

Please join me in congratulating him on his well-earned retirement after a distinguished career. I know that he will remain active in the next chapter of his life and continue to serve as an exemplary citizen for our community and the entire region.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DOLORES PREKSTA SHOROKEY-BRUNETTI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dolores Preksta Shorokey-Brunetti, 84, who passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 30, 2019, at her home with her family by her side.

Dolores, who was known to all as “Dee,” was born August 28, 1935, in Cadogan, PA, a daughter of the late John and Sadie Wolsonovich Preksta, and came to the Mahoning Valley with her family as a child.

Dee was a registered nurse for more than 40 years. She graduated from The Rayen School, where she was a majorette, and earned a degree in Nursing from the Youngstown Hospital Association School of Nursing. Early in her career, she worked at the Stuttgart Army Hospital in Germany, and she later worked at Northside Hospital in Youngstown for many years, where she was instrumental in the formation of the Nurses Union. Dee retired from nursing in 2000.

She was a member of St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church in Austintown, where she proudly volunteered. Dolores enjoyed cooking, golfing, gardening, and attending garage sales. She was also known to enjoy casinos and vacationing with her family to Nags Head, North Carolina, which she did as recently as August of 2019. Dee loved her family and lived her life for her children. Compassionate and caring, she also used her skills to serve as a caregiver to elderly friends.

Dee is survived by four children, Debbie Aloia (Christina Lyons), with whom she shared her home for the past year, Joe (Jane) Shorokey of Boardman, Christine Shorokey of New Jersey, and Laurie (Brett) Stare of Austintown; six grandchildren, Matt Price (Liz Montelongo), Nikki (Daniel) Maloney, Holly Kowal (Jason Poe), Sara Shorokey, Mimi Shorokey, and Josie Shorokey; a great-granddaughter, Aria; a sister, Patricia Gergel of Youngstown; two brothers, John Preksta of Detroit and Ronald Preksta of Chicago; several nieces and nephews; and her canine companion, Donya. Her second husband, Joseph “Peno” Brunetti, passed away February 3, 2014.

My staff and I have been blessed to work closely on addiction and behavioral issues with Dee’s son, Joe, who is the CEO of Alta Behavioral Health in Youngstown. I have no doubt that Joe got his passion for care from his mother. My deepest condolences to all whose lives were touched by Dee.

IN RECOGNITION OF NANCY FATEMI FOR HER EXEMPLARY CAREER IN SERVICE OF NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Blades Fatemi, someone who has been a tireless public servant for the great state of New Jersey throughout her entire career. Nancy has announced her retirement at the end of this year from her current role as Executive Director to the New Jersey State Society (NJSS).

For the last decade, Nancy has served as executive director of the New Jersey State Society of Washington, D.C. State and Territory societies are civic and social organizations that are unique to the national capital region. With roots that trace back to 1854, state societies have evolved as non-partisan booster clubs that celebrate the history, culture, traditions, humor, politics and commerce of America’s 50 states. The societies provide those who live in the greater-Washington area with a special non-partisan venue that enables them to share in a wide variety of events celebrating their home states. Since 1941, New Jersey State Society has been serving as the link between Washington, D.C. and New Jersey. Under Nancy’s leadership, NJSS won the top national Haines Award for “Outstanding State Society,” in 2014–2015, as well as several state society softball championships.

Prior to serving NJSS, she worked on Capitol Hill in the personal offices of Rep. James J. Howard, D–NJ, as legislative director and press secretary, and later in my office as special assistant and health care legislative assistant. Nancy began her career as a reporter at The Home News, New Brunswick, NJ, and reporter and wire editor of the Bennington Banner, Bennington, VT. She grew up in Avon-by-the-Sea, NJ and is a graduate of Rutgers University’s Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ, and Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, New York, NY.

