

businesswoman, a philanthropist and an activist who has worked tirelessly to open doors for women. Ms. Syms is receiving the Carolyn Maloney Leadership Award tonight from our great Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright. Not only is Ms. Syms a corporate leader, but she has generously given of her time, experience and resources to leveling the playing field and helping other women find success.

President and founder of the Sy Syms Foundation and former CEO of the Syms Corporation, Ms. Syms has played key roles in both private and non-profit companies. She was one of the youngest women ever named President of a publicly-traded New York Stock Exchange company.

At a time when many entrepreneurs were grooming their sons for leadership but overlooking their daughters, Ms. Syms was fortunate enough to have a father who gave her opportunities and encouraged her to learn the business. Ms. Syms started working at Strauss Communications WMCA and Channel 13 before joining Syms Corporation. She joined Syms Corporation in 1978 when the company expanded into women's clothing. At first, she was invited to be the voice of the company in a radio commercial, but then used her marketing skills to create a media plan for the company. She realized quickly that she loved the business and that she wanted to spend her career working for the company her father had created. Benefitting from the trust and support of her father, she took increasingly prominent roles in the company and eventually became its CEO.

Ms. Syms also has served as the Chair of the Small Business and Agricultural Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Ms. Syms has served as a director of Rite Aid Corporation.

Throughout her career, Ms. Syms has been dedicated to helping open doors for other women. She has been a leader in speaking out for women's rights and encouraging the passage of an equal rights amendment to the US constitution, a cause that is very dear to my own heart.

Ms. Syms has been a member of New York Women's Foundation, whose grants to underserved women and girls are helping to address longstanding inequities. She has been a generous supporter of Ms. Foundation and was an early chair of its Take Our Daughters to Work Day. She has supported the Women's Campaign Fund and the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (now known as Legal Momentum). She was a founding member of the Womensphere Global Network, an organization dedicated to closing gender gaps, and in empowering women and girls to create the future through leadership, innovation, sustainability, entrepreneurship, education. She is a member of C200, a networking organization for women in business that encourages members to support one another's professional and personal growth while inspiring and advancing future women business leaders. She has been a board member of both Veteran Feminists of America and the ERA Coalition. In all of these activities, Ms. Syms has played a critical role in helping women network and breach barriers that stood in the way of their success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary achievements of Marcy Syms, a dynamic and hardworking leader who has made a difference throughout her career.

THE USO SUPPORTS OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as American soldiers risk their lives in the Global War on Terrorism to protect American families, the United Service Organization (USO) is more important than ever. I am grateful to participate in the USO Care Package Day on the Hill today led by CEO and President J.D. Crouch, II, along with Senior Vice President Virginia H. Johnson.

The USO has always been at the forefront of entertaining and caring for our brave troops and their families. As a 31-year veteran of the Army Reserve and National Guard as well as a father of four sons who have served in the Armed Forces overseas, as well as a member of the Congressional USO Caucus, I am especially grateful for the USO.

Today, with the help of 30,000 volunteers, the USO provides approximately 1.5 million hours of community service each year.

I am especially grateful for USO South Carolina, led ably by Director Joanie Thresher. There are USO locations in the Second Congressional District at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport and Fort Jackson with extraordinary welcoming volunteers. I also thank longtime friend Jed Becker as President of the USO National Board of Governors.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF PASTOR I.J. JOHNSON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Pastor Isiah J. Johnson; senior pastor and founder of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, who, through his ministry, brought hundreds to Christ, was one of the longest tenured Pastors in the United States, and served as a valued member of the Toledo community.

Pastor Johnson was born to Mary and Levi Johnson in Troy, Alabama. He was one of eleven siblings. He was a graduate of Academy High School in Troy and Easonian Baptist Seminary in Birmingham.

His call to ministry came to him from youth experiences at church where his father was a deacon and he looked forward to Sunday services, especially listening to the preacher at his family's church. His family tells us that at the age of only 12, he felt the spirit had called him while playing church with some friends. After that moment, he would preach "to the corn stalks and any siblings who listened to him."

After being ordained at the age of 19, he served as a pastor of four churches in Alabama before settling in Toledo and founding St. Mark's in 1955. Pastor Johnson met the love of his life, Betty Rae Johnson in Toledo and they were married on August 26, 1958.

Pastor Johnson served the Toledo community for many years on various committees and boards. He is the past Chairman of the Civic Committee (Pastor's Conference—Toledo), President of the Baptist Ministerial Alliance, TARTA Board member, founder of the Fairside Community Center, Mental Health Board of Toledo member, and a member of the Evangelist Board of the National Baptist Convention.

Pastor Johnson was recognized by Mayor Ford of Tuskegee, Alabama on July 20, 1994, who sponsored a resolution that instituted July 20th as Rev. I.J. Johnson Day in Tuskegee. He was further recognized by the Mayor and City Council of Toledo on June 3, 2008 where Detroit Avenue from Fernwood Avenue to Dorr Street was dedicated as Rev. I.J. Johnson Way.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years; daughters Annie Wright, Denisee Gaston and Angela Taylor; sons, Jim, Eric, Izear, the Rev. Michael, and the Rev. Curley Johnson; brother, Alonzo Johnson; 28 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by daughters Mary Stokes and Darlene Baker.

Pastor Johnson will be remembered admirably by the many people he ministered to, his fellow church and community members, and his family and friends. We offer them our prayers and hope that they find comfort in the wonderful memories of what Pastor Johnson had meant to each of the people who shared in his life. Mentor and friend to many, his charismatic leadership will be cherished.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE INAUGURAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 4 Fairfax, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Air Force after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities, and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selflessness and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the United States Air Force:

Moon Kyung Cho; Jannela Lopez De Guzman; Gabriel Nicole White; Reynaldo Campos.

