broward County, the American Cancer Society, and the Make a Wish Foundation. His most recent donation was to Holy Cross Hospital—a gift of \$7 million to fund state-of-the-art neurological care.

Phil and his wife Susan also gave to his alma mater, and gifted Florida Atlantic University \$5 million to establish the Phil Smith Center for Free Enterprise. Supporting the strategic plan of the College of Business, the Center will add chaired professorships, support research and educational programs for faculty members and students, and support distinguished visiting faculty along with a lecture series and other educational programs focused on the principles of free enterprise.

After his diagnosis with ALS, Phil became more involved in efforts to fight this terrible disease. He worked with Holy Cross Hospital in South Florida to establish the Phil Smith ALS and Movement Disorders Clinic, which provides access to leading edge clinical trials and research through an expanded relationship with Massachusetts General Hospital.

After an 18 month battle with ALS, Phil tragically passed away at the age of 70 last week. He is survived by his wife of 30 years Susan, his sister Judy, his daughter Shawn, son-in-law Charlie, and three grandchildren James, Kaelin, and Cali.

Mr. Speaker, Phil was a dear friend and kind soul. He touched the lives of so many, and his philanthropic efforts in Florida will go on to touch the lives of many more. It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor his life and accomplishments, but most of all, to honor our friendship. He will be so dearly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALICJA
WINNICKI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Alicja Winnicki, Superintendent of the Community School District 14 in Brooklyn, who was honored for her achievements as part of Women's History Month.

Ms. Winnicki has been District 14's Superintendent for four years. Before that, she served as Principal at Oliver H. Perry Elementary PS 34 in Greenpoint. During her tenure in 2012, the school received the National Blue Ribbon Award for Academic Excellence. As a 2010 Cahn Fellow at Teachers College, Columbia University, Ms. Winnicki completed "action research" in collaboration with the teachers and staff at PS 34, on fostering academic rigor in instruction.

Ms. Winnicki began her career in education as an English as a Second Language teacher to both children and adults. Later, she became an ESL and bilingual staff developer for District 14 and conducted many workshops and training sessions for teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents. Working with bilingual student populations, Ms. Winnicki coordinated and supervised Saturday academies for children of recent Polish and Spanish speaking immigrants, organized and led conferences for educators focusing on the needs of Polish speaking students, and co-wrote a district bilingual/ESL curriculum.

Ms. Winnicki holds a Master's Degree in the Polish Language and Literature from Wroclaw University, a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Adelphi University, and a Master of Science in Administration and Supervision from Baruch University, School of Public Affairs. She writes about instruction for the CAN-Tainer, Teachers College, Columbia University.

Ms. Winnicki has been celebrated by the community for her achievements. For example, she has been named a Williamsburg and Greenpoint Rising Star by St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation, received a City Council Citation for Outstanding Citizens from Councilwoman Diana Reyna, was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for community service by State Senator Martin Malavé Dilan, and was named Seneca Club's 2007 Principal of the Year.

Twenty years of experience in New York City's education system have allowed Ms. Winnicki to forge strong relationships with students, teachers, parents, and community leaders. She sets and achieves goals for high student performance, provides leadership and feedback to parents, teachers and principals, encourages and cultivates mentor educators for future leadership positions, and creates countless programs and opportunities for community and parent involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Winnicki's tireless work for the children of Brooklyn and our entire community.

ST. XAVIER WATER POLO

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cincinnati St. Xavier High School water polo team on their state championship win this fall 2016 season.

With hard work and dedication, the Bombers' water polo team won their second consecutive state championship, totaling three total state championship wins.

But what makes this truly meaningful is what the water polo team did with its win. This state championship was dedicated to a hero who cannot be with us here today.

The St. X water polo team dedicated its hard earned win to Charles Keating IV, a Navy SEAL who died in May in Iraq while fighting ISIS and protecting all of us here at home. Mr. Keating's father and grandfather were both outstanding swimmers and graduates of St. Xavier High School.

St. Xavier's dedication of its win in memory of Charles Keating exemplifies the spirit and strength of the St. X community and what it stands for.

On behalf of all St. X alumni and friends, I congratulate the St. Xavier Water Polo team on incredibly hard work and dedication. You have certainly embodied what it means to be a part of the Long Blue Line.

Go Bombers.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDDIE
PALMIERI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Eddie Palmieri, a New Yorker, famed pianist and composer who has won nine Grammy Awards throughout his career. Mr. Palmieri has revolutionized Latin music, influenced many other musicians, and thrilled audiences with his unique sound. He is one of America's best jazz musicians and an icon in the music industry.

Mr. Palmieri was born in Harlem, New York to Puerto Rican immigrants on December 15, 1936. He was raised in the Bronx and learned to play the piano at an early age. Through his education in the city's public school system, he was exposed to jazz.

Mr. Palmieri was inspired to practice and perform publicly from watching his older brother, Charlie Palmieri, play with talented musicians. At the age of 11, Eddie Palmieri auditioned to perform classical piano at Carnegie Hall, and made his debut there in 1947.

Mr. Palmieri's professional career as a pianist took off as he played with various bands in the early 1950s including Eddie Forrester, Johnny Segui, and the popular Tito Rodriguez Orchestra. By late 1961, Eddie Palmieri started his own band, Conjunto La Perfecta, which featured a unique instrumentation of trombones and flutes instead of trumpets. Mr. Palmieri also experimented with the fusion of jazz and Latin-style music, adding a bassist as

well as a vocalist. The unusual mixture became Palmieri's signature sound.

After La Perfecta disbanded, Eddie began a new group with his brother Charlie, as well as musicians Victor Venegas, Andy Gonzales, Bernard "Pretty" Purdie, and Ronnie Cuber. Developing a new style together, this group further blended traditional Latin music with Afro-Cuban influences.

In 1974, Mr. Palmieri reached a career milestone with his release of *The Sun of Latin Music*. That year, he won his first Grammy Award, marking the first time that Latin music was recognized by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS). He won

again the following year for *Unfinished Masterpiece* (1974).

Returning to Puerto Rico, Palmieri formed a band called the Eddie Palmieri Orchestra and recorded several Grammy-winning albums including *Palo Pa' Rumba* (1984), *Solito* (1985), and *La Verdad* (1987). In 1988, the Smithsonian Institution recorded two of Palmieri's performances for its catalog at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

In 1993, Mr. Palmieri was appointed to the board of governors at the New York chapter of the National Association of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS). In 1995, he helped institute the Latin/African-Caribbean Jazz category for the Grammys.

Mr. Palmieri has received many awards throughout his career including the Alice Tully African Heritage Award from City College, the Harlem Renaissance Award, Yale University's Chubb Fellowship, and the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. In 2013, Eddie Palmieri was awarded the coveted Jazz Master award by the National Endowment of the Arts, the highest honor an American Jazz artist can receive.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary career of the exceptionally talented musician, Eddie Palmieri.