Taking the steps to successfully continue a long tradition of creating opportunities for New Jerseyans living in Washington, D.C. to connect and celebrate the Garden State is no small task, and Nancy has more than risen to the challenge. Madam Speaker, I hope all my colleagues will join me in thanking Nancy Blades Fatemi for her tireless advocacy on behalf of the great state of New Jersey.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM “BILL” RYAN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of the William “Bill” Ryan, a veteran and public servant of thirty-six years.

Born in Brighton, Massachusetts in 1938, Bill graduated from Brighton High School and Quincy College. After graduating, Bill began his long career with the United States Postal

Service in 1956. During this time, he served as both letter carrier and as an Army National Guard Reservist working as a heavy equipment operator. Continuing his career with the U.S. Postal Service, he would eventually be named U.S. Post Master in 1981. Bill served multiple communities in his role as Post Master including; Bedford, Waltham and Abington, where he would retire in 1992.

Bill was a dedicated family man and a devout follower of the Catholic faith. After his retirement, Bill most enjoyed spending time with his family and rooting for his beloved Boston Red Sox.

Surrounded by family, Bill passed away on November 30, 2019, at the age of eighty-one. His dedication to serving both his country and his community will long be remembered by his growing family and all those who had the great privilege of knowing Bill. In addition to his wife Mary Sue, Bill is survived by his six children Billy, John, Patrick, James, Mary Sue, and Peggy, his twelve grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of the William “Bill” Ryan. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his commitment to his local community and the people of Massachusetts.

HONORING CHIEF DENNIS COMPTON

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Dennis Compton, who earlier this year stepped down as Chair of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Board of Directors after more than eleven years.

Since 1992, I have had the distinct honor of serving as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. I have established friendships with many members of our nation’s fire and emergency services throughout those years. I got to know Chief Compton well, attending the memorial service for fallen firefighters in Emmitsburg and the annual Congressional Fire Services Dinner together with him every year.

I know it was a difficult decision on his part to step down as the Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Board of Directors. Chief Compton has always cared deeply about the mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to honor our fallen heroes, provide support to their loved ones, and reduce the number of firefighter injuries and deaths. Even though he will no longer serve as Chairman, I know he will remain steadfast in his commitment to firefighter health and safety.

In his many different professional capacities, Chief Compton has shared his thoughts and knowledge with thousands of firefighters about the attributes of leadership, character, and integrity. These attributes define who he is as a friend and leader and have earned him many well-deserved distinctions and honors from his peers. Indeed, his legacy will be felt for many years to come in the countless men and women of the fire and emergency services who will carry out their work aimed with the lessons he imparted and will surely continue to impart in the years ahead.

I would also like to honor him for his dedication and commitment to our nation's firefighters, for his unwavering support for the family members of our fallen heroes, and for his many contributions to the bipartisan work of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. Serving as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I have seen Chief Compton's tireless efforts up close.

Prior to his role as Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Board of Directors, Chief Compton served in the Phoenix Fire Department for twenty-eight years. He also served as Fire Chief in Mesa, Arizona, for six years. Chief Compton also served as Past Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) National Advisory Council and Co-Chairman of the Fire Service-Based EMS Advocates Steering Committee.

Our nation's fire service owes Chief Compton a debt of gratitude. On behalf of my fellow Co-Chairs of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I extend my thanks and appreciation to Chief Dennis Compton for his outstanding leadership as Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER
SCHLECHT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jennifer Schlecht, a beloved and internationally recognized public health expert. She worked tirelessly to ensure that women and girls—especially those living in crisis situations—had access to medical care, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care. Ms. Schlecht was an incredible mother and friend in addition to being a true leader in the reproductive health space.

Ms. Schlecht was committed to bringing about a world where all women and girls could exercise control over their bodies. She worked in Africa before returning home to New York in 2001, where she earned a master's degree from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. After graduating in 2004, she began working at Harlem Hospital. Later, Ms. Schlecht joined the Women's Refugee Commission; where she gained a reputation as both a women's health expert and as someone who was razor sharp, fun, and unfailingly kind. Mrs. Schlecht joined the UN Foundation (UNF) Family Planning 2020 team as Senior Advisor for Emergency Preparedness and Response and quickly became a go-to expert on addressing the needs of women and girls in crisis. Her leadership in the field was recognized by her colleagues at UNF and professionals from partner organizations around the world.

