

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Christopher Columbus High School, which celebrated its first football state championship last week.

This recent victory is the result of the hard work and determination of student-athletes, coaches, parents, and the entire Columbus community. This strong character is what helped the Columbus Explorers pull off a dramatic victory with a two-point conversion in the final seconds of the championship game. This year's state title put Columbus' reputation for resilience and hardwork reputation on full display.

In the state championship game, Columbus was faced with what may have been its biggest challenge all season. With little over four minutes left, the Explorers were down 20–7. In spite the odds being stacked against them and the early celebrations of opposing team, Columbus came out on top once again.

The Explorers overcame obstacle after obstacle. They scored 14 unanswered points, with the final two points coming with eight seconds left to take the lead and win the championship game.

The state title is reflective of Columbus' success not only as a football team, but also as an institution. For decades, Columbus has produced illustrious alumni who have contributed to our community, our country and the world. This success is only made possible through the school's fighting spirit and integrity, which is exactly what the football team left on the field for all to see.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF ON THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW ARMED FORCES SERVICE CENTER AT THE SAINT PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS AIRPORT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the dedicated volunteers and staff of the Armed Forces Service Center at the Saint Paul-Minneapolis Airport as they prepare to dedicate a new, larger location. Since the center was opened nearly 50 years ago, more than one million active-duty military personnel, dependents and retirees have received a warm Minnesota welcome and hospitality from its volunteers.

During the Vietnam War, Naval Petty Officer Scott Purdum wrote letters to his mother suggesting that dedicated space in the airport be provided for service members to rest and help boost their morale. He encouraged his mother Maggie to pursue creation of such a place. Sadly, Petty Officer Purdum was killed in a plane crash at the Da Nang Air Base in March 1970. Channeling her grief into action, Maggie started working with airport authorities to make her son's dream a reality for current and future members of the U.S. Armed Forces. She was

granted 600 square feet in a corner of the main floor of the airport, and on November 22, 1970, just four days before Thanksgiving, the doors to the Servicemen's Center were opened for the first time. Those doors have never closed.

The Armed Forces Service Center continues to serve traveling members of the U.S. Armed Forces, family members and veterans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With the full co-operation of the Metropolitan Airports Commission, the new space is now located behind security and is double the size of the old center to allow for more bunks, a laundry room, a place to store baggage, and even a children's playroom and a place for nursing mothers. This expansion will allow the Armed Forces Service Center to enhance their mission of "Serving Those Who Serve" as they begin their 50th year of service.

While it is supported by a small staff including Executive Director, Debra Cain, and four part-time employees, the non-profit center is run and staffed by nearly 200 volunteers—many of whom are veterans. One of the volunteers for the very first shift in 1970, Jeanne Morford, continues to serve at the center every Monday evening. Operating independently of any national organization, the center relies solely on donations from the community.

It has been a privilege and honor to support the center for many years as a volunteer and as an auxiliary member of the North Saint Paul VFW Post 1350 American Legion Post 39. I have seen firsthand the impact that center volunteers make providing hospitality to our servicemen and women, veterans and their families.

The success of staff and volunteers has not gone unnoticed. In 2012 the Saint Paul-Minneapolis Airport Armed Forces Service Center was named winner of the Joining Forces Community Challenge and honored at the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden as part of their Joining Forces Initiative.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to our U.S. Servicemen and women and the selfless volunteers of the Saint Paul-Minneapolis Airport Armed Forces Service Center as they enter a new era of providing excellent hospitality to U.S. servicemen and women, veterans and families.

HONORING LISA LUCAS-BURKE FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Lisa Lucas-Burke on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Woman in the Service Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor persons who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Lisa Lucas-Burke's lifetime of public service and commitment to the City of Portsmouth, Virginia, as she gener-

ously serves as the City of Portsmouth Vice-Mayor.

Mrs. Lucas-Burke has been employed with the City of Portsmouth for over thirty years and has broken barriers in becoming the only African American female since 1988 to obtain the position of Computer Programmer Analyst in the City of Portsmouth's Information Technology Department. Mrs. Lucas-Burke continues to serve her community with her family business as Program Director and currently serves as Executive Director and partner with Lucas Lodge entities operating at Lucas Professional Center in Portsmouth.

Her service to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Steering Committee, and the Portsmouth Democratic Committee demonstrates her heart for service. She put enormous efforts in strengthening ties to the local community with her civic involvement with various organizations. Mrs. Lucas-Burke's dedication as a leader within our community is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Mrs. Lucas-Burke's leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. The Tidewater Region has significantly benefited from her presence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Thursday, September 26th, due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted on NAY on Roll Call No. 549; NAY on Roll Call No. 550; YEA on Roll Call No. 551; NAY on Roll Call No. 552; NAY on Roll Call No. 553; YEA on Roll Call No. 554; and NAY on Roll Call No. 555.

HONORING KENDALL W. LANE, MAYOR OF KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kendall W. Lane for his service as the Mayor of Keene, New Hampshire.

After completing four-terms as the Mayor of Keene, Kendall announced his retirement this year. Kendall has a long history of public service and serving the city of Keene, which is marked by his service on the Keene City Council from 1986 until 1993 and again in 2007 until 2011. As Mayor, Kendall has many significant achievements during his time in office, including the redevelopment of Marlboro Street, renovations to the Keene Public Library, and the completion of the Keene Ice Arena in 2016.

As Mayor, Kendall has made climate change a focal point of the City's efforts, and during his tenure, the Keene Community created a clean energy committee and committed to transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy in ten years. Mayor Lane's distinguished

service has left a meaningful impact in the Monadnock Region and the Granite State.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I commend Kendall Lane and wish him all the best in the coming years. I look forward to our continued work together to support the Keene community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL ON ITS 170TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congregation Beth Israel on the 170th anniversary of its founding. Congregation Beth Israel, a Reform synagogue located in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. It is one of the oldest synagogues in the United States still housing its original congregation.

