

work of Tampa attorney, Michael Bedke, who will receive the Florida Bar Foundation's 2019 Medal of Honor Award this week. The Medal of Honor is the Foundation's highest honor.

Michael Bedke works to ensure the wheels of justice turn for everyone. He has devoted a large portion of his distinguished legal career in service to his community and his country. He has provided extensive pro bono service and advocacy for AIDS patients, domestic violence survivors and individuals in need. He also has maintained an unfailing commitment to improve the lives of veterans. He spearheaded the "No Place Like Home" initiative which establishes permanent supportive housing for neighbors in need of mental health services or who are at risk of chronic homelessness.

Throughout his life, Mike always has recognized his duty to serve his neighbors and country in a wide variety of ways. He is constantly thinking of ways to meet unmet legal needs and has a unique ability to develop effective plans for meeting those needs.

As a young lawyer, Mike took on pro bono cases to represent persons with AIDS in the 1980s, a time when the general public was both fearful and uneducated about the disease. True to his style of leading by example, by taking on these cases and serving on the board of the Tampa AIDS Network he encouraged colleagues to take similar action.

After Category 5 Hurricane Andrew struck Florida in 1992, Mike worked to pass Good Samaritan legislation that removed an impediment to lawyers providing pro bono help to disaster survivors. He also led legal relief efforts in response to Hurricane Iniki in Hawaii, the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, and September 11. He founded the Greater Access and Assistance Project while chair of the American Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Division, modeling it after the Courthouse Assistance Project he created at home as a member of Bay Area Legal Services' board of directors.

Mike has worked to empower domestic violence survivors for more than 25 years. He was appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women in 2002 and has served on numerous boards working to improve access and support for survivors. He worked with the Women's Caucus of the Peruvian Parliament to draft model domestic violence legislation.

Mike received his bachelor's degree with high honors from the University of Florida in Gainesville and served as student body president. He then completed his juris doctorate with honors from the University of Florida. He developed a program at his alma mater to recruit and retain minority law students. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Stetson College of Law.

Close to my heart and so many in the Tampa Bay area is Bay Area Legal Services that provides legal aid to people who need it. As president of the Board of Directors for Bay Area Legal Services, in 2015, Mike spearheaded a fundraising effort that created a \$400,000 endowment for a veterans program. He also led the development and implementation of Bay Area's "No Place Like Home Project" to provide pro bono help to low-income homeowners experiencing title issues.

He is a partner in the Tampa office of the distinguished international law firm, DLA Piper. While Mike is much sought after in his specific

area of practice, he was called to do more in service to his community and country—and we are better for it and grateful for his vision and commitment.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of America, the State of Florida and my neighbors across our hometown, I am proud to mark Mike Bedke's lifetime of leadership.

HONORING THE STAFF OF THE CAPITAL GAZETTE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the notice of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Special Awards and Citations awarded to the Capital Gazette of Annapolis, Maryland.

THE PULITZER PRIZES

THE 2019 PULITZER PRIZE WINNER IN SPECIAL AWARDS AND CITATIONS

A special citation to honor the journalists, staff and editorial board of the Capital Gazette, Annapolis, Maryland, for their courageous response to the largest killing of journalists in U.S. history in their newsroom on June 28, 2018, and for demonstrating unflagging commitment to covering the news and serving their community at a time of unspeakable grief. The citation comes with a \$100,000 bequest by the Pulitzer Board to be used to further the newspaper's journalistic mission.

TRIBUTE TO MOLLY GRAHAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman whose bravery and perseverance exemplify a significant American story. It is fitting that during this July 4th, as we celebrate our nation's birthday, citizens of South Carolina and the descendants of Molly Graham will be dedicating a bridge over the Combahee River in Colleton County, South Carolina in her honor. Although seven generations removed, Molly Graham's story is inspiring and instructive for all of us.

Molly Graham was enslaved on the Cypress Plantation in Green Pond, South Carolina during the Civil War. Her husband and brother were killed during the final months of the war when Confederate soldiers executed male slaves to prevent them from enlisting in the Union Army. Ms. Graham and her daughters escaped after Confederate troops raided their plantation and threatened to burn it to the ground.

She and her daughters traveled 16 miles on foot to the safety of a Union camp in Beaufort. Along the treacherous journey, they had to crawl across a plank over the Combahee River because the bridge had been destroyed by fire. They hid from Confederate troops during the day and traveled under the cover of darkness at night. Ms. Graham let faith, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen," guide her.

After spending several months in the refuge of the Union camp, Ms. Graham and her

daughters returned to Green Pond. The daughters eventually married, and they worked together, pooled their resources and bought several hundred acres of land. The family raised chickens, turkeys and vegetables on the farm and sold their goods at the Walterboro farmers market.

