

he served as president during the group's centennial year. He dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort liaising with the Secret Service and the Office of the Vice President to secure Vice President Joe Biden as the principal speaker at the organization's centennial celebration. Edward also instituted the recitation of St. Patrick's prayer to begin every meeting—in order to honor the group's patron saint.

Edward has been married to his wife, Natalie Amico Hart, for 25 years, and they have three children, Edward IV, Alexandra, and Emma. Edward is actively involved in his community as a youth sports coach for basketball, baseball, football, and soccer. He is a member of Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish in Pittston and a 4th Degree Knight of the Knights of Columbus Assembly No. 948 and JFK Council No. 372.

It is an honor to recognize Edward as the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons 2019 Man of the Year. I thank him for his dedicated service to our community and wish him the best this St. Patrick's Day.

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF BETTY CONNER

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**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a longtime Pittsburg resident, Ms. Betty Conner.

Betty was born on May 20, 1936 in Sondheimer, Louisiana to parents Maggie and Ray Frost. She soon made her way to Contra Costa County, and Betty spent 73 years as a resident of Pittsburg and graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1964. For 29 years, Betty served the community and worked as a nurse for Contra Costa County Social Services.

For a decade, Betty and her husband of 50 years, Douglas, used their retirement income to cook lunches for children in downtown Pittsburg. After Douglas' passing in 2009, Betty continued serving meals with the help of her granddaughter, Tanicia Currie.

In 2014, Betty's community efforts were officially established as a non-profit organization called Branches of Community Service. Now, Betty's annual backpack and toy drives service over 125 children and her free Saturday lunches continue to be a trusted and important resource for Pittsburg youth.

Betty and Douglas' contributions to the Pittsburg community have been celebrated. Douglas was honored by the City of Pittsburg with a cement plaque at the local park across from the Conner residence and Betty was recognized as a Woman of the Year for Contra Costa County.

Betty is survived by her five sons and many relatives. She will be sincerely missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing her, and will be remembered for her endless service to the community.

HONORING SYLVIA LASK

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**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my great and distinct privilege to honor one of my dearest friends, the incomparable Sylvia Lask, as she celebrated her 85th birthday this year on February 25th.

Born in 1934 to Vera Lask and Max Lask, Sylvia was one of three children in the family, which included her brothers Ronald and Robert. She grew up in Detroit, Michigan and later moved to New York City, where she became certified as a dietician. Sylvia and I first met when we were both living in Co-op City. I had knocked on her door while gathering petition signatures, and she began asking me all kinds of questions pertinent to both our community and the political world. After we had a long chat, I asked if she was a member of the local political club, and suggested she join us at the next meeting. She did, and we became fast friends.

Sylvia and I were both heavily involved in the club's work from there on out. She went on to serve as Democratic State Committee Person, was also a delegate at two democratic conventions, for Ted Kennedy and Bill Clinton.

Sylvia is a fierce advocate for her community and always a strong voice on the issue of mental health. Her lobbying trips to Albany have become the stuff of legend. Among other things, her efforts led to the passage of the Mental Health in Education Act, which requires Mental Health to be taught in all public schools in New York State. Even at 85, Sylvia still makes those weekly trips to Albany and continues her advocacy work on behalf of the Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS).

When not saving the world, Sylvia enjoys listening to folk music—specifically The Weavers, Pete Seeger and Peter Paul and Mary—and taking long strolls. Her spirit is indomitable; she never sits down, never spends too much time celebrating a victory, and is always planning the next steps needed to advance patient rights. Sylvia's drive has always been fueled in large part by her family and friends. She was married to Sam Hershkowitz and has two beautiful children, Vicki and Marc, and one grandchild, Ron. They are the light in Sylvia's life.

Madam Speaker, I count myself fortunate every day to know Sylvia Lask, and I'm not alone in feeling that way about such a special individual. Her list of friends, from elected officials to community activists and everyone in between, is too long to list. She has done incredible work to help the people of New York over many decades, and her contributions cannot be overstated.