As immigrants from across Europe made their way to the United States in the mid-19th century, a group of German Jews settled in the Pocono Mountains in Northeastern Pennsylvania, drawn by the prospect of employment with the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. In the fall of 1849, a small group from that wave of settlers saw the need for a Jewish congregation in the recently-formed community of Honesdale. Together they formed the first Jewish congregation in the area—Congregation Beth Israel. Its beginning was humble; the group met in one of the member's homes to worship in the Orthodox tradition using a borrowed Torah.

The Congregation continued to grow and flourish under its first spiritual leader, Rabbi Kutner. In 1850, the congregation drafted a constitution, purchased its own Torah, Shofar, and Megillah, and started a cemetery that is still in use. By 1854, the Congregation had its own Hebrew school. In 1856, the Congregation dedicated its Colonial meeting-house style building. Despite its early reputation as the smallest synagogue in the United States, the building went on to undergo several renovations and restorations over its impressive history, including the addition of gothic style stained glass windows, a sanctuary decorated with a chandelier and Tiffany globe sconces, and an annex.

Between 1880 and 1890, the Jewish population in Honesdale declined, leaving the Congregation unable to maintain a full-time local rabbi after 1891. Congregation Beth Israel persisted in the face of these challenges and adapted to meet the changing needs of their community. The Congregation, which began as Orthodox, began to transform to reflect the German Reform or Classical Reform Tradition. The 1930s and 1940s saw an increase of Eastern European Jews, and the Congregation began to change from Classical Reform to a more mainstream Reform congregation.

Today, under the direction of Rabbi Elliott Kleinman and President Liza Roos Lucy, Congregation Beth Israel remains a thriving center for Jewish life in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Congregation continues to support a religious school, host a variety of Jewish cultural events for the community, and celebrate many B'nai Mitzvah and weddings each year. They

embrace a diverse and dynamic membership with members who can trace their lineage to the early founders of the synagogue and many others who have found and joined the community in the last 15 years. As a member of the Union of Reform Judaism, they are proud of their ability to embrace the changing world around them and welcome progressive values while upholding the spirit and teachings of the faith.

It is an honor to recognize Congregation Beth Israel on their 170th anniversary. May the Congregation continue to build on this impressive legacy of worship and community.

HONORING NATALIE PURDIE FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Ms. Natalie Purdie on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Woman in the Community Service Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor women who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Ms. Purdie's lifetime of service and commitment to Domestic Violence Advocacy. As a domestic violence survivor, Natalie has broken her silence to do, "Speak Up and Speak Out"!

Ms. Purdie is a board member and volunteer with My Help My Hope, Inc. She is also a member of the Samaritan House Women Against Violence (WAV) group. She was the keynote speaker for their annual event Unmask Domestic Violence. She was also the guest speaker at Green Run High School in Virginia Beach for their KNOW More Domestic Violence Assembly which was organized by the students.

Ms. Purdie now volunteers with Promise Place teaching the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program to middle and high school students. She was the keynote speaker for Promise Place 1st & 2nd Annual Teen Dating Violence Summit at Georgia State University. She was also the panel discussion moderator for 2019.

Ms. Purdie's dedication to helping victims to become survivors and to raise awareness about bills such as the E.R.A. and Marsy's Law in the state of Georgia. I am proud to honor and recognize Ms. Purdie's leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia has significantly benefited from her presence.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2019 LITERACY COUNCIL OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA RECOGNITION EVENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Literacy Council of Northern Vir-

ginia (LCNV) and to congratulate the volunteers, instructors, students, community partners, and others who will be recognized at the 2019 LCNV Recognition Celebration.

The mission of LCNV is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English in order to empower them to participate more fully and confidently in their communities and in society as a whole. LCNV serves low-literacy and limited English language proficient adults with a selection of low-cost, moderately intensive courses to help them transition into the workforce or other educational opportunities. LCNV provides the crucial first steps of language and literacy proficiency for workplace, citizenship, and community integration to help adults make measurable improvements in their lives.

Each year LCNV recognizes students and members of the community who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to achieving the mission of LCNV. LCNV will also recognize the recipient of the Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2019 LCNV honorees and scholarship recipient:

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

B.F. Saul Company Hospitality Group

Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center

Rotary International District 7610

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Linton Favours

Fran Perros

Jody Sweet

PATRICIA M. DONNELLY MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Santos Rubio

I also want to recognize those volunteers who are celebrating service anniversaries with LCNV. Volunteers are being recognized for service milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years respectively.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

25 years: Avis Black

20 years: Denise Murray

15 years: Mary-Jane Roth

10 years: Margaret Breen, Gerry Chiaruttini, Marla Diamond, Naomi Gittins, Lisa Godfrey, Mary Kalfatovic, James Kern, Julia Tungli, Karen Westlake, Suzanne Zimmerman

5 years: Natasha Atkins, Mary Rose Bayer, Jackie Corkins, Grace Kalfatovic, Donna Martin, Wendy Mayer, Marla Swaby, Michael Wesbecher, Farhana Zaman

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Literary Council of Northern Virginia and in thanking and congratulating each of the honorees of the 2019 LCNV Recognition Celebration. I wish all of them great success in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CLARENCE "SMOKY" SMEKOFSKI OF NORTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM, Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and remember the life of Clarence "Smoky" Smekofski. He was a beloved husband, father and uncle. He was also a proud veteran of the United States Navy and a longtime Letter Carrier for the United States