

Over the years, Ms. O'Neil developed innumerable constituent service programs and initiatives, but perhaps none as personal as those that focus on future generations. Inspired by her time caring for Daniel, Princess, Annquennette, and TyRochelle, the children of her late twin sister, Michelle, Rachelle developed our office's Youth Council that sought to develop and engage young leaders in Metro Atlanta.

In her personal time, Ms. O'Neil puts family and service first—caring for her nieces, nephews, and mentees in the Through Their I's Mentoring Program, the Motherless Daughters Foundation, the Hank Stewart Foundation, and Source of Support. She also manages to make friends during her world travels and pursue exciting adventures like skydiving, white water rafting, and zip lining.

Mr. Speaker, when I look at Rachelle O'Neil, I see the spirit of Barbara Jordan and the fire of Shirley Chisholm. I am so proud to have her on my team, and I thank her for the many years of tireless service to our office and Georgia's Fifth Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING MS. CONSTANCE  
HADDELAND, 2017 RECIPIENT OF  
THE PATRICK HENRY AWARD

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2017*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ms. Constance Haddeland, a 2017 recipient of the Patrick Henry Award from the National Guard Association of the United States, which honors local civic leaders who have distinguished themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Armed Forces of the United States and the National Guard. "Connie" as we know her is a Constituent Services Representative in my Saint Paul, Minnesota office. She was nominated for this recognition by MG Richard C. Nash, Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General, who presented this award to her this week at the 133rd Airlift Wing in Minnesota.

For more than 10 years Connie has exemplified a wholehearted commitment to the well-being of Minnesota service members, veterans and their families. Her efforts have resulted in quality of life benefits for National Guard members and Reservists, improved services to veterans and all Armed Forces Service Members serving in Minnesota.

First in 2010 and again in 2012, Minnesota National Guard members returned home from deployments and found themselves without Post Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence Program (PDMRA) benefits and "bonus pay." Connie spearheaded communication between constituents and my office on this issue, providing updates to veteran service organizations and other stakeholders, and working to ensure benefits parity for Guardsmen and Reservists by correcting errors in the way the Department of Defense implemented this program.

As coordinator for U.S. Service Academy nominations in the Fourth District, Connie has led an exemplary program, shepherding applications from hundreds of students resulting in the nominations of scores of Minnesota's best and brightest high school students to attend our nation's prestigious service academies.

Connie has touched the lives of hundreds of veterans, military personnel and their families in deep and meaningful ways through her thoughtful, patient and tireless advocacy on their behalf. Among the most poignant case-work successes include assisting the family of an ailing World War II veteran locate the service records necessary to award him the Bronze Star before he passed away. She also assisted a young soldier correct his military records, which allowed him to access GI Bill benefits to pursue a career in medicine and become a trauma surgeon.

The National Guard Association of the United States Patrick Henry Award citation states it best:

Connie Haddeland has distinguished herself by providing selfless and dedicated service to the Minnesota National Guard and the United States, by working long and tireless hours representing the members of the National Guard. Her steadfast professionalism, knowledge of Minnesota National Guard priorities, outreach efforts, and casework management have significantly contributed to successful and meaningful legislation advanced by Congresswoman McCollum on behalf of the men and women of the National Guard. Her dedicated service as a Constituent Services Representative and Service Academy Nominations Coordinator are in keeping with the finest traditions of the National Guard Association of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more. Please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Connie Haddeland for her many past and future contributions to our veterans, servicemen and women and their families.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR.  
SANCHEZ'S SERVICE

**HON. ANDY BIGGS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2017*

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Roberto Sanchez, a resident of Arizona's Fifth Congressional District, who retired from 35 years of federal service on September 29, 2017. Mr. Sanchez began his career by serving for three years as a proud member of the United States Marine Corps. He then joined the legacy U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service in 1985 as a Deportation Officer, which later became Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) in 2003.

In 2003, Mr. Sanchez became a deputized member of the United States Marshal's Service Fugitive Apprehension Task Force for the Northern District of Florida and five years later, he was promoted to Supervisory Deportation Officer. He helped establish direct oversight to the Harris County Sheriff's Office 287(g) program in Houston, Texas. The 287(g) program enables federal immigration officials to work directly with state and local law enforcement to identify and remove criminal illegal aliens.

