

## RECOGNIZING D. M. BOWMAN'S 60 YEARS IN BUSINESS

**HON. DAVID J. TRONE**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 2019*

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize D. M. Bowman, Inc., a transportation and logistics company based in Williamsport, Maryland. This company has used innovation and work ethic to make its mark on the trucking world. In 1996, D. M. Bowman Founder and Chairman Don Bowman designated this week as Driver Appreciation Week, an annual event celebrating the hard work drivers do every day. This year, I am honored to highlight the achievements of his incredible company and recognize our nation's truck drivers, who provide all Americans a great service.

This year, D. M. Bowman is celebrating 60 years in business. Throughout this time, the company has been an invaluable source of economic development and jobs for Maryland's Sixth District. Although the business began as a one-man operation, due to Don Bowman's determination and expertise, it quickly began to pick up speed. Now, D. M. Bowman has an exceptional fleet of 382 power units and 8 terminals on the east coast.

As the company grew, so did its outreach efforts. Today, D. M. Bowman works with Hagerstown Community College Driving School to help individuals who obtain their commercial driver's licenses find new career opportunities.

On behalf of the residents of Maryland's Sixth Congressional District, I thank D. M. Bowman and its dedicated team for all that they have done for our community and recognize the 112,900 people employed by the trucking industry in our great state.

## RECOGNIZING DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVANT, MARGOT BESTER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished public servant, Margot Bester, who, after nearly 25 years of dedicated service to the American people, is retiring from her position as Principal Deputy Chief Counsel at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

Ms. Bester has served as second in command of the Office of Chief Counsel since the months following the creation of TSA, a component of the Department of Homeland Security created by Congress to ensure transportation security for our nation in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks which occurred 18 years ago today.

In coordination with the Chief Counsel, Ms. Bester has overseen the legal work of the attorneys at TSA and has been primarily responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Office of Chief Counsel.

Ms. Bester joined the TSA Office of Chief Counsel in April 2002. In August of that year, she was selected by Admiral James Loy, then Under Secretary of Transportation for Security,

to represent TSA in its transition to DHS. She also served as the transportation security advisor to DHS Under Secretary Asa Hutchinson. In recognition of her service to the newly formed Department, Ms. Bester received the Department of Homeland Security "Day One" Award.

Early in her career, she was Director of Regulatory Relations with the United States Telephone Association and an attorney with the Federal Communications Commission.

A first-generation American, Ms. Bester was born in Buffalo, NY, to parents that had been granted asylum in our country after surviving the atrocities of the Second World War. Love of country and the importance of being an active, engaged citizen were ingrained at a young age. Ms. Bester has often spoken of the great honor of serving, protecting, and giving back to our nation, which provided opportunity and security for her family during dire circumstances.

Her passion for public service is second only to her dedication to her family. Of her many accomplishments, Ms. Bester is most proud as a mother to her sons, Brian and Eric, and as grandmother to Chase and Ava.

After spending a career protecting our Nation's transportation security, Ms. Bester now heads to an extremely well-deserved retirement from Federal service. I ask my colleagues to join me in sending the very best wishes and congratulations of the House as well as our thanks for her remarkable career and her notable service to our country.

## IN RECOGNITION OF JIM THOMAS, RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA Executive Director Jim Thomas. Jim received the 2019 Community Service Award from the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame at the 35th annual dinner on August 11, 2019 for his leadership and service to the greater Wilkes-Barre area.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Throughout his career, Jim has been dedicated to serving the Luzerne County community in a variety of roles. Following graduation from the Pennsylvania State University, University Park with a Bachelor of Science in Parks and Recreation, Jim immediately put his knowledge to action by serving as the Seasonal YMCA Summer Camp Director for Camp Kresge in White Haven, Pennsylvania. Later, Jim became the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA Youth Director. He established a local indoor premier soccer program with more than two-thousand participants, while also working with the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources to start a YMCA program located in a state park.

From June 1986 to April 1994, Jim served as the Wilkes-Barre YMCA Program Execu-

tive, where he was responsible for membership and program development. Since May 1994, Jim has served as the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA Executive Director, successfully spearheading numerous campaigns and raising millions of dollars to improve facilities of the Wilkes-Barre YMCA and to offer access opportunities to low income families. He also led effort to construct five new facilities at Camp Kresge and rebuild existing infrastructure to improve the camp for future generations.