Sylvia is like a family member to me and my entire family. I am so honored to recognize her achievements, and I am so thankful to have her in my life.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF REV-EREND DOCTOR MYRON PANCHUK

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**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, and as a Chicagoan, to honor the memory of Reverend Doctor Myron Panchuk, a widely respected religious leader and community activist whose sudden passing on March 9th brought tremendous sadness and reflection to the Ukrainian-American community in Chicago and beyond.

A pillar of Chicago's Ukrainian-American community, Father Myron served countless parishioners throughout his 37 years of Priesthood for the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Diocese of Chicago. In addition to assisting thousands of Chicagoans from all faiths and backgrounds, Fr. Myron was actively involved in more than half a dozen community organizations, including during his tenure as Vice President of the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation.

After decades of community service, Fr. Myron turned to academia and activism. In 2017, he earned a Ph.D. researching the effects of intergenerational trauma on ethnic Ukrainians. He was committed to building coalitions to fight for ethnic and racial justice, especially in the area of genocide prevention.

In recent years, as Ukraine's sovereignty has been challenged and outside interference appears unrelenting, Fr. Myron, as an example to us all, continued to pray, and to work, to end the violence and corruption that has marred his ancestral homeland.

He will be especially remembered for his optimism and courage, and for his faith in a young, new wave of Ukrainian-Americans who face the challenge, and opportunity, of healing the scars of the past and building the future of the Ukrainian-American community. While the City of Chicago and Ukrainian-Americans everywhere mourn his loss, Fr. Myron's legacy is sure to live on in the hearts of all those who knew him.

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IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM J. WILLIAMS, RECIPIENT OF THE GREATER PITTSTON FRIENDLY SONS' SWINGLE AWARD

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize William J. Williams, who will receive the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons' Swingle Award. William was honored on Sunday, March 17, at the Friendly Sons' annual St. Patrick's Day event.

William was born to William and Susan Rudick Williams on May 25, 1955. He is a graduate of Pittston Area High School (class of 1973), and he earned an associate degree in industrial electronics from Luzerne County Community College and a real estate license from Penn State University.

William found success in a variety of fields throughout his career, in the medical field as

a respiratory therapy technician, in commercial building sales, and as a real estate agent with Atlas Realty. William has been involved with the Pittston City Ambulance Association since 1973, and he earned his EMT certification in 1977. He is also a member of the Hughestown Hose Company, president of the Eagle Hose Company, and the secretary of the Pittston Volunteer Fireman's Relief organization.

In 1990, William was hired by the City of Pittston as a firefighter. In 1998, he received commendations for valor from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate after valiantly rescuing an elderly woman from her gas-filled home. William retired from the profession in 2018 as an Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Inspector.

In addition to having an impressive professional career, William has always been actively involved in his community. He has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1998, achieving 4th degree in 2003. William has been a member of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons since 1998, serving as president of the organization in 2009. He currently serves as the co-chair of the Friendly Sons Scholarship Committee.

William resides in Pittston and has been married to his wife Irene for 42 years. He is the proud father of three daughters: Amy, Jennifer, and Samantha.

It is an honor to recognize William for his many years of service to our community. I wish him all the best on this St. Patrick's Day.

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**HONORING RISE AND MARC ROBBINS**

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**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, Risë and Marc Robbins, who this year are being recognized as the Keter Shem Tov Honorees at this year's Young Israel of Scarsdale Anniversary Dinner.

Risë and Marc have been members of the Young Israel of Scarsdale community, together, for nearly 30 years. Risë grew up in New Rochelle and moved to Scarsdale in 1973, when she joined the YIS. She graduated NYU and then attended Touro college where she graduated the Physician Assistant Program.

Marc grew up in New Rochelle and graduated Columbia University. He is the president of IM Robbins P.C. an engineering company in New York City.

The two met at the Scarsdale volunteer Ambulance Corp, where they were both EMT volunteers for over 20 years. They have been active on committees in their children schools and the shul. The YIS plays a very important part of their lives. It is a warm and welcoming community and they feel very lucky to be a part of it.