In 2010, Mr. Sanchez was promoted to his final position of 287(g) Field Program Manager for ICE, where he managed and provided oversight to various 287(g) programs throughout the southwestern United States. These 287(g) programs include Harris County Sheriff's Office in Houston, Texas, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the Pinal County

Sheriff's Office in Florence, Arizona, and the Mesa Police Department. He was last assigned to the ICE Field Office in Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr. Sanchez has been a resident of Gilbert, Arizona since 2007. Outside of the office, Mr. Sanchez is a loyal fan of all Arizona sports teams. Most importantly, he is a dedicated family man and spends most of his time with his wife of 36 years, Shirley, his two children, Robert and Sandra, and his two Boston Terriers.

I thank Mr. Sanchez for his extraordinary service and life commitment to our country, and congratulations to him on his retirement.

CONGRATULATING SARATOGA  
COUNTY PROSPERITY PARTNER-  
SHIP'S SILVER EXCELLENCE IN  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AWARD

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2017*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership for receiving a Silver Excellence in Economic Development award for its 8@8 e-Newsletter.

Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership is the leading agency in advancing economic development in Saratoga County. The Saratoga Partnership sends out a biweekly e-Newsletter featuring the top eight news items affecting the Saratoga County economy. 8@8 provides important information to stakeholders in the community as a way of creating opportunities that benefit business in Saratoga County. To recognize this important service, the International Economic Development Council presented the Silver Excellence award to the Saratoga Partnership at its annual conference held in late September. This award reflects the Saratoga Partnership's commitment to building a business environment where all companies can succeed.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership on its well-deserved award. We are grateful that the Saratoga Partnership can provide this informative e-Newsletter to the people of Saratoga County.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS.  
CHRISTINE DAVIS

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2017*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a 7th District resident, Ms. Christine Davis who made her transition to be with the Lord on September 30, 2017. Christine Davis was born on December 20, 1934 in Bernie, Missouri to the union of Emmitt Davis and Carolyn Davis, both of whom preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her son Calvin Davis, brother Robert Davis and sister Darlene Armstead. Christine accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal savior at an early age

under the leadership of Pastor Jesse G. Wilson of Bernie, Missouri. Later she joined Garden of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church—under the leadership of Pastor Johnnie Haynie. She was a proud member of the usher board and president of the Mother's Board.

Christine relocated to the West Side of Chicago in the 1950's. She loved her church and was a committed servant in attending worship, until her health prevented her to do so. Christine made sure her wisdom and knowledge was passed to her family. She did everything necessary to help them succeed in life. Christine lived a long and rich life. She will be remembered as a thoughtful, caring and generous person, who will be greatly missed and loved forever.

Christine was employed by various jobs and later retired as a caretaker after 20 years of service. She loved spending time with her family and her church family. She prepared many great meals at home, which were enjoyed by all. Her hobbies were cooking, sewing, reading and watching the Chicago Bulls.

Ms. Davis leaves to cherish her memories; her sisters Juanita Price, Jean Davidson and Margaret Hawes, her three daughters Elaine Rasberry (Eugene), Tarnesha Hawkins (Stanley) and Lawana, nine grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

I have no doubt that Ms. Christine Davis lived a fulfilling life and will be missed by all because "the best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen, not touched. But are felt in the heart." Her family members are in my prayers, and it is my hope that her memory will give them comfort in the years to come.

#### CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF RUTH RILEY

#### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2017*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Ruth Riley, who served as my district scheduler for 16 years.

It is hard to believe how quickly time passes, and throughout the years Ruth remains consistent and constant with a warmth and grace, which endears her to all. A daughter of Ohio and a proud political science graduate of the University of Cincinnati, Ms. Riley moved to Atlanta to pursue a promising career in the private sector. In 2001, I invited her to join my Atlanta staff in the trusted position of serving as the district scheduler.

As you well know, Mr. Speaker, scheduling is one of the most challenging and key positions in any congressional office. This is especially true in Georgia's diverse and vibrant Fifth Congressional District. Every year, Ms. Riley works with me to review thousands of requests. In fact, there are more invitations for speeches, visits, and tours in Georgia's Fifth Congressional District and the State of Georgia, than there are days in the year. It is never-ending work.

