

Godfather of the Toledo-area German-American Festival.

Fritz was born on July 4, 1931, and grew up in war-torn Germany. He lost his father and other members of his family during the conflict. These tragedies and the difficulty that his mother and his sister and he lived through taught him many things. One such lesson was one that he passed down to his children and grandchildren: "Tough times don't last but tough people do." As his wife Ann says, "That was his mantra with the kids, and even for himself. He went through a lot."

After the war, Fritz learned to be a barber and cut hair at the U.S. 7th Army headquarters in Heidelberg. It was appropriate that Fritz was born on the Fourth of July because his time spent working on the base inspired him to move to the United States. He first immigrated to Canada where he worked as a barber and then earned enough to be granted a U.S. visa.

In 1958, Fritz moved to Toledo, Ohio and began his new life by purchasing a barber business. He later went into sales at Ottawa Hills Memorial Park and was a co-owner of Fritz and Alfredo's, where the German and Mexican dishes on the menu were very popular.

Fritz thrived in Toledo, meeting his loving wife Ann, whom he married on September 9, 1961. He and Ann had 2 daughters, Susan Molloy and Tina Zientarski, and were blessed with six grandchildren: Mitchell, Michael, Matthew, Katherine, Zachary and Grace.

He dedicated himself to his family and to sharing his pride of his German heritage. He was an active member of the American Turners Club, Bavarian Sports Club and the Toledo Schwaben Verein. At one point there were seven separate German societies in Toledo, and Fritz, along with his friends, was instrumental in bringing the seven societies together to organize one major event, the annual German-American Festival which attracts over 35,000 people annually. The first German-American festival was held in 1966.

Fritz was passionate about music as well, where he led one of the area's most popular German bands, The Tirolers. The band played German music at festival and functions in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

In 1977, he received the Bundesverdienstkreuz, or, the Federal Cross of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany, an honor given to citizens of other countries who work to promote German cultural activities in the United States.

Upon his retirement from the restaurant business in Toledo in 2005, Fritz and Ann moved to Delray Beach, Florida, where he immediately joined the Lantana German-American Club and led as the Director of the Club Choir.

Fritz Gerhard Hetzel had never-ending energy and gave his all to his family, community, businesses, and cultural activities. We should all aspire to be a selfless leader as he was.

Goodbye (Auf Wiedersehen), Fritz.

IN RECOGNITION OF LTC CHARLES KETTLES FOR HIS BRAVERY AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Charles Kettles for his outstanding service to the United States during the Vietnam War. LTC Kettles' quick thinking and actions during a firefight with the enemy singlehandedly saved the lives of 44 fellow service members.

LTC Kettles began his military career in 1951 when he was drafted into the Army. He was then commissioned as an armor officer in the Army Reserve in 1953 and subsequently graduated from Army Aviation School, after which time he served active duty tours in Japan, Korea and Thailand. Kettles returned to serve in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, where he demonstrated outstanding heroism and service on behalf of the country.

On May 15, 1967, after an airborne infantry unit was ambushed in the Song Tra Cau riverbed in Vietnam by the North Vietnamese Army, then-Major Kettles led three helicopter flights into extremely hostile territory to deliver supplies, reinforcements, and evacuate the wounded and trapped. During the final flight, shortly after leaving the landing zone, then-Major Kettles was informed that eight soldiers remained on the ground. Without hesitating, he returned on his own, without regard for his own safety and with no other support, to rescue the remaining men. For his actions, LTC Kettles was awarded the Medal of Honor on June 18, 2016, following a large grassroots effort as well as a special Act of Congress to waive the time limit for the award.