These students will be honored by the Fairfax Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their Inaugural Military Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at the Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, VA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served and will serve a debt of gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARIE
TORNIALI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I am pleased to honor Marie Torniali, Chairperson of Queens Community Board 1 and a longtime activist in the Astoria/Long Island City community. I am delighted to recognize her remarkable contributions at a slightly belated event along with Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas. Marie has spent her life working to make our community a better place to live and work.

Marie moved to Astoria in 1979, and fell in love with the neighborhood, a beautiful, welcoming, diverse community with wonderful parks, great organizations and world class restaurants. In 1986, Marie had a life-changing interview with Julie Wager, who was then head of the Central Astoria Local Development Corporation. She was interviewed for what was supposed to be a part time, temporary position. Thirty years later, she runs the place. Marie was fortunate to be mentored by Mr. Wager, who was a remarkable advocate for the community. He taught her that all things are possible with a little persistence and a lot of nudging.

Early in her time at Central Astoria, Marie was part of the team that fought to create a business improvement district on Steinway Street, Astoria's central business strip. When the Steinway Street BID came into being in 1991, Marie became its Manager.

In 2003, Marie was appointed the Executive Director of Central Astoria and the Steinway Astoria Partnership. In these positions, Marie has shown herself to be an outstanding organizer who has succeeded in providing more cultural programming and community development and who has fought to preserve affordable housing. She has also worked to expand the Independence Day celebration which has become a premier event in Queens under her leadership. She has worked to produce Movies on the Waterfront to complement the Waterfront Concert Series, the Dine Astoria Placemaking Initiative, Astoria's Holiday Tree Lighting, the Celebrate Astoria Cultural Fest and the Annual Spring Fling. Marie spearheaded the effort to restore the Steinway Landmarked Clock. She has created graffiti removal programs in Astoria's business districts and the Steinway Street Streetscape program. In addition, in order to assist seniors, she created the Senior One Stop Shop assistance program.

In 2010, Marie joined Queens Community Board 1 and was elected its Chairperson in 2017. Through the community board, Marie has had an impact on issues related to land use, street fairs, liquor licenses, landmark preservation and a host of other issues.

Marie is passionate about Astoria's uniqueness: its kaleidoscope of people; its small businesses and restaurants; its beautiful parks; its history and culture. Marie believes that her work to help Astoria thrive is made easier by the team spirit of her neighbors. Their civic-mindedness encourages residents, business leaders, civic organizations and elected officials to work together—and Marie

is convinced they have succeeded in making Astoria into the best neighborhood in New York City. I admire Marie's dedication, her passion, her delight in all the things that make Astoria a great place to live and work. She is one of the great sources of strength of the Astoria community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the achievements of Marie Torniali, whose hard work, enthusiasm and true love for Astoria have helped this neighborhood flourish.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, due to travel complications, I was absent for the votes that occurred on May 21, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 207; Yea on Roll Call No. 208; and Yea on Roll Call No. 209.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MRS. SNEHA MINISANDRAM PHAM TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND CALIFORNIA'S 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional woman who spent almost two years in our office contributing greatly to our efforts on behalf of California's Eleventh Congressional District, Sneha Minisandram Pham.

Sneha regularly welcomed visitors to our Washington, D.C. office and was a model example of providing excellent customer service. Through her work, she assisted thousands of constituents with tour and flag requests, helped streamline and manage the high volume of mail we receive, and was integral in helping to ensure that our office put constituents first.

Sneha's work is one of the reasons that our office was selected as a finalist for the Congressional Management Foundation's Democracy Award in Constituent Service, which I am very proud of.

She is a smart, resourceful, and charismatic person who brings a positive attitude and demeanor to all who have the pleasure of interacting with her.

Sneha's departure from our office is bittersweet as she and her husband continue their journey together in Boston. I offer her my sincere gratitude for a job well done and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. She will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 21, 2018, I was unable to vote due to a delayed flight. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call no. 207, YEA; on roll call no. 208, YEA; and on roll call no. 209, YEA.

IN RECOGNITION OF SISTER TESA FITZGERALD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Sister Tesa Fitzgerald, the powerhouse behind Hour Children, an exceptional organization that helps incarcerated women and their children in New York State. I am delighted to recognize her remarkable contributions at a slightly belated event along with Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas. Sister Tesa is one of New York's most inspiring, dedicated and compassionate leaders.

After joining the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sister Tesa taught in a number of local Catholic elementary schools before becoming the principal of Saint Vincent DePaul School in Brooklyn. She was then appointed Curriculum Coordinator for the Diocese of Brooklyn.

In 1986, at the request of Sister Elaine Roulet, Sister Tesa opened the doors of St. Rita's Convent in Long Island City to children whose mothers were incarcerated at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. The convent was renamed "My Mother's House" and Sister Tesa and four other Sisters of St. Joseph in residence welcomed 8 children whose mothers were in jail. The children attended school, took dancing lessons, played on sports teams and, in the evening, had the sisters to help them with their homework. Each week, Sister Tesa would bring the children to the prison to visit with their mothers. There, she learned of the struggles of incarcerated women. She started volunteering to help the women—tutoring them, helping them prepare for release, helping them find their children and assisting in family reunification. These efforts grew into Hour Children, a Long Island City-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

Today, Hour Children provides transitional and permanent supportive housing to approximately 70 families at seven sites located throughout Queens. In addition, Hour Children offers a job training/reentry program; case management; therapeutic counseling; mentoring programs for children and adults; a fully-licensed day care center; an after-school program; and a community food pantry.

Hour Children also works inside Riker's Island, Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities to provide parenting classes, pre-release preparation, advocacy services, transportation and family visitation programs. At Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, Hour Children administers New York State's only nursery for infants born to incarcerated women,