Ms. Graham also served as a naturopathic herb doctor who treated both former slaves and plantation owners without prejudice or malice. She added rooms to her home to treat patients overnight, that served as the only "hospital" to ever exist in Green Pond. Today, she and many of her progeny are buried at the historic Hickory Hill Cemetery close to the banks of the Combahee River.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the life of Molly Graham and the contributions of seven generations of her offspring in the Bryant, Pinckney and Singleton families. Theirs is a true story of resilience and triumph that exemplifies the diversity of the American experience. I applaud the descendants' efforts to dedicate the Molly Graham Memorial Bridge that crosses her beloved Combahee River and to continue her legacy of giving back to the community through their family's non-profit foundation.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICK & DENISE GOGGINS' 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Patrick and Denise Goggins on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. This July 4th marks a special milestone for this couple and their family, and it is my pleasure to recognize it as such.

Pat and Denise were married on July 4, 1969, but their story begins even four years earlier when they met as high school sweethearts. Their life of love, marriage and family is truly heartwarming and worthy of recognition. From the purchase of their first home through President Johnson's Housing and Urban Development program for first-time homebuyers, to the births of their three daughters (Bridget, Erin, and Molly), and then the gifts of grandchildren, the Goggins exemplify the spirit of hardworking American families across the country.

Marriage is an institution undeniably linked to the fabric of our society. It is a union celebrated not only by the two partners, but by their friends and family alike. The nuptial celebrations of Patrick and Denise were no exception and are certainly still not today. Their marriage will be celebrated by close to 200 people in Cape Cod, Massachusetts this July 4th and will certainly be filled with the same warmth of the original, humble wedding reception of five decades prior. I extend my personal greetings to all those that will gather together that day in celebration of Pat and Denise.

Madam Speaker, once again, it is my pleasure to recognize the milestone of Patrick and Denise Goggins' 50th wedding anniversary. Their commitment to each other and their family is truly uplifting. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors as they continue their wonderful life together for years to come.

HONORING LENORA LAPIDUS

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, as Vice Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I would like to honor the legacy of the beloved Lenora Lapidus for her steadfast dedication to making this nation a better place than she found it. Lenora was a public servant and civil rights leader passionate about creating equal opportunity for marginalized groups. She was a leader in our community who used her voice to create fair opportunities for women and girls. Lenora began her career in service as an ACLU intern, and later became the legal director of the ACLU of New Jersey, leading the Women's Rights Project for almost two decades. From ensuring that our nation's military is open and accepting to all Americans to creating a means to combat gender-based violence, Lenora won cases on behalf of the ACLU that have elevated our society.

Lenora had a vital role in the Be HEARD Act, aimed at ending and creating consequences for workplace harassment. Her policies and initiatives were always inclusive and addressed the needs of communities that often times did not have a voice. Lenora's legacy will never be forgotten, and she will always be remembered as a trailblazer who fought for equality and justice. I thank her for her commitment to this nation and offer my prayers and condolences to the many experiencing the pain of this devastating loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF POLICE CHIEF MATTTHEW CLANCY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement and many laudable accomplishments of Police Chief Matthew Clancy of the Duxbury Police Department.

A native of Massachusetts' South Shore, Matthew Clancy obtained his master's degree in Criminal Justice from Boston University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, as well as the Command Training Program of the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management. After several seasonal special appointments, he began his full-time career in law enforcement with the Mashpee Police Department, serving there until his appointment as Chief of Police in Plympton, Massachusetts in 2002. He served faithfully in that position until 2010, when he was named Police Chief of the Duxbury Police Department.

Chief Clancy has gone on to protect and serve his community in a variety of ways beyond his work as Chief of Police. He serves as the President of the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission and has been a Past President of both the Plymouth County Police Chief's Association and Old Colony

Special Operations Group. He was integral in the formation of the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council Marine Unit, where he now serves as Control Chief.

Chief Clancy has dedicated his life to serving his community and championing the cause of better policing, and I wish him many years of happiness and relaxation with his family, including his wife Holly, and their four children, Eden, Matthew, Marissa and Alyssa.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Matthew Clancy and his commitment to ensuring the safety of his community. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his hard work and dedication as he celebrates his well-earned retirement.

HONORING REBECCA A. SMITH OF THE CAPITAL GAZETTE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an obituary of Rebecca A. Smith, an advertising assistant for the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland.