LTC Kettles is a true American hero whose bravery and courage under fire are extraordinary and worthy of special commendation. With the efforts of the Veterans History Project, his friends and family, as well as a bipartisan effort from Congress, LTC Kettles was finally able to receive the recognition he deserved. It is a privilege to honor LTC Kettles for his selfless actions that saved so many lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring LTC Charles Kettles for record of bravery during the Vietnam War. His actions will stand the test of time as an example of true valor and courage.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF MOPAR'S WINCHESTER PARTS DISTRIBUTION CENTER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you and our colleagues the news of an infusion of economic vitality in Virginia's 10th Congressional District. On Tuesday, April 18th, Mopar, the service, parts and customer-care brand of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, will have celebrated the Grand Opening of a

400,000-plus square foot parts distribution center outside of Winchester, in the northern Shenandoah Valley. When fully operational this November, Mopar will have hired 70 workers who, each year, will be shipping 9.2 million auto parts to a couple hundred dealerships in the mid-Atlantic region. Mopar has signed a 15-year lease with Equus Capital Partners and will invest \$12.2 million into equipment for the facility.

First introduced as the name of a line of antifreeze products in 1937, the Mopar brand, which comes from a contraction of the words "motor parts," celebrates 80 years of a significant transformation that today encompasses total service, parts and customer care for Fiat Chrysler Automobile owners around the globe.

The choice of Frederick County, Virginia is an ideal location for Mopar in fulfilling its goal of better and more efficiently servicing Mid-Atlantic regional dealers. Located at the midpoint of the East Coast, Mopar will be able to move product in and out of Frederick County with ease via multiple highways, including Interstates 81 and 66. Frederick County's pro-business tax structure and important workforce development initiatives have led to the county being recognized as among the top 10 percent of all Virginia localities for new job creation and top 15 percent for capital investment over the past decade. In fact, Forbes lists Frederick County and the greater Winchester region as among the top 20 "best small places for business and careers" in the nation.

The quality of the workforce is a critically important consideration of companies as they make decisions about where to locate their operations and I am proud of my constituents in the northern Shenandoah Valley for being the hard working, well-educated workforce that attracts employers to the area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' Mopar, for 80 years of success and for hiring American workers to distribute automobile parts to customers around the nation, including an additional 70 workers who will be hired at the newly established distribution center in Frederick County, Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO BRIANNE SANCHEZ

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brianne Sanchez for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Brianne is the Community Relations Manager at Des Moines University, and is very active in the young professional's community in

Des Moines. She was honored as the 2015 YPC Amy Jennings YP Impact Award winner, and co-founded the Des Moines Chapter of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network. Brianne enjoys spending time with her husband Joe and children Emmett and Eileen, especially going for family bike rides.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brianne in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Brianne on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

EARTH FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a family-owned and operated company celebrating its 50th anniversary on April 21, 2017.

When it comes to trends that will keep America competitive in the global economy for generations to come, we think of innovation, entrepreneurship, environmentally friendly businesses, and manufacturing. I was sent to Congress by my constituents to look for innovative ways to bring these trends together, and today I am reminded that a shining example resides right here in my district in Addison, Illinois.

The founding of Earth Friendly Products (ECOS) is a story that rivals any other. The founder, Van Vlahakis, immigrated from Greece to the United States with \$22 in his pocket in 1953 to escape poverty after World War II. First living in homeless shelters and speaking little English, he went on to study chemistry at Roosevelt University while working the night shift at a cleaning products company. During his work, he was exposed to harsh chemicals that gave him headaches and caused co-workers to suffer from rashes and other irritations. Remembering that his mother in Greece used natural substances such as water, vinegar and olive oil for cleaning, Vlahakis decided to start his own business to make better cleaning products. In 1967, he created in his home's garage what would become Earth Friendly Products. ECOS now sells more than 200 environmentally friendly cleaning products in more than 60 countries and has been recognized with safety awards by the Environmental Protection Agency.

We all know we need to make more things in America again. ECOS is a great example of using clean technology to do that while still creating jobs for Illinois working families. Transforming Illinois into a center for science, technology, and innovation is the kind of opportunity that many of us envision for our state. This 50th anniversary for ECOS is an opportunity to remind the country that we can continue to use clean products that protect the environment while creating good-paying jobs at the same time. For ECOS, that means a \$17 per hour companywide minimum wage started by the company in 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have Earth Friendly Products in my district, and I look forward to the company continuing to create jobs for my constituents for the next 50 years. I celebrate the 50th anniversary of ECOS and the impact the company has had throughout the country.

