

1998, and joined the Regional Public Affairs Office during November 2005, serving as primary liaison between SSA and the offices of federal, state, and local elected officials. Since that time, Linda has been instrumental in the timely resolution of several thousand constituent inquiries, eliminating barriers between our most vulnerable beneficiaries and their essential cash benefits. She was promoted to Public Affairs Specialist during 2015, the position from which she will retire.

Linda's outstanding contributions to the Agency have been recognized with several awards including Deputy Commissioner's Citations, and the New York Regional Management Society's Regional Office Employee of the Year.

Throughout Linda's career, she has brought intelligence, technical savvy, practical knowledge, and a strong commitment to excellence to every assignment.

Madam Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Linda Lauria and her dedication to public service and her community.

#### RECOGNIZING MICKEY GANITCH

### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mickey Ganitch, World War II (WWII) Navy veteran and survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, who celebrated his 100th birthday on November 18, 2019.

Mr. Ganitch proudly refers to his younger self as, "just a country boy from Ohio." He was born into a large family and had 13 brothers and sisters. As a young man, Mr. Ganitch's curiosity resulted in a close following of world events and he began to see the deterioration of the situations in Europe and Asia. His concern about the human condition drove him to join the Navy in January 1941, less than 11 months before the Pearl Harbor attack.

When December 6, 1941 arrived, Mr. Ganitch was going about his business on the USS *Pennsylvania* in a football jersey. He was on the ship's team and was supposed to play a game against those serving on the USS *Arizona* that day. Shortly before a practice, the ship's phone rang, alerting the crew of an incoming attack. With rounds bombarding the ship and its crew, Mr. Ganitch climbed the main mast to the crow's nest. From there he was able to alert the gunners below of further incoming enemies, allowing them to bring them down and saving the lives of those on the decks beneath him.

While his experience in Pearl Harbor was certainly a defining moment in his life, Mr. Ganitch continued to serve throughout WWII and the Korean War. He was later assigned to a recruitment post in Oakland, California, right back where his military career began, before retiring as a Senior Chief Quartermaster on October 10, 1963.

Mr. Ganitch is a fixture in our community. He is immediately recognizable by his vivid and extensive wardrobe of Hawaiian shirts and larger-than-life smile. He was also known for how well he "cut a rug" during the musical

numbers at every Veterans Day event. Even today, Mr. Ganitch devotes his time to volunteering with veterans' organizations in the Bay Area and educating school children about the war in an effort to never let the events at Pearl Harbor be forgotten.

I thank Mr. Ganitch for his selfless service to our country. I hope to continue learning from his example of a century-long life well-lived.

#### CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROFESSOR KASTURI RANGAN

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Professor Kasturi Rangan of the Harvard Business School on Thursday, November 21, 2019.

Professor Rangan began his education by receiving a Bachelor of Technology degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras in 1971, and an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad in 1973. He then held a number of marketing positions for large corporations in India before receiving a Ph.D. in marketing from Northwestern in 1983.

After receiving his Ph.D. Professor Rangan joined the faculty of the Harvard Business School in 1983 as a marketing professor. He served as the chair of the Marketing Department from 1998–2002 and is currently the chairman of the Harvard Social Enterprise Initiative. He has taught first-year core classes, second-year electives, and in the upper level Advanced Management Program for senior managers. Professor Rangan has also received multiple academic awards over the course of his career, including the 2002 Editors' Prize for the Best Scholarly Paper and the 2014 Case Centre Award in Economics, Politics and Business Environment.

Along with his extensive teaching credentials, Professor Rangan has co-authored ten books and dozens of scholarly articles published in academic journals. One of his recent case studies titled "Performance Marketing in the Digital Age" looks at Gupta Media, a group started by Gogi Gupta who is a close friend of Professor Rangan and from Western New York. His active interest in the continual improvement of marketing and management strategies makes Professor Rangan an invaluable asset to the business community, and an individual whose impact is felt in many communities including my own.

Professor Rangan has actively researched the role of marketing in nonprofit organizations, and often focuses on how this marketing impacts adoption of social products and ideas. His goal is to develop models of successful businesses that bring value to the lowest income earners in our modern economy. Specifically, he is attempting to address the needs and wants of the 4.2 billion individuals worldwide who live on less than \$5 a day. This research should be commended for its value in uplifting the most vulnerable members of our society.