Jim is also a member of numerous associations and societies, including the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society, the Pennsylvania State University Recreation and Parks Society, the Kiwanis Club of Wilkes-Barre, the Riverfront Parks Association, the Downtown Business Association, and the State Public Policy Committee.

It is an honor to join with the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in recognizing Jim's lifetime of effort. May his hard work and dedication to the community continue to have a lasting impact on the greater Wilkes-Barre area.

## IN RECOGNITION OF MR. STEVEN S. SMITH

**HON. JENNIFER WEXTON**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 2019*

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Steven S. Smith, who is retiring from the Drug Enforcement Administration, after 24 years of law enforcement service, culminating as Supervisory Special Agent assigned to the Pharmaceutical Investigations Section as the Group Supervisor for Mobile Diversion Team One (MDT-1) based in Springfield, Virginia.

Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Steven Smith entered on duty with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on March 15, 1995 in Miami, Florida. SSA Smith was first assigned to the Los Angeles Field Division. During his fifteen-year tenure in Los Angeles, then Special Agent (SA) Smith worked in enforcement groups targeting methamphetamine production and trafficking, and Asian heroin distribution. Working in a multi-agency environment at the Southern California Drug Task Force and LAX Group Three, SA Smith coordinated surveillance operations with over a dozen different law enforcement agencies while supporting Title III investigations. While investigating narcotics and money couriers passing through LAX airport, SA Smith's intelligence background in both law enforcement and the military enabled him to rapidly link detained suspects to active federal, state, and local criminal investigations around the country and build partnerships which enhanced the quality of the LAX-G3 cases.

In August 2010, SA Smith transferred to the Las Vegas District Office as a member of the Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS). While assigned to the Las Vegas TDS, SA Smith led an investigation targeting a doctor and an international organized crime ring responsible for the distribution of tens of thousands of prescription tablets. This investigation resulted in the seizure of over 8000 d.u. of oxycodone, \$58,000 U.S. currency, and evidence identifying a local pharmacy as a significant

oxycodone and hydrocodone source of supply. During his tenure at the Las Vegas TDS, SA Smith's investigations brought money laundering charges, substantial monetary civil penalties, and regulatory sanctions to bear along with Title 21 violations against DEA registrants and diversion drug trafficking organizations (DTOs).

In November 2012, SA Smith was promoted to Group Supervisor (GS) of the Oakland Resident Office TDS with an area of responsibility which included over 50,000 DEA registrants in 15 counties of northern coastal California. GS Smith enhanced the mission effectiveness of the group by directing major enforcement initiatives at high value targets within the TDS Area of Responsibility (AoR). Asset seizures from his group increased nearly four-fold from \$510,180 to \$1,989,741, which enabled GS Smith to persuade local agencies to double the number of investigators assigned as Task Force Officers to the TDS. Under SA Smith's leadership, Oakland TDS investigations charged eight doctors and three physician's assistants with criminal offenses and put them out of business for good.

Prior to employment with the DEA, Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Smith served on Active Duty as an Army Reserve Military Intelligence Officer at the South Florida Investigative Support Center (now the South Florida HIDTA Intelligence Center). SSA Smith served in Iraq under the U.S. Army V.Corus during the 2003 invasion. SSA Smith maintained staff oversight of all tactical human intelligence operations in theatre while serving as the CJTF-7 Task Force Counterintelligence Coordination Authority charged with the de-confliction of all counterintelligence operations in the Iraqi Theatre of Operations. SSA Smith holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Florida International University and currently resides in Loudoun County with his wife and two children.

I am proud to represent Mr. Smith in Congress and I thank him and his family for their honorable service to our nation with the United States Army. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Smith as he concludes a distinguished career in public service.

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IN RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR RONALD N. WEISER AND THE OPENING OF THE WEISER DIPLOMACY CENTER

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**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Ambassador Ronald N. Weiser in so many arenas but today specifically for his leadership in launching the Weiser Diplomacy Center at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

The Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan is America's first graduate public service training program. Since 1914, the Ford School has been teaching students how to address the public's most pressing concerns by using research and cutting-edge problem-solving methodologies to develop actionable policy solutions. The Ford

School is renowned for its quantitative analysis of a wide-range of policy issues, making the school a frequent destination for distinguished policymakers from around the world.

