

the World War II Campaign Medal with four bronze stars, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and a World War II Victory Medal—awards that are long overdue. Throughout his years of service in the United States Military, Corporal Kroll dutifully earned these honors. He bravely defended and made sacrifices for our nation to ensure freedom would persevere for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Corporal Henry Kroll for his exemplary service. We are grateful for his commitment to America, and I am proud that he is finally receiving the recognition he deserves.

REMEMBERING JIM GORDON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and service of Jim Gordon, a committed organizer who devoted over 49 years of his life to fighting for the American worker.

Jim worked as a building serviceman, installer, switchman, repairman, and systems technician. While he was committed to his trade, he knew the importance of collective action and quickly became involved in his Communications Workers of America (CWA) local, serving in several positions including being elected by his peers to lead CWA Local 9412 as their President. In 1984 Jim joined the staff of the Communications Workers of America, serving many years as Legislative/Political Director for California, Nevada and Hawaii, headquartered in Sacramento, California. In that role, he used his deep devotion and experience to get the best deal for his members and was awarded the union's Maxine Lee Award in 1990 for excellence in his work.

Jim understood the importance of public service outside of the union serving in the United States Army in Turkey and as an elected member of the Fremont City Council. Jim also served as a member of the California Democratic Party Central Committee, Chair of the CDP Labor Caucus, and as the Vice President of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Jim's legacy is of a tireless union organizer, devoting countless hours to fighting on behalf of American consumers and workers in the U.S. and abroad. Jim's service to his country and work in the labor movement will continue to help the lives of countless people and his spirit will be missed. Please join me in celebrating his life and his memory.

RECOGNIZING THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. CONNOLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna on the occasion of their 21st anniversary and to thank them for their many con-

tributions to the Northern Virginia community. Organized in 1998, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is a non-profit that provides services to help older adults continue living independently, and it offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization.

Every year, approximately 200 volunteers provide invaluable services in support of older residents who want to age in place in their homes and stay engaged in social activities. Services are available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

Last year, volunteers provided 9,922 hours of service to the Northern Virginia community. Volunteer drivers provided more than 900 round-trip rides for medical needs and other errands. Volunteers also made regular contact with individuals who may have limited interaction and may feel isolated in their homes. "Handy Helpers" made minor home repairs to help older adults keep their homes safe and livable. The Health Team provided individual health counseling, referral to community resources, and blood pressure readings. Volunteers also run programs such as Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and caregivers' support groups.

The services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through the promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use and share their experience, training, and skills. In 2014, SCOV was recognized for these efforts as an Outstanding Volunteer Caregiving Program by the National Volunteer Caregiving Network.

I also want to give special mention to a new series of programs begun by SCOV this year, focused on veteran outreach. Volunteers from SCOV who are veterans themselves reach out to fellow veterans with either a call or an in-person visit or both. The men and women who serve our nation in uniform, especially in combat, are just as vulnerable, if not more so, to the dangers of isolation and depression as our senior population and I commend SCOV for taking this important action to help address that.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna on its 21st anniversary and for its work to enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are truly deserving of our highest praise.

PALMDALE CITY MANAGER JAMES PURTEE RECIPIENT OF 2019 LARRY CHIMBOLE PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Palmdale City Manager James "Jim" Purtee, who will be presented with the Larry Chimbole Public Service Award by the Cali-

fornia League of Cities Desert/Mountain Division. Jim has announced that he will also retire at the end of 2019, after 31 years of public service.

Jim began his diverse public service career with the City of Simi Valley in 1988, where he worked in multiple department and on issues including community services, affordable housing, planning, economic development, and city administration. He was named Simi Valley's Assistant City Manager in July 2012 and was formally appointed to be Palmdale's City Manager on October 5, 2015. Under his leadership, Palmdale's Part I crime rate has decreased to its lowest in a quarter century. Palmdale has also maintained a strong general fund reserve and credit ratings from both of the leading ratings agencies, which is a credit to Jim's strong and strategic management skills. Jim has been very involved with the League of California Cities, where he has served as the Desert/Mountain Division's representative to the League's Administrative Services Policy Committee and Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee.

As a former city councilmember, I know that replacing Jim will be an incredibly tough task for the City of Palmdale, and I wish their councilmembers the best of luck in finding a successor. Jim Puttee embodies all of the qualities of the Larry Chimbole Award, and I congratulate him on this prestigious honor as well as a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LINDA ORANGE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe and mourn the passing of long-time Connecticut State Representative Linda Orange who passed away on November 20, 2019 after a difficult battle with pancreatic cancer that she met with bravery and grace, which characterized her overall approach to the challenges and vagaries of her life.

At the time of her passing, Linda was in her 23rd year of service as a state representative in a district that she shared with me in eastern Connecticut. I can personally attest to her unstinting focus on advocating for her constituency in ways both big and small. Whether it was her committee work, work on the House floor where she rose to the position of Deputy Speaker, or taking a call from a constituent at any time of day, she kept complete and total fidelity to the people who sent her to the State Capitol in Hartford.

I had the privilege to see Linda at work at another time in her life, when she worked in my Committee room during part of the time I served at the State Capitol from 1991–1994. She clerked for me and my colleague then State Senator Ken Prysby when we co-chaired the Joint Committees on Human Services and Public Health. The two of us were a handful for Linda, partly because of the volume of the bills that passed through our doors, but also because the sometimes frenetic pace that could make it a real pressure cooker. To say that we tested her patience at times is an understatement. Her natural good humor and kindness always overcame any

drama, though, and after I left the State Capitol she, Ken, and I always had a lot of laughs reminiscing about that fun time in our lives.

