

As if all that weren't enough, Jim spent 16 years as Program Director and General Counsel at the Children's Defense Fund, where he helped safeguard and expand essential programs promoting youth health and well-being. Jim played a leading role in the fight to expand Medicaid and made major contributions to the enactment of several programs to promote youth health like the Children's Health Insurance Program. His leadership on children's rights helped spur child support enforcement reforms as well as the expansion of federal fair housing laws to include families with children.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and all the people in whose lives Jim has made a positive difference, it is my great privilege and honor to thank and recognize Jim Weill for his tireless efforts to create a more just and equitable world. I'm truly grateful to call him a friend.

HONORING THE SIOUX FALLS VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Sioux Falls Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System for achieving a Pathway Designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

The Pathway Designation is a global credential awarded to health care organizations that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to a healthy work environment that empowers and engages nurses. Investing in a positive, state-of-the-art workplace for nurses can lead to a greater culture of excellence for the entire health care facility. This has been clearly demonstrated and recognized in Sioux Falls. Therefore, this designation is a win not only for the Sioux Falls VA, but also for the greater veteran community they serve.

This award is a significant honor for the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, validating their commitment to sustained excellence, professionalism, and dedication from the nursing staff and their patients. I commend the nurses of this organization for their outstanding record of service, care, and hard work. I extend my deepest congratulations to the Sioux Falls Veterans Affairs Health Care System for this designation.

HONORING MAYOR JOE WELLMAN

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mayor Joe Wellman upon his retirement. In 1983, Mayor Wellman began his career at People's National Bank in Washington, Indiana. He later became the CEO at Peoples National Bank and served on the bank's board of directors. Once Peoples National Bank merged with German American Bank, Joe continued his

work there before retiring in 2008. After his retirement, Joe spent time as a consultant and served one year with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation before being elected as Mayor of Washington in 2011.

Mayor Wellman has been affiliated with many community development organizations, including the Daviess County Community Foundation, Daviess County Economic Development Corporation, Community Foundation Alliance, Accelerating Indiana Municipalities, Indiana Bankers Association, Radius Indiana, and Rotary, among many others.

It has been a pleasure to work with Mayor Wellman while he led Washington through the development of I-69 and many other projects that have increased economic development in the community. I wish Mayor Wellman and his wife, Elaine, the best in retirement as they get to spend more time with their three daughters—Brenda, Angie and Lindsay—and their 7 grandchildren.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS. DORCAS R. HARDY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the service of Mrs. Dorcas R. Hardy who passed away Thursday, November 28, 2019. She selflessly served her community through her dedicated work in health services and passionately advocated the need for more financial security education for the public. Moreover, she served her country as the first woman commissioner of the Social Security Administration in 1986. Her life was an example of dedication, toughness, love, and service from which all of us would be wise to learn.

Dorcas was born in Newark, New Jersey on July 18, 1946. In 1968, she completed her bachelor's degree at Connecticut College and subsequently obtained her Master of Business Administration degree in 1976 from Pepperdine University. As a natural-born leader, she headed the Health Services Industry Committee, Cost of Living Council from 1971 to 1973 and eventually was appointed to commissioner of the Social Security Administration in 1986 by then-president Ronald Reagan. Later, she continued to help the community by running a consulting firm and becoming a passionate advocate.

In 1996, she married Dr. Samuel Spagnolo and is survived by him and her three stepsons, along with their four grandchildren. Dorcas was a model for all of us not only in her work, but in her personal life.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Mrs. Hardy and in thanking Dorcas Hardy's family for their incredible sacrifices, devotion, and service to our nation; words cannot express our gratitude. On behalf of America's First District, we say thank you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KENNETH KAZUTO TAKEUCHI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Ken Takeuchi, who passed away on December 8, 2019. Ken was the beloved voice of the Central Valley's auto racing circuit for over 60 years.

Kenneth Kazuto Takeuchi was born on January 27, 1927 in Fresno, California. During World War II, Ken and his family were ordered into internment camps in Jerome, Arkansas. Shortly after, Ken and his five brothers were drafted into the military and served their country during the war. Eventually, the family returned to Fresno and their farm. After his military service, Ken worked for the Fresno County Parks Department, before taking a different course in life.

Ken was best known as a speedway announcer and organizer of races throughout the Central Valley. He got his start in the 1950s at the Selma Speedway. His voice graced auto races throughout the state for more than 60 years. Ken was so well known, he was inducted into numerous halls of fame, including in 1995 the San Jose's Speedway Hall of Fame, the West Coast Stock Car Hall of Fame in 2017, and the Clovis Hall of Fame in 2019.

Ken was also a competitive runner. His passion for running flourished in different avenues. He was the founder of the Valley Runner of the Year series and the Pro Race Group in Fresno. His goal was always for people to come together through running and walking for good causes. In the 1980s, he began directing races. Ken also helped found the Shinzen Run, which supported the Shinzen Japanese Friendship Garden in Fresno, a cause that was deeply important to Ken and the community. In his later years, he worked with Special Olympics and appreciated his friendships with athletes of all ages.

He is survived by his daughter, Cindy Campbell and her husband Duane; brother Leo Takeuchi; sister Erma Aoki; three grandchildren, Lindsay, Chelsea, and Ashley Campbell, and his great grandchild, Melody Haussmann.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Ken Takeuchi. His commitment and dedication to the Central Valley sporting community left an impact on many. We join his family and friends in honoring his great life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast roll call votes from January 7 to 9, 2020. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: on roll call 1, I would have voted Present; on roll call 2, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 3, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 4, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 5, I would have voted Aye; and on roll call 6, I would have voted Aye.

