

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

and Esme Rechnitz, as well as many dear friends and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Robert M. Rechnitz for his devotion to his family and his immeasurable contributions to the greater Monmouth County community.

RECOGNIZING CLEARLY LOVED  
PETS AND BOCA KITCHENS &  
BATHS

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2019*

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wayne and Julie Huthmaker of Clearly Loved Pets and Gloria Duran and Shuky Conroyd of Boca Kitchens & Baths. These two small businesses have been selected as this year's SCORE of South Palm Beach Small Businesses of the Year.

SCORE is a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to helping small business get started, grow, and achieve their goals. They provide free mentoring and tools and offer workshops on vital business issues. The South Palm Beach Chapter has twice been voted the No. 1 Chapter in America.

Clearly Loved Pets has created a patent-pending clear enclosure for pets designed to decrease stress and improve aesthetics in your home. Boca Kitchens & Baths is a full interior design-build team that offers numerous professional services and designs. These two businesses represent the myriad of high-quality products and services provided by small businesses in our community.

Please join me in congratulating Clearly Loved Pets and Boca Kitchens & Baths on their success and well-deserved recognitions.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ALAN  
BARRY WOLF

**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 Alan "Big Al" Wolf, originally of Malden, Massachusetts, who passed away on October 26, 2019 at the age of 86.

Big Al's family would describe him as a simple man—not in a small way, but in a grand way. He was soft spoken, but you always heard him clearly. He said few words, but he always got his point across.

Alan grew up in the Boston suburb of Malden, son to Joseph and Florence, and brother to his sister Barbara. The family had a house right on the beach near an amusement park and boardwalk. It was here where his family shared so many weekends, events, and summer barbecues. Alan worked in the family business at Wolf Syrup Corp. His family always took so much pride knowing their Dad's syrup was in the soda fountains at the local lunch counters and pharmacies they went to around Boston.

Big Al was never a materialistic guy and only cared about a few things. He always had to drive a nice car—never flashy, but classy.

His kids say he would brag about the Cadillac convertible that he drove around when he first started dating his wife, Dolly. He was similarly forever sharply dressed and always had to wear a nice tie, shoes buffed, and pocket square peeking out.

The love Al had for his wife, Dolly, was indescribable. Dolly was his soulmate and their 66 years together was as Dolly would say, "an experience of love and life." From the day they met when she was 15 years old, there was no one else for him. It is truly amazing how much he loved her. In his eyes she was the most beautiful woman in the world and he never stopped thinking that until the day he died.

Coaching was a big thing for Al. He loved teaching the fundamentals of baseball and football and instilling a winning attitude. One thing that separated Al as a coach and parent was that he would always look after the more disadvantaged kids. He felt that he could make a difference.

Big Al loved his children and grandchildren. Alan, or Pappy as he was fondly called, was also known to give a few dollars each time he saw his grandchildren. His grandkids always knew that they had a friend and fan in Pappy Alan—and that he was always ready to offer a knuckle sandwich.

Alan had many loves and many opinions, but above all, he loved his family. I am very blessed to be a great friend of his son, Robert. My deep condolences go out to Alan's family and to everyone whose lives he touched. We'll miss Alan.

MR. EDDIE ROBINSON BIRTHDAY  
RECOGNITION

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2019*

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eddie Robinson who is celebrating his 99th birthday on December 15, 2019.

Eddie was born William Edward Robinson in Paris, Texas in 1920. He is best known for his 13-year Major League Baseball playing career from 1942 to 1957. During that time, he also served three years in the U.S. Navy, and married the love of his life, Bette, in 1955.

Eddie has what is described as charisma. It starts with an infectious smile that is always there for every story he tells and those he hears. He can remember the smallest detail that makes everyone lean forward in their chairs to make sure they hear every word. Eddie is constantly telling stories from his Major League Baseball days that thrill the hearts and minds of his listeners. He is such a gifted story teller it is as if we are all reliving the times of his "Boys of Summer" baseball days.

His more humorous side sometimes comes out with stories that he would never tell in public but shares with his close breakfast group known as "The Eastside Mafia". Eddie particularly loves telling stories of his days playing golf at Woodhaven Country Club in Fort Worth. It has been said that he was always so complimentary of a fellow's drive by saying, "Man what a beautiful drive!", only to follow up with his famous baseball trajectory of

a line drive which would put his well past the shot of his competitors.

Eddie is also a person that shares his good fortunes in life. Besides taking his friends to the Texas Rangers games, he was also instrumental in several projects around Fort Worth. He established the Woodhaven Neighborhood Golf Association's annual golf tournament, proving scholarships for local high school students in Fort Worth. He also helped his wife Bette raise funds to construct a clock tower and research library—East Regional Library of Fort Worth—which I had the pleasure of supporting during my time as Mayor of Fort Worth.

On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I offer my congratulations and best wishes on this special occasion.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COM-  
MANDER CHRISTOPHER  
RAGSDALE

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2019*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who continue to serve this great Nation with honor—men such as Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Christopher Ragsdale, United States Navy.

For the past year, LCDR Ragsdale served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. A 2007 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, LCDR Flynn is a proud Surface Warfare Officer who served in MCM Crew BULWARK and onboard USS *Comstock* (LSD-45) and USS *Benfold* (DDG-65). During his assignment in my office, LCDR Ragsdale provided senior-level input for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Additionally, he executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of Virginia's First Congressional District with distinction.

Furthermore, LCDR Ragsdale provided exceptional support to me as a staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee Ranking Member. LCDR Ragsdale dutifully provided me with guidance on what the Navy's path forward should be in critical areas such as training, readiness, and manning. His recent experience in the surface community was invaluable to my work in Congress.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus and the Co-Chair of the Navy-Marine Corps Caucus, I relied on LCDR Ragsdale to organize quarterly events with government, military, and private sector leaders. These events allowed key decisionmakers to work together for the advancement of our future Naval Officers as well as the construction and repair of the ships on which they will serve.

LCDR Ragsdale also directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion, and he leveraged his personal and operational experience in the Navy to respond to the most challenging inquiries. In addition to his efforts locally, LCDR Ragsdale took on projects with