The other special view I had of Linda was through the eyes of my former District Director, the late Jenny Contois, who was Linda's closest friend. Jenny was First Selectwoman in their hometown of Colchester for 15 years before taking the helm at my district office. The two of them were inseparable and were so close they could practically finish each other's sentences. Some of their friends nicknamed them "Laverne and Shirley" since the non-stop banter they engaged in when they were together resembled the memorable comedy duo of sitcom fame. During election season, when Linda and I shared campaign headquarters, Jenny and Linda would hold court in front of the staff and volunteers, always with lots of snacks, drinks, and many times even full meals. It gave the headquarters a special feel that kept morale high which translated into a lot of happy successful Election nights. Jenny sadly passed away four years ago, which was a terrible loss for many, many fellow public officials and townspeople, but it was extremely hard for Linda. At a difficult time like this, it is maybe some small consolation to think that Linda and Jenny are together again, looking down on us all, with lots of new funny banter commenting on all of us who knew them.

Madam Speaker, I would ask the entire body to join me in expressing our deepest condolences to Linda's husband Dennis, and her entire family for their loss and salute her inspirational example of a life well lived in the service of others. I include in the RECORD the text of her obituary, which perfectly captures her life and legacy.

CT State Representative Linda Ann (Smith) Orange, 69, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by her loving husband, sons, family, and friends, on November 20, 2019 after a sudden and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. During this time, she continued to put family, friends and community first. Linda's grace and courage never faltered. Linda and her family are grateful for the outpouring of well wishes that brought her joy and smiles. She never lost her sparkle.

She was born in Hartford, CT on September 25, 1950 to the late Arthur L. and Anna (Gemeasky) Smith. Linda grew up in Marlborough and attended RHAM High School, became a respiratory therapist, and had a distinctive public service career. Linda was very dedicated to her two sons and always active in their lives, especially as they were growing up. She was very active in their schools, Boys Scouts, baseball games and as a second grade catechism teacher. She served as a member and chair of the Colchester Board of Assessment Appeals, the Colchester Police Commission, the East Haddam Historical Society, and as a corporator of William W. Backus Hospital. She also was an honorary member of the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company and a Major in the Connecticut Civil Air Patrol, Legislative Wing. Linda was an enthusiastic member of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee and the Colchester Democratic Women's Club which led to her eventual career at the State Capitol.

In 1991, she became assistant clerk of the Human Services Committee and later became clerk of the Public Health Committee.

She made many friends and learned the working of the legislature so well that she ran as a candidate for State Representative of the 48th District in 1996. She went on to serve twelve terms in Hartford, becoming one of the longest serving members at twenty-three years.

The interests of her constituents were always her priority without regard for political labels. As a legislator, Linda served on many committees and currently was a member of Legislative Management, General Law and the Public Safety and Security Committee. She became a knowledgeable authority on public safety issues and the legislature's chief advocate for work of first responders—police, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel, dispatchers and others. Linda also was Deputy Speaker and often presided over the House of Representatives controlling the process by recognizing members wishing to speak, putting all questions to a vote, and directing the business of the legislature. While presiding, her charming personality, ability to add a quip or joke, and her booming voice endeared her to all her colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

The staff at the Capitol, the Senators and Representatives, and all those associated with the Connecticut General Assembly will remember Linda for being such a kind and warm-hearted person, friendly to everyone, and always ready for a good laugh at herself or playing a joke on others. Over the years, Linda was recognized by many organizations too numerous to mention all. She humbly accepted such honors and was grateful to those who appreciated her work.

Some of her distinctions included awards from the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen, UCONN Advocates, the Middlesex County and New London County Medical Associations, the Connecticut State Fire Fighters Association, the Connecticut Council of Police Unions, the National Guard Association, the Eastern Connecticut EMS Council, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers. Recently, the charter of the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut was changed to make Linda the only life-time honorary member.

Linda was known to end her many encounters on the phone and in person with: "Bye, Bye, Now!" Her spirit will live on with her many friends, using this phrase to remember her extraordinary life.

Linda is survived by her husband of 43 years, Dennis Orange, Sr.; her son Patrick Orange and his partner Jennifer Nadeau; step-son Dennis Orange, Jr., all of Colchester; step-daughters, Denise and Darleen O'Neal of Arkansas; her beautiful grand-daughter, Dezarae Ann Orange, whose love is everlasting; brothers, Brian and his wife Linda Smith, of Marlborough, George and his wife Phyllis, of Windham, ME; god-daughter, Lorna Smith, of Marlborough; sisters-in-law, Genevieve Lescoe, of Meriden, and Marion Coriaty, of Willimantic; many extended family members; and a host of amazing long-time friends. In addition to her parents, Linda was predeceased by her son, Matthew Orange who passed away in 2018 of pancreatic cancer, her brother Bruce Smith, parents-in-law William and Rose Orange, brother-in-law Henry Coriaty, and her sister-in-law Rosemarie Hart.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S 145TH RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 145th Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 20 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 24-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed seven weeks of EMT training and fifteen weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force 1, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015.

They also saw extensive work in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands as part of disaster relief and rescue efforts in the aftermaths of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. This summer, the team deployed to the Southeast in support of relief efforts for Hurricane Dorian.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 145th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 145th Recruit Class:

Adriana Caruso, Sharly Clavel Tobar, Luiz Costa, Sean Dolan, Lucas Groff, Andrew Hackett, Jenny Huh, Benjamin Jacobeen, Matthew Kahle, John Lilley, Sean Mack, Aaron Marsh, Andrew McCandless, Jackson-