IN RECOGNITION OF DICK THELEN FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dick Thelen for being named a finalist for the Wins for Warriors Veteran of the Year Award at the 2017 Governor's Fitness Awards Banquet. Mr. Thelen served his country with distinction and demonstrated extraordinary courage during the sinking of the USS *Indianapolis* during World War II.

Mr. Thelen, born and raised in Lansing, Michigan, joined the United States Navy in 1944 at the age of 17. The following year, he was posted on the USS *Indianapolis* in the Pacific as it was tasked with delivering the first atomic bomb to the Mariana Islands. After completing this task, the ship moved toward the Philippines to meet up with the 7th Fleet in preparation for a possible invasion of the Japanese mainland. However, during its voyage, the USS *Indianapolis* was attacked and sunk by a Japanese submarine. In the aftermath, Thelen and hundreds of other sailors were forced to float in the water for days while awaiting rescue. Of the crew of 1,197, only 317, including Thelen, made it home.

Thelen is a true hero who endured unspeakable hardship during his service to the United States. His actions and cool head during the aftermath of the USS *Indianapolis* sinking saved lives, and perseverance and character during these difficult circumstances speaks to his resourcefulness and tenacity. It is heartening to see Mr. Thelen continue to be recognized for his heroism, and events like these provide an important opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices our veterans make for our country and the values that it represents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dick Thelen for being named a finalist for the 2017 Wins for Warriors Veteran of the Year Award. Mr. Thelen is a true hero who has made tremendous sacrifices on behalf of our country.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY COOKE, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP, AMERICAN ASSO- CIATION OF NURSE PRACTI- TIONERS

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize a constituent of mine, Cindy Cooke, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP, of Huntsville, Alabama, for her service over the last two years as President of the Amer-

ican Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

Dr. Cooke has an exemplary career of service with 42 years as an experienced nurse and nurse practitioner. As a nationally board certified family nurse practitioner, Dr. Cooke has provided care to patients for 18 years and for over 12 years exclusively to active duty and retired military members and their families.

Dr. Cooke has been involved in local, state, and national nurse practitioner organizations. Prior to her term as AANP President, Dr. Cooke was past President of North Alabama Nurse Practitioner Association (NANPA), the founding President of the Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Alabama (NPAA), past American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) State Representative for Alabama, and past AANP Regional Director. Dr. Cooke has been active in speaking locally and nationally on various clinical and health policy topics. She was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in 2009.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners is a national professional membership organization representing over 225,000 nurse practitioners nationally. Under Dr. Cooke's tenure, AANP membership has grown to more than 75,000 members, making AANP the largest nurse practitioner organization in the world. Dr. Cooke has helped lead nurse practitioners in transforming patient-centered health care and has made tremendous strides in ensuring that policy makers and the public understand the care that nurse practitioners provide to millions of Americans each year.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Cooke on a successful term as President of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and in thanking her for the excellent care she has provided to her patients, the nurse practitioner profession, and the constituents in the Fifth District of Alabama.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY VISION2READ NATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 19, 2017

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, San Bernardino Council of Governments Board of Directors, and school districts and agencies throughout San Bernardino County that have adopted the County's Vision2Read early literacy program.

The San Bernardino County Vision2Read National Press Conference was held on April 19, 2017 to announce a newly formed partnership between San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, San Bernardino County Preschool Services, First 5 San Bernardino, and the Children's Fund, which will offer the nationally acclaimed services of Footsteps2Brilliance to residents in San Bernardino County. Footsteps2Brilliance will provide free access to early literacy activities in English and Spanish to all families with pre-kindergarten children.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to thank all agencies, organizations, and volunteers involved in this collaboration to provide the resources of