Madam Speaker, I take this time to recognize the achievements and contributions of

Professor Kasturi Rangan. We extend our best wishes as he continues to lead the business community in marketing research and developing solutions for economically disadvantaged individuals.

#### CONGRATULATING DORRIE MERLUZZI ON RECEIPT OF THE AMBASSADORS AWARD

### HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate Dorrie Merluzzi of Palmerton on receiving the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation's (CCEDC) Ambassadors Award.

The Ambassadors Award recognizes an outstanding individual dedicated to supporting the local chamber through organizing and attending events, assisting staff, and serving as the backbone of the organization. Ambassadors selflessly give their time and talents to embody the Chamber's tireless spirit and cultivate a stronger community. Dorinda Merluzzi demonstrates all these qualities in her service to the Chamber and to our community. Always willing to lend a helping hand with a cheerful and calming presence, her leadership, direction, and motivation has set a tremendous example for other Ambassadors.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dorrie Merluzzi on this great honor and thank her for their commitment to strengthening our community.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF PETE SZYMANSKI

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Pete Szymanski who we lost unexpectedly earlier this year. Pete was an extraordinary soul whose kind heart and generosity touched the lives of many.

Pete was a dedicated member of our military having served as a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps and served on active duty at the Detroit Arsenal in Michigan as well as the Army Reserve. Following his active duty service, Pete began a 33-year civilian career with the Army at the Detroit Arsenal before moving to the Stratford Army Engine Plant (SAEP) where he served for 22 years, retiring just this past February. It was through the SAEP that I had the opportunity to meet Pete. He was Army Installation Manager and, though the property was closed many years ago through a Base Realignment and Closure process, Pete remained at the site, hoping to see the property transferred for redevelopment before his retirement. Unfortunately, we are still working towards that goal. I would be remiss if I did not extend a special

note of thanks to Pete for his willingness to work with myself and my staff over the years as we have worked with the Army and the Stratford community to move the transfer and redevelopment process forward.

Pete played a unique and special role in the closure of the SAEP. He was determined that the site would not become just another abandoned eyesore. It was Pete who both envisioned and executed a plan to dispose of the excess Allied Signal machinery in a way that garnered millions of dollars for the Army and it was Pete that approved the use of the SAEP as a redistribution point for the 9–11 recovery supplies. He carefully budgeted every penny of the scarce budget he managed to ensure that the property remained properly maintained. It was also Pete who showed his support for the community by opening the facilities for a variety of activities including K–9 training and the Viki Soto SK, an annual run in memory of the young Stratford teacher whose life was cut tragically short at the school shooting in Newtown.

Pete Szymanski was an extraordinary man whose commitment and dedication to his job and his community earned him the respect and admiration of friends, colleagues, and community leaders alike. Today, I am honored to rise to pay tribute to his memory and to extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Kathryn, and their family. Pete's passing will leave a hole in the hearts of all those who knew him and a void in the community that will never quite be filled.

HONORING LIEUTENANT THOMAS  
EVERT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize today that former Congressman Petri's father, LT Thomas Evert, the pilot, and the crew of U.S. Navy Plane No. 63917 will be posthumously awarded medals for their heroic actions in the sinking of a German U-boat off the coast of the Bahamas in World War II. On August 7, 1943, U.S. Navy plane No. 63917, a U.S. Navy PB4Y Liberator Bomber of Bombing Squadron 105 (VB–105) piloted by Lt. Thomas Evert, USNR, successfully located German U-boat 84 and, after a four-and-a-half-hour engagement at close quarters in the face of hostile enemy fire, sank the submarine.

Prior to this action, German U-boat 84, a type VIII B Boat, was deployed off the coast of the Bahamas and the east coast of Florida. Hundreds of Allied naval vessels as well as, over 3,000 Allied merchant vessels were destroyed resulting in the deaths of over 70,000 aviators and seamen during the Battle of the Atlantic. As with all U-boats, the presence of U-boat 84 posed a serious threat to Allied war efforts in the western hemisphere.

Following their heroic efforts, Lt. Evert and his crew, as well as plane No. 63917 were reassigned to the United Kingdom. On October 22, 1943, Lt. Evert and his crew, along with the Bomber, went down after an aerial engagement with a German Blohm & Voss BV 222 Viking off the Atlantic coast of Europe.