CONGRATULATING DAISY PAEZ ON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Daisy Paez on the occasion of her retirement from the Educational Alliance after 30 years of dedication and service. The Educational Alliance is a non-profit organization established in 1889 serving thousands of Lower East Side residents and New Yorkers.

A life-long resident of the Lower East Side, Daisy's first interaction with the Educational Alliance (EA) was more than three decades ago when she enrolled her children in the early childhood program. Recognizing that a parent is a child's primary teacher, Daisy bravely registered for adult classes. She was encouraged to push herself beyond her circumstances to achieve greater opportunities for herself and her children. With the support of the Educational Alliance, Daisy proudly earned her high school diploma. This achievement empowered her to apply for an employment opportunity at the Education Alliance which hired her. She then furthered her education by taking college classes. These accomplishments emboldened her desire for community service and the betterment of her neighborhood. The Education Alliance provided an opportunity to develop her skills, leadership and helped her build a pathway for economic security for the past 30 years.

Daisy is an amazing role model for women and single parents. She is a strong and effective community advocate. In her capacity on numerous local boards, she has championed issues from demanding enhanced transportation services for seniors, to fighting for increase funding for youth programs and more access to park space.

Today, Daisy is an elected community representative, currently serving as District Leader for NYS's 65th Assembly District, Part B. She is also a member of the 7th Precinct Community Council and a graduate of the NYC Police Department's Citizens Police Academy and the FBI's Citizens' Academy. She works closely with government leaders on behalf of her constituents.

Daisy's commitment and dedication to her community is immeasurable. She has made a remarkable impression at work and in the community through her public service. I know her colleagues and members of the Educational Alliance will deeply miss her guidance, smile and energy.

I congratulate Daisy Paez on her retirement and wish her the very best to her and her family as she enters the next phase of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, as the mother of an air force veteran, my

heart goes out to every military family right now living on pins and needles over what President Trump set in motion. We still don't know what threat was so dire that President Trump needed to risk a conflict with Iran to kill their second-most powerful leader. What we do know is American lives are our nation's most precious treasure, and this president cannot be trusted to keep us safe. I was unavoidably detained during the vote and regret that I was not able to cast my vote tonight, but I wholeheartedly support the War Powers Act (H. Con. Res. 83) and would have voted in favor of it as reflected in my YEA vote and testimony in the Rules Committee the day prior.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 7.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHESTER
B. PIATKOWSKI

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Chester B. Piatkowski, who passed away on December 27, 2019, at the age of 96. A veteran and devoted public servant, Chester Piatkowski will be dearly missed by his family and community.

After graduating from Vocational School in Verona, NY, Chester Piatkowski enlisted in the United States Navy, proudly serving his country in World War II. During the war, he was stationed in England, working as an Aviation Petty Officer 2nd Class, repairing PBY planes. After the war, Chester Piatkowski served as a Police Officer with the City of Syracuse, eventually rising to the rank of Sergeant. A proficient marksman, Chester Piatkowski oversaw firearms training for the Syracuse Police Department, and competed in police pistol competitions across New York State, winning several first-place trophies.

Throughout Chester Piatkowski's life, he remained very proud of his American and Polish heritage. He was active in the Polish American Legion Post 14, Seniors at the Syracuse Polish Home, and enjoyed taking Polish language classes. Additionally, he was a member of the American Legion Post 113, the Police Retirees Association, and the Holy Name society at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the life of Chester B. Piatkowski. A veteran and devoted public servant, Chester Piatkowski's legacy will always be remembered and cherished. I encourage my colleagues to keep his family in their prayers during this truly difficult time.

THE U.S.-INDIA ALLIANCE

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the strong relationship between the

United States and India. Since our two countries established diplomatic relations in 1946 through the 2005 launch of our strategic partnership, the United States and India have had a long and storied history. I thank Ambassador Shringla for his friendship and his deep commitment to maintaining our strong US-India alliance. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

I stand with India in their aspiration to provide equal economic, social, and political opportunities to all citizens. As part of this pursuit, two-thirds of the Indian Parliament voted last year to change the status of Jammu and Kashmir. This vote allowed the government of India to address the stagnant economy and high youth unemployment plaguing the region by providing economic opportunity and sound governance. The residents of Jammu and Kashmir have battled economic depression and forces of extremism and radicalization for too long. The regional stability now provided by government will give residents of Jammu and Kashmir a better way forward and hope for the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BLACK JANUARY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 30th anniversary of the events in Azerbaijan culminating in what is now known as Black January. In January 1990, the former U.S.S.R. attempted to continue to suppress freedom and impose its political will on the people of Azerbaijan. At that time, however, the people of Azerbaijan decided that they had enough of Soviet control and resisted.

At night, the Red Army marched into Baku to stem the movements for equality and freedom. While the Azeris used peaceful protests and calls for freedom, the Soviets responded with guns and tanks. These actions resulted in 147 civilian deaths, with hundreds more wounded and imprisoned.

The Azeris had seen what happened to prior independence movements in the Soviet Union, yet they persevered on. This tragedy only emboldened them in their cause, carrying on the mission of their countrymen which culminated in their August 1991 independence.

Since this monumental declaration, Azerbaijan has been a beacon of freedom in the region as well as a friend and ally of the United States. At this time, we memorialize those fallen and celebrate the continued strength of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to recognize Black January and join in the honoring of allies in Azerbaijan and their quest for liberation.