

thank him for his service to our country and community here in New York.

**AMERICAN LEGION CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the American Legion. The Legion was first chartered on September 16, 1919 to serve as a patriotic veteran's organization.

One of the oldest veteran non-profit organizations, the American Legion also stands as the nation's largest wartime Veterans Service Organization. The Legion is devoted to supporting service members, veterans, communities, and families. In its 100 years of existence, the Legion has made remarkable strides in advancing the cause of our veterans and service members through legislative accomplishments like the GI Bill, Flag Code, and the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, a forerunner of the Veterans Administration. The Legion is also active in our local communities, with programs like Operation Comfort Warriors, Boys State, and the American Legion Baseball. Since its charter, the American Legion has made it their mission to mentor youth, advocate for patriotism and honor, and promote strong national security and a continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

I applaud the Legion for passing the century mark in their never-ending quest to improve the lives of service members and veterans. I'm proud to be a member of such an excellent organization, and I wish them another 100 years of excellence.

**RECOGNIZING EMERY COUNTY, UTAH LEADERS**

**HON. JOHN R. CURTIS**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leaders in Emery County, Utah, who fought for over two decades to resolve long standing issues facing their county through federal legislation. On March 12th, 2019, President Trump signed into law S. 47, a sweeping public lands bill that included the Emery County Public Lands Management Act, with broad bipartisan support.

With this historic achievement, I would like to pay tribute to the exceptional efforts and years of dedication from the Emery County Commissioners, Emery County Public Lands Council, and many other state and local leaders who played an integral role in making this cooperative effort possible. This law will benefit Utahns for decades into the future.

This law is a model for how Utahns can work together to solve public land management questions in one of the most unique landscapes of the country. After years of input and stakeholder engagement, this law resolves a number of issues affecting the region through a school land trust exchange, con-

veying certain lands to Emery County, expanding Goblin Valley State Park, conservation designations, and the creation of the new San Rafael Swell Recreation Area. The bill also decreases the amount of land owned by the federal government in Emery County.

There are countless individuals over the years who deserve recognition and made this law possible. Over the last year, since I sponsored the Emery County bill in the House, I would particularly like to recognize:

Emery County Commissioners Lynn Sitterud, Kent Wilson, and Gil Conover.

Emery County Public Lands Council Members Rod Play (Chair), Edward Geary (Vice Chair), Laren Huntsman, Leon McElprang, Kim McFarlane, J.R. Nelson, Randall Stilson, Sherrel Ward, Les Wilberg, Bruce Wilson, and Ray Petersen (Public Lands Administrator).

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman ROB BISHOP.

Governor Gary Herbert.

Senator MITT ROMNEY.

These leaders should all be very proud of what was accomplished with this bill.

**IN HONOR OF JD LAMBRIGHT**

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of JD Lambright, a larger-than-life Texan and dedicated leader in Montgomery County. He leaves behind a legacy of outstanding service to the great State of Texas and I know our entire community will miss his presence dearly.

A product of the Texas Panhandle, JD was born and raised in the town of Pampa, Texas. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Electrical Engineering at Texas Tech University, and remained a proud Raider for all his life. Law was another passion of his, and JD later went on to earn his law degree from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas.

JD made good use of his Master's and worked as a geophysicist and electrical engineer for Shell Oil Company and Shell E&P Technology Company in Houston. Following his successful career in the energy industry, he started his own private law practice in Conroe, where he focused on a variety of family, criminal, and civil law issues.

First elected to the Montgomery County Attorney's office in 2012, JD later became the chief legal advisor for Montgomery County. He not only possessed a shrewd legal mind, but a warm and caring heart. Those who were lucky enough to work with him remember most his genuine affection for his co-workers, and he was twice awarded Montgomery County's "Boss of the Year."

JD was an inspirational leader who used his positions of power for the good of the entire community. During his time at the County Attorney's Office, he was responsible for the passage of the first Code of Ethics in Montgomery County. He worked tirelessly to make this public office more accessible to those who needed it most—the residents. Under his leadership, the office kept more cases in-house, saved hundreds of thousands of tax-payer dollars, and brought in a new normal of govern-

ment transparency across the Montgomery County area.

Though I could spend hours listing the many positions held by JD and professional honors he accumulated, I know he considered his greatest accomplishment to be his family. He married his high school sweetheart, Belinda Cates, herself a prominent figure in the Montgomery County area, and they were married for forty-two wonderful years.