Within our office, Ruth plays a critical role through a brand and perspective that is uniquely her own. As a result, many staff seek her counsel and comfort on difficult days. We

all appreciate Ruth's vibrant, work-life balance and love of life and art. Many know her appreciation of photography as a shutterbug enthusiast, passion for beauty as a licensed esthetician, and commitment to service through the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

I know Ms. Riley's family and friends play a critical role in supporting and shaping this dynamic woman, and I personally believe the cherished memories of Ruth's beloved grandmother, Ms. V. Blondell Pryor, contribute to her work ethic and kindness. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I am particularly grateful to her family—especially her husband, James Preston Riley, Jr.; beautiful children—James Heru Thornton Riley, III, David Nkosi Erskine Riley, II, and Langston Amon Pryor Riley; and mother—Sandra Elizabeth Fletcher.

Perhaps most importantly, Ms. Riley is a constant champion and advocate for each and every person; she treats everyone with a distinct professionalism, courtesy, and compassion, which reflect her corporate experience and commitment to the principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of the Beloved Community. Ruth remains committed to protecting the principles of democracy and ensuring the access of the people to their elected representative.

It is for these reasons that I thank Ms. Ruth Riley for her trust, service, and commitment to my office and the people we serve.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JACKY ROSEN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2017*

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 5th, on Roll Call Votes 555, 556, and 557, I was not present because I was tending to my community in Las Vegas, in the aftermath of the deadliest mass shooting in United States history. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call vote 555, NAY on Roll Call vote 556, and NAY on Roll Call vote 557.

#### HONORING EDGAR BALLESTAS

#### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2017*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edgar Ballestas, an extraordinary local photographer and winner of my 2017 cover photo challenge. Edgar's image of the sun setting over the Rochester skyline is remarkable, and a testament to our city's great beauty.

Edgar is an English as a Second Language (ESOL) teacher for our local school district; and in his free time captures images throughout Rochester and Monroe County. His work often highlights our region's proudest attractions—the Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, the Upper Falls in Letchworth State Park and much, much more. His pictures have even been hung in galleries like Image City Photography in Rochester.

We should never lose sight of the districts and the constituents we fight for every day. Edgar's photograph is a tribute and a reminder

of why I come to Congress and work so hard for Rochester and Monroe County. I congratulate Edgar on his work and his achievement and thank him for his tremendous submission.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. CHRIS DOMES

#### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to recognize Dr. Chris Domes and congratulate him on the occasion of his inauguration as the sixth president of Neumann University in Aston, PA. Dr. Domes succeeds my friend of many years Dr. Rosalie Mirenda, who served Neumann and our wider community for more than four decades.

Neumann University is a well-respected Catholic institution founded with the mission of nurturing the intellectual and religious spirit of its students. Neumann opened its doors as Our Lady of Angels College in 1965, with the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia educating 115 female students. In the years since, it has welcomed male students and changed its name to honor Saint John Neumann, the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia and a pioneer in Catholic education in the United States. Today, Neumann educates almost 3,000 students and nearly 14,000 alumni have benefitted from their Neumann education.

It was at a school not unlike Neumann where Dr. Domes found both his Catholic faith and his love of teaching—St. Bonaventure University, in Upstate New York. Since then, he has devoted his life to scholarship and worship.

Dr. Domes is exceptionally qualified for this position. He has over 31 years of experience in education and most recently served as president of Silver Lake College in Wisconsin. In this capacity, Dr. Domes oversaw a 52 percent expansion of the school's enrollment and a 64 percent increase in annual fundraising. He is a proven leader who will bring years of relevant experience to Neumann.

I know Dr. Domes will fit well into the Neumann University family and will work to make it stronger. I also wish Dr. Mirenda the best as she moves on from her position as President, and I wish the Neumann community continued prosperity with Dr. Domes at the helm.

#### HONORING ST. SYMPHOROSA PARISH ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2017*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Symphorosa Parish, an exemplary Roman Catholic Parish on the Southwest Side of Chicago, Illinois, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

Founded in 1927, St. Symphorosa Parish has remained a steadfast beacon to our local community. Father J. Leo Sharp established this parish as a place of worship to serve the religious and social needs of the people of the Clearing neighborhood. To this day, the parish continues to espouse the same welcoming spirit as it has from the outset.