Beyond her expertise, she was a treasured colleague, bringing her warmth and generosity to work every day. Amidst all her commitments, she somehow found time to also become a certified counselor, get married, buy a home in Harlem, and have a daughter, Abaynesh. Her energy and her clear-eyed drive to improve the world around her were boundless.

The same warmth that engendered her commitment to women and girls globally was

evident in her dedication to protecting and nurturing her much loved daughter. She worked from New York to spend more time with Abaynesh. This September, to Ms. Schlecht's immense pride, her daughter began kindergarten at Hunter College Elementary School. Abaynesh was the center of her life.

On November 6th, Ms. Schlecht and Abaynesh were killed by their husband and father in a tragic act of domestic violence. There are no words to express the profound devastation faced by those who loved them; there is no meaning to be found in this tragedy. One out of every three women will experience violence in their lifetime, most likely at the hands of someone they know. Ms. Schlecht's courage to leave an abusive situation should never be forgotten. The best way to honor her memory is to keep fighting to realize Ms. Schlecht's dream of ensuring safety, dignity, and choices for all women and girls. Ms. Schlecht, her light, the way she cared for her daughter, and all of the things that made her a beautiful human being will be deeply missed. We cannot rest until the violence stops.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Jennifer Schlecht, remembering her deep dedication to the rights of women and girls around the world, and mourning the unjust and tragic loss of her and her daughter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavailable due to delays in travel and missed Roll Call Vote 655 and 656.

Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call No. 655 and 656.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present for them, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call No. 655 on H.R. 4761—DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019—YEA, and Roll Call No. 656 on H.R. 4739—Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act—YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, December 9, 2019 due to an important meeting with constituents in my District.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 655, and YEA on Roll Call No. 656.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN LYONS ON HIS 11TH BIRTHDAY AND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize Brian Lyons for his incredible dedication and the many contributions he has made and continues to make to local first responders.

Upon discovering that his local fire company, Elm Hill Hose Company No. 3 in Plymouth, did not have a Jaws of Life, Brian jumped into action and began selling lemonade to raise the necessary funds needed to purchase the life saving equipment. After selling over 7,500 cups of lemonade and receiving a \$2,000 donation, Brian purchased the Jaws of Life and was on hand to donate the equipment to his local fire company in August.

Brian's dedication to supporting our community's first responders, especially his local fire company, is a tremendous example to us all. 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 thanking Brian Lyons for his dedication to our first responders.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT M.
RECHNITZ

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Robert M. Rechnitz. Mr. Rechnitz, a longtime resident of the Locust section of Middletown, New Jersey, passed away on October 12, 2019 after a vibrant life filled with numerous professional and personal accomplishments.

Robert (Bob) Rechnitz was a prominent member of the community and a fixture of the thriving arts and humanities landscape in Monmouth County. As co-founder and executive producer of Two River Theater, Bob was committed to providing an outlet for creative expression and a preeminent institution for the public to enjoy. In addition to his extensive background and work in theater, Bob was an esteemed educator, stalwart preservationist and dedicated philanthropist. He lived his life in service to his community and his achievements and generosity have been recognized by many awards and tributes over the years.

His love of nature and the theater and his commitment to social and humanitarian causes left an indelible impact on the community. From his support of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation and Monmouth University to his contributions to Monmouth Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center, to name just a few, his philanthropic endeavors will benefit generations to come.

Bob leaves behind a loving family, including his devoted wife and partner Joan, their children Emily, Adam and Joshua, son-in-law John Paladino, daughter-in-law Elizabeth Fordi, grandchildren Max and Flora Paladino