Though long-delayed, the pilot and crew of U.S. Navy plane No. 63917 will receive the following posthumous awards:

LT Thomas Rudolph Evert, pilot: The Distinguished Flying Cross

LT David William Emmet, co-pilot: The Air Medal

ENS James O'Hara, second pilot: The Air Medal

ENS Edward J. Ellis, navigator, bombardier: The Air Medal

AMM1 Kendall L. Dungey, crown turret gunner: The Air Medal

AMM2 Karl J. Bertram, port waist gunner: The Air Medal

ARM2 John F. Wagner, radio operator: The Air Medal

ARM3 James T. Goble, radio operator: The Air Medal

AOM3 Raymond O. Haines, bow lookout, bow gunner: The Air Medal

AMMC3 Edwin Emery Winship, tail turret gunner: The Air Medal

In April 2018, I joined former Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Shuster, current Chairman DEFAZIO, Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, and former Congressman Frank LoBiondo in urging the Navy to approve these awards. These awards are well deserved, and I am pleased to congratulate former Congressman Petri and the families of all the crew members of the PB4Y Liberator Bomber on receiving them.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF  
GUPTA MEDIA GROUP AND MR.  
GUPTA'S COMMITMENT TO THE  
WESTERN NEW YORK COMMU-  
NITY

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the success of Gupta Media and Mr. Gogi Gupta's commitment to the Western New York Community on Thursday, November 21, 2019.

Gupta Media is a digital marketing agency that specializes in media buying, creative design, and technology solutions. Since their founding in 2005 by Gogi Gupta they have consistently been on the forefront of maximizing advertising effectiveness for clients in multiple industries. Currently, Gupta Media represents a number of music artists signed to both large and small record labels, including artists who have performed and been nominated during the Grammy awards show in past years. This October Gupta Media was included as a case study within the Harvard Business Review, where it was recognized as having a successful business model which optimizes its clients marketing dollars with a high degree of performance.

During his youth Mr. Gupta spent some of his time in Pittsburgh before finishing high school in Hamburg, NY, a suburb of Buffalo, NY. He attended Frontier High School before being accepted to Cornell University, where he graduated in 2000 with a degree in public policy. He founded Gupta Media in 2005 after deciding to take his marketing career into his own hands. The company's first major success came when they helped the music duo Aly & AJ reach the top of MTV's "Total Request Live" charts. Since then, Gupta Media

has only grown in stature and now proudly employs more than 50 people.

Following this success Mr. Gupta did not stop, going on to create the automated and publicly available product smartURL in 2011. Built to redirect online users to specific internet destinations based on the country they are accessing the site from, smartURL has been used by professional athletes, multinational corporations, and celebrities, and is another example of the intelligent innovation Mr. Gupta has fostered.

While Mr. Gupta currently lives in Boston, MA, where he manages Gupta Media, he has remained connected to his hometown of Buffalo, NY. He has adopted fandom for the local MLB team, the Boston Red Sox, but is still loyal to his hometown Buffalo Bills and Sabers. Mr. Gogi Gupta is emblematic of the hard work and dedication that the Western New York community thrives on, and I am proud that Mr. Gupta finds his roots in Buffalo.

Madam Speaker, I am certain that Mr. Gupta will continue to be at the forefront of change and foster innovation and creativity. We extend our best wishes to him and Gupta Media as they continue to lead this industry into the future.

CONGRATULATING JENNY'S  
SWEETS & MORE ON RECEIPT OF  
THE ROOKIE BUSINESS OF THE  
YEAR AWARD

**HON. DANIEL MEUSER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate Jenny's Sweets and More in Lehighon on being named the recipient of the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation's Rookie Business of the Year Award.

The Rookie Business of the Year recognizes a business in operation less than two years that has demonstrated enthusiasm, community spirit and commitment to growing in Carbon County. Jenny's Sweets and More, owned by Jennifer Solt-Cerato, has proven to be an outstanding addition to the Lehighon community. In addition to offering delicious candies, Jenny's Sweets and More always has an eye to the community and places a heavy emphasis on giving back. This business brings joy and light to its customers, both young and old, and represents the values of kindness and altruism that are characteristic of our Pennsylvania communities.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jenny's Sweets and More on this great honor and thank her for her commitment to our community.