There is no doubt that JD left a positive professional impact on Montgomery County and the state of Texas, but what I will miss most about him is his old-fashioned friendship, his love for his community, and his infectiously positive outlook on life. I join JD's family, friends, and the entire Eighth District of Texas in mourning. JD will be greatly missed.

**MIRIAM AND ARI LOREN**

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor two pillars of the Scarsdale community, Miriam and Ari Loren, who this year are being honored by Young Israel of Scarsdale at their 47th Annual Dinner.

Miriam was born in Bratislava, Slovakia and came to the U.S. in 1982. Her family moved to Silver Spring, MD where she graduated from the Hebrew Academy of Greater Washington, now known as Melvin J Berman Hebrew Academy. Miriam is a graduate of Barnard College and Columbia University's Teachers College, after which she worked for many years in early childhood special education, running classrooms for developmentally delayed children and their parents. Miriam has also worked as an evaluator, diagnosing, testing and evaluating children for special services.

For the past few years, Miriam has worked for Camp Yavneh as their Inclusion Coordinator. This program has grown from two campers participating in only the second month of camp to almost thirty campers across both months.

Miriam has volunteered extensively for her children's schools, including serving as their Parent Association President for six years. Miriam was also on the Westchester Jewish Council inclusion initiative for local synagogues. Miriam is currently on a mental health task force for the Ruderman Foundation.

Ari was born and raised here in New Rochelle. After graduating from Westchester Hebrew High School, Ari earned his BS from Yeshiva University and MBA from Bar-Ilan University.

Professionally, Ari operates a family business and manages some real estate. Outside of work, Ari has spent the last 8 years heavily involved in the local hockey scene. He served as President of New Rochelle Lightning Hockey from 2013 to 2018, growing the program from 52 players in 2013 to well over 200 kids today. Ari loves coaching hockey, and currently helps coach in the New Rochelle Lightning program, as well as at the Frisch School and as a head coach at Westchester Day School. Miriam and Ari have 5 fantastic boys, aged 6 to 16. The Lorenzis love raising their children in the same warm and loving community in which Ari was raised. Miriam and Ari

credit both of their parents in teaching them the importance of community and giving back.

Madam Speaker, Miriam and Ari are most deserving of the Community Service Award from YIS. Congratulations to them on this honor.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL AFJROTC

**HON. JIM BANKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wayne High School's AFJROTC's 25th anniversary. AFJROTC Unit IN-941 was established in 1994 at Wayne High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, under the leadership of Major Ed Bennett and Senior Master Sergeant Bill Tester. Since its inception, AFJROTC Unit IN-941 has prepared over 2,800 cadets for military service and success in and out of the classroom.

The mission of the AFJROTC is to develop citizens of character, dedicated to serving their nation and community. Now, two decades after its establishment, the Wayne High School AFJROTC continues to uphold the mission. Over the last five years, an average of 122 cadets have joined Unit IN-941. The unit has recorded an impressive 1647 Leadership Development Requirement hours with extracurricular activities such as Model Rocketry, the Academic Bowl and Junior Shooting. Cadets give back to our community by providing Color Guards for events and assisting with Honor Flights from Ft. Wayne. In fact, Unit IN-941 has logged over 4143 hours of community service and has set a goal of 1200 hours for 2019.

Unit IN-941 has prepared its cadets for success. About five percent of all cadets pursue military-related careers after graduation. I recently had the privilege of appointing Wayne High School AFJROTC cadet Wendy Samayoa to the United States Air Force Academy. Every cadet who served in Unit IN-941 at Wayne High School gained valuable skills and experiences that prepared them for life after high school.

Congratulations to Wayne High School's AFJROTC Unit IN-941 on their 25th anniversary.

HONORING ANDREI BEZZUBIKOFF

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor two pillars of the Scarsdale community, Andrei Bezzubikoff, this year's Distinguished Service Award honoree at the Young Israel of Scarsdale 47th Annual Dinner.

Andrei studied Theology at the Facultad de Teología Pontificia y Civil de Lima. He later graduated from the State University of New York at Purchase in 2013, and went on to receive his Masters degree from St. John's University.

Since 1997, Andrei has worked at Young Israel of Scarsdale. He also serves as adjunct

faculty at my alma mater, Lehman College, since 2018. Andrei has become a beloved part of the YIS community and is well known throughout the congregation.