[From the Baltimore Sun]

REBECCA A. SMITH, CAPITAL GAZETTE ADVERTISING ASSISTANT WHO HELD FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT CENTER OF HER LIFE

(By Frederick N. Rasmussen)

Rebecca Ann Smith made sure family, friends and workplace colleagues were the center of her life. They brought her joy, and those who knew her say she returned it abundantly.

"Everyone loved her," said a cousin, Tammy Kaskel of Dundalk. "Becca was always patient, supportive and never jealous or envious. She'd do anything for anybody and didn't have a mean bone in her body."

"She had such promise in life," said an uncle, Thomas A. Malinowski. "She was a good kid and never got into trouble."

Ms. Smith, who worked as an advertising sales assistant for the Capital Gazette, lost her life in the June 28 attack on the newspaper's Annapolis office. She was 34 and lived in Dundalk.

Ms. Smith was born in Baltimore and raised in North Point Village and later Fort Howard.

The daughter of Richard Smith and Beth Ann Malinowski, she was raised by her maternal grandparents, William Malinowski, a driver for County Ride, and Catherine Malinowski, a homemaker.

"I was very young then. I don't know what I would have done without them," said her mother, now Beth Rittenour, of Warren, Ohio. "Rebecca was such a beautiful person, and she'll always be in my heart forever."

Ms. Smith attended Battle Grove Elementary School and graduated in 2001 from Sparrows Point High School, where she excelled in field hockey, ran cross country and was an avid duckpin bowler.

"She also loved community theater and played the character A Star to Be in 'Annie.' She was in middle school then," said Ms. Kaskel, who conducts a performing arts camp and works with special-needs children. "She had such a great voice, was very supportive, and wanted to see others succeed."

Mr. Malinowski, who also lives in Dundalk, recalled his niece being a Pink Floyd fan

when she was little. "I'd put on a Pink Floyd tape and she'd scoot her chair up to the TV."

He said she also enjoyed camping.

"She always wanted to go with me," he said. "I'd take the neighborhood kids and other nieces and nephews, and we had a lot of fun."

"Our grandparents were very proud of Becca because she was the first person in our family to go to college," Ms. Kaskel said. "She was a graduate of Villa Julie College, where she earned a degree in marketing."

Ms. Smith held marketing positions with Press Box and the old Maryland General Hospital—now the University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus—before joining the Capital Gazette last November as an advertising assistant.

"I found her to be a person of tremendous potential, and it is sad that we will never see her live up to that," said Marty Padden, the newspaper's advertising director. "We're just heart-broken."

Ms. Smith suffered from endometriosis, a tissue disorder, and referred to herself on Facebook as an "Endo Warrior."

"It was very debilitating, but she still came to the office and soldiered on through it," Mr. Padden said. "She had a great sense of humor and was so charming."

Ms. Smith met and fell in love with Dewayne Poling, and they were engaged to be married. On Facebook, she called him her "softball fiance" and attended Mr. Poling's games and traveled to team tournaments. She also wrote of Mr. Poling's daughter from an earlier relationship as being "the best kid ever."

"Becca wanted to get married and have her own family," Ms. Kaskel said. "When she met Dewayne, he was what she had been waiting for."

Kelli Peleska of Hanover, who played softball with Mr. Poling, told The Baltimore Sun in a June 28 interview that Ms. Smith had "the biggest heart."

"Not only was Rebecca our advertising assistant, she grew to become a close friend of mine," said Eleni Stylianou, a colleague who lives in Annapolis. "She was always so sweet and willing to help. She was a loving future stepmother to her fiance's daughter."

"She was always talking about her fiance's daughter, about moving and her medical issues. We talked every day," said close friend Selene San Felice of Baltimore, a Capital Gazette reporter who survived the shooting. "Rebecca was strong—that's the first word that comes to mind, and she was so kind."

Her grandmother died in 2004 and her grandfather in 2011. She was "devastated," Mr. Malinowski said. "It hit her real hard."

Ms. Kaskel said she continually returned to the center point of her life: her family.

"She was always there at family events, and always had been involved with my children, who are now grown," she said. "She was godmother to my two daughters."

"She'd go to their dance recitals; you would never expect her not to be there," Ms. Kaskel said. "She'd be there Christmas Eve and Christmas morning to watch my kids open their gifts."

A visitation for Ms. Smith will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Duda-Ruck Funeral Home, 7922 Wise Ave., Dundalk, and again from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., with a memorial service following.

In addition to her parents, uncle, cousin and fiance, Ms. Smith is survived by another uncle, William Malinowski of Essex; a brother, Steven Rittenour of Fredericksburg, Va.; two sisters, Jamie Rittenour of Warren Ohio, and Cindy Rittenour, also of Fredericksburg; and numerous other cousins.