Thanks to the wisdom and understanding of University of Michigan alumni and Regent Ronald Weiser and his wife Eileen, the Weiser Diplomacy Center was established at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy in January 2019. The Weiser Diplomacy Center provides a forum for leading diplomats and foreign policy experts to gather and offer practical training sessions and simulations to students to supplement their studies. The center will bring a diverse cadre of seasoned diplomats and foreign policy experts to campus. This year alone, the center will successfully connect students with distinguished leaders like Condoleezza Rice, Hillary Clinton, and Samantha Power, to name a few. In addition, the center sponsors a program for Weiser Diplomacy Fellows and helps students find internships pertaining to foreign affairs. The center will include lessons for students to practice international diplomacy and opportunities to learn from diplomats from around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ambassador Ronald N. Weiser for his dedication to the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. The immediate success of the center is due in no small part to his work and tremendous leadership. Ambassador Weiser's own experience has demonstrated to him the importance of preparing students in a quickly shifting foreign policy world through engagement with experts. The Weiser Diplomacy Center will be an invaluable resource not only for the students participating, but to our country as it trains the leaders of the future. This new diplomacy center will be critical for young people to engage with members of the foreign policy community and inspire a new generation of the importance of this field.

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IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF GLENDI

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**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Glendi, a Greek festival held annually in my hometown of Manchester, NH. Over the past four decades, St. George's Greek Orthodox Cathedral has hosted this event, which celebrates Greek culture, crafts, music, and, of course, food

Every year, Glendi brings together thousands of people from across New Hampshire and the region to celebrate the contributions and traditions of Greek culture in America. I grew up and remain a member of the St. George's family, which for over 100 years has welcomed the faithful to gather and be part of this tight-knit community. Now as a member of Congress I could not be more proud to mark this milestone.

My great-grandfather Arthur Papathanasiou left Livadi, Elassona, a tiny hilltop town in Turkish-occupied northern Greece, to start a better life in 1906, and like many Greek immigrants, his family brought their culture and food and traditions with them.

As a life-long resident of Manchester, Glendi was always a highlight and the chance to see

those traditions and culture on display was particularly special. There is truly no better celebration of the many contributions the Greek community have made in the greater Manchester area than Glendi.

By sharing our Greek traditions with the broader Manchester community, the festival makes our city more inclusive and open.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank George Copadis—President of the Board of Directors, Father Mike, and the St. George's community for their decades of dedication to our community. I congratulate them on this milestone and thank them for all that they do to make our state such a wonderful place to learn, live, and eat.

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IN RECOGNITION OF ANGELINE "ANGIE" NANNI

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**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angeline "Angie" Nanni for her critical role in the once highly classified Venona Project breaking encrypted Soviet communications. Angie, with her unparalleled gift for numbers and analytical thinking, dedicated her career to breaking codes to maintain the safety and security of the United States during the Cold War.

Born August 2, 1918 in the small town of Blairsville, PA, Angie was expected to work in her sisters' beauty salon. Not passionate about being a beautician, she ran the business side of the shop. However, during the end of WWII, Angie and her sisters set off to Washington, D.C. to help with the war effort. Once the war was over, Angie decided to stay near the capital. When the opportunity to take an exam for a government job arose, she decided to take it.

Angie, one of the only non-college educated women taking the coded exam, not only passed with flying colors, but also was the first person to finish the exam. Her natural affinity for numbers allowed her to strip down the codes and extract the pertinent information. Angie joined the female-dominated coalition of cryptanalysts based in Arlington, Virginia post. Described as a "needle-in-a-haystack ability," Angie's job was to match messages coming from two distinct channels, accessing vital information from what were thought to be unbreakable Soviet codes.

During the era of McCarthyism and blind accusations, there was a secret group of women who held more confidential knowledge than any branch of government so close to their chests that not even their family members knew the details of their jobs. Angie worked for the Venona Project until it ended in 1980. At her retirement party, nobody knew from what job she was retiring.

Due to her hard work, in addition to the other members of the Venona Project, many encrypted messages from the KGB were able to be deciphered. Some of the most notable codes Angie helped break were names for many prominent players of the era, including President Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, The Manhattan Project, Julius Rosenberg, and Washington, D.C.