Outside of his professional work at YIS, Andrei is also a very accomplished author. In 2008, his short story La Mujer de los Barcos, was awarded first prize at the "2008 Palabras" contest in Lima-Peru. In 2010, Asilos de Luz, his short narrative book, was published by Hipocampo Editores. He had read his work at McNally bookstore, at Westchester Community College, Purchase College, and at the Ossining Public Library.

Of course, Andrei's true love and passion in life is his family. He has been married to his wife, Shirley, since 2001 and they have two wonderful children, Oleg age 13 and Ilari age 11. Andrei's hobbies also include reading, playing soccer, visiting museums, listening to classical music and traveling.

Madam Speaker, no one is more deserving of the Distinguished Service Award than Andrei Bezzubikoff. I want to congratulate him on receiving this well-deserved recognition and thank him for his years of service to the Scarsdale community.

**TRIBUTE TO CHAD PADGETT**

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute today and thank Chad Padgett for his years of service on my staff, the great state of Alaska, and to the United States of America.

Chad Padgett first came to work in my office in 1994 and has served as my State Director for more than a decade. Madam Speaker, to put the magnitude and demands of his job into perspective requires some explanation. There are only seven other states in the U.S. House of Representatives that have State Directors. In the other 43 states, the position is commonly referred to as District Director. For example, the State of California has 53 House District Directors.

During Mr. Padgett's tenure in my office he has traveled to almost every city, town, village and road stop in the state. That's quite an accomplishment in and of itself, when you think about how large the 49th state actually is. Alaska has 6640 miles of coastline representing 50 percent of our nation's total coastline and is one-fifth the size of the entire country. Many of the places Mr. Padgett has traveled to have only been accessible by air or water. Remember, even our state capitol, the third largest city in the state, can only be accessed by plane or ferry. He has traveled by car, truck, jet, single-engine plane, helicopter, state ferry, and boats of all sizes and makes.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Padgett has had a lot of geography to cover in Alaska—more than California, Texas and Montana combined. These three states have 90 people doing what Mr. Padgett does.

As mentioned earlier, Mr. Padgett joined my team in 1994 as a Campaign Assistant. In 1995, he became a Special Assistant in my congressional office and quickly became my Deputy State Director. He remained in that position until, under President George W. Bush's

administration, he received a Presidential nomination to serve as State Director for the Farm Services Agency. From there, he became the State Director for USDA Rural Development. He remained with the USDA until 2009, when he chose to come back to work as my State Director.

As much as I hate to see Mr. Padgett leave my office, I am equally pleased that he has been selected to serve as the State Director for the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska.

Mr. Padgett will excel in his new position. He brings to the job the right temperament, integrity, experience and knowledge necessary to provide leadership and stewardship overseeing our federal lands.

Mr. Padgett has proven himself as a loyal, competent and respected public servant. He has shown care and compassion for literally thousands of Alaskans by helping them resolve their problems and navigate the bureaucratic mazes.

He is well-liked by his co-workers and has helped mentor many young staffers by instilling his core values of hard work, loyalty, responsibility and maintaining a positive attitude.

To me, Chad Padgett is more than my State Director. Most of all, he is a trusted friend. He is an advisor with my best interests always at heart. He is like family—and always will be.

While it is difficult thinking of his departure from my staff, it gives me a great sense of pride and comfort knowing he will oversee and be the steward for about a quarter-of-a-billion acres of federal land in Alaska.

On behalf of the countless number of Alaskans that he has helped, his co-workers, and most of all, my family and me—I thank him and God bless.

We are excited and extend our best wishes to him for the challenges ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDWARD HART, THE GREATER PITTSTON FRIENDLY SONS 2019 MAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Hart, who was named the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons Man of the Year at their annual St. Patrick's Day celebration on Sunday, March 17, 2019.

Edward is a Pittston native and the son of the late Edward and Jean Morrow Hart. He is a graduate of Pittston Area High School and the University of Scranton.

Edward has dedicated his career to radio and broadcast television, concentrating in revenue development and management. He began his career at WARM before moving on to Magic 93. In 1988, while working at Q102 Radio, Edward became the youngest radio station manager in the country. He then transitioned to television, working in various sales and management roles for WOLF-TV, which later became FOX56. In 1998, Edward was the first to generate over \$1 million in revenue in FOX history. Edward transitioned to WNEP in 2006 where he also managed the local sales efforts to record levels.

Edward is an active member of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. In 2014,