Together Risë and Marc have raised four children, Jennifer, married to Yakov, Daniel, Amy and Michael and have three grandchildren. Avishai, Shira and Moshe.

Madam Speaker, Risë and Marc have together done tremendous work to strengthen the Scarsdale community, both inside and outside of the YIS. They are most deserving of

this wonderful recognition, and I want to congratulate them on this special occasion.

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**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

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**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, had I been present for roll call vote No. 125 to H. Con. Res. 24—Expressing the sense of Congress that the report of Special Counsel Mueller should be made available to the public and to Congress, I would have voted AYE on the measure.

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**HONORING THE WORK OF ANNE B. WICKS**

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**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anne B. Wicks on her retirement from the District of Columbia Courts.

The Joint Committee on Judicial Administration appointed Ms. Wicks to serve as Executive Officer of the D.C. Courts in February 2000. She is the first woman and longest, serving Executive Officer in the Courts' history.

Prior to her appointment as Executive Officer, Ms. Wicks worked for the Courts in a number of capacities, including Acting Chief Financial Officer, 1999 to 2000; Deputy Executive Officer for Court Operations, 1997 to 1999; Deputy Director for Research and Development, 1988 to 1997; and Chief of Research, 1986 to 1988. Ms. Wicks previously held positions with the Legal Services Corporation and the Georgetown University Law School.

Ms. Wicks' led the D.C. Courts through many changes over the past 19 years. She oversaw the integration of 19 stand-alone computer systems into trial court case management system. She managed the adoption of long-term planning for capital programs in IT and facilities, and the development of a comprehensive education and training program. She participated in the extensive growth of and renovation to the Courts' buildings and Judiciary Square campus, and the adoption of strategic management as a governance structure. She also assisted with the creation of a strong management team, leadership principles and employee engagement initiatives that focus on collaborative and integrated judicial and administrative leadership.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Anne B. Wicks for 33 years of outstanding service to the District of Columbia Courts. Her steadfast leadership is one of the reasons the D.C. Courts are highly regarded around the world.

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**RECOGNIZING THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

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**HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the Michigan Public Health Association (MPHA) on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. This organization was founded in 1919 and has been advocating for public health ever since.

For 100 years, the MPHA has worked diligently to eliminate and reduce gaps in health and health outcomes by improving the quality of life of Michiganders through advocacy, knowledge, practice and research. They perform valuable work in a field that has an immeasurable impact on the lives of all Americans.

In addition to raising the standard of care throughout Michigan, the Michigan Public Health Association works to increase access to care in all counties of Michigan and assure that no child is uninsured. MPHA advocates for good health policy through community organizing and collaboration.

On this momentous occasion, I want to congratulate the visionary founders and members of the Michigan Public Health Association, as well as MPHA's current President, Ms. Lorena Disha, and all the leaders of the MPHA for their important work. I look forward to their continued work for the health of our nation.

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**IN RECOGNITION OF FRANK BALON, RECIPIENT OF THE FREELAND SONS OF ERIN 2019 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

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**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frank Balon, who was named the Freeland Sons of Erin 2019 Citizen of the Year. He was honored on Saturday, March 16, at the organization's annual St. Patrick's Day event.

Frank is a graduate of Freeland High School and Pennsylvania State University. He worked as a mechanical engineer at Tobyhanna Army Depot before retiring after thirty years of service in 2013. During his tenure at Tobyhanna, Frank received the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service in both 1997 and 2002.

Frank brings something unique to Northeastern Pennsylvania that is never in adequate supply: the joy of music. He plays trumpet in several local ensembles including the Freeland St. Ann's Band, where he also serves as band president, and the Hazleton Philharmonic Orchestra and Big Band. Frank is also the leader of the popular brass quintet, the Hot Tin Roof Brass Band. As part of his musical career, he has performed the national anthem for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders and the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs Triple-A baseball teams on many occasions, and he has additional appearances scheduled for the upcoming season. Frank's musical talents extend to singing as well. He is a choir member and cantor at Immaculate Conception