

Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges.

Passionate about maintaining the integrity of the legal profession and access to representation, Judge Pierantoni has volunteered his time to legal organizations and courts across the Commonwealth. He was an active member of the Pennsylvania Bar from 1983 until his election in 2012. He is also a past president of the Luzerne County Special Court Judges Association and former statewide president of the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania. He previously served as chair of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Minor Court Rules Committee and was a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Committee on Race and Gender Bias.

Judge Pierantoni is an active member of many civic organizations throughout the Greater Pittston Area and Luzerne County, such as the Lions Club. He previously served as volunteer solicitor to numerous fire companies, ambulance associations, civic and veteran associations, and youth sports leagues throughout the region.

It is an honor to join the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in recognizing Judge Fred A. Pierantoni III as the recipient of the Achievement Award. He has had a successful career serving his community and the law, and I wish him all the best on this St. Patrick's Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, this past Monday and Tuesday, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district and was not present for Roll Call Votes 91 and 92. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On Roll Call 91, I would have voted AYE, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 410, Encouraging reunions of divided Korean-American families; and on Roll Call 92, I would have voted AYE. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1771, Divided Families Reunification Act.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ENSURE FAIR ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY TO FEDERAL JOBS FOR ALL AMERICANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to ensure fair access and opportunity to federal jobs for all Americans.

For close to two decades now, I and many of my colleagues have been fighting to increase diversity in the international affairs and national security sector. I have called for a diversity plan from the Director of National Intelligence, as well as for the Department of State and USAID. Last year, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing entitled, "Diversity in Recruiting and Retention: In-

creasing Diversity in the Military—What the Military Services are Doing." And only last week, Senators held an event bringing attention to the February Report: "State Department: Additional Steps are Needed to Identify Potential Barriers to Diversity." My colleagues and I have been engaged in these efforts not because they are nice or correct, but because they are what is in the best interest for the survival of our nation.

The U.S. workforce is becoming more racially, ethnically, and otherwise diverse, with estimates that by 2050 over half of the workforce will be made up of Americans from diverse populations. Jobs across our government, whether they are in the military, intelligence, foreign service, health or education sectors, will require that we not only hire, but also retain a more diverse federal workforce to sustain the needs of our country and remain a stable democracy.

To do so, we must have a plan. My bill calls for a government-wide diversity and inclusion plan that ensures that all branches of government are engaged in multi-year strategic planning that recruits, hires, promotes, retains, and supports leadership from America's diverse talent pool in the federal workforce for the good of our country. It also calls for a review of diversity in government contracting and grantmaking, as both are often also pathways to government jobs.

Diversity and inclusion are the underpinnings of democratic societies. It is time that we enforce democratic values by ensuring all segments of our society have equal access and opportunity to contribute to a vibrant workforce that is at the heart of our democracy for the future of our nation.

HALEY SMITH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Haley Smith for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Haley Smith is a student at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Haley Smith is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Haley Smith for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF NORTHERN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County. This important organization is providing vital services to the children and families of this area, and it is good to recognize their work.

The Boys and Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County serves hundreds of youths a year and has six sites throughout Northern Chautauqua County. In 1994, the club was founded as a satellite program of the Jamestown Boys and Girls Club in Southern Chautauqua County. Space in the Masonic building on Central Avenue in Dunkirk was secured for the program and Jim Szwejbka became the first program director.

In 1996, the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County was incorporated as an independent club with Lynn Dorler as the first executive director for the club. Since that time, the club has provided after school activities and a positive environment that fosters relationship building, confidence building and a focus on healthy lifestyles through a variety of programs.

The club has had a variety of homes over the years. In 2006, the club moved to former Dunkirk School Number Six on Benton Street, had transitioned to the former St. Hyacinth School on Lake Shore Drive in 2010 and has recently found a new space in the Salvation Army building on Central Avenue.

The work this organization has done in the Dunkirk community and beyond has been instrumental in the lives of so many children and their families. For the past twenty-five years, this organization has become a cornerstone in youth programming in the area and I can't wait to see what they do in the next twenty-five years.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County.

RECOGNIZING TINA BROWN AS THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR DISTRICT 15

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tina Brown of Kennett, Missouri, on being awarded the Teacher of the Year for District 15 from the VFW. Every year, VFW posts throughout the United States honor teachers who promote America's history, traditions and civic education. This year, the award went to a woman from Southeast Missouri who has set a profound example of patriotism and civic responsibility for future generations of Missourians.

Tina Brown has been teaching at Kennett Middle School for 23 years. Every year she plans a trip for her students to attend the Wreaths Across America ceremony. She has also organized trips to treasured archives and military memorials throughout the state of Missouri and in the heart of Southeast Missouri such as the Stars and Stripes Museum in Bloomfield, Missouri. She even brought a class out to Washington, D.C. where I had the opportunity to meet these young students on the steps of the United States Capitol building and where her students were able to see the Vietnam War memorial. Trips like these are an important part of her teaching. They help students experience our nation's history in a tangible, lasting way and educate our future gen-

erations on the world of opportunities ahead of them.

Tina's phenomenal generosity extends beyond the classroom. She was the Chairperson of the Gold Star Monument for Dunklin county in 2019 and helped organize middle school students to raise money for this monument. Her efforts were fueled by her firm belief that there was a need in the community to recognize the families who have lost loved ones in service to our country. The monument is now awaiting placement in downtown Kennett, where it will be a reminder of those brave lives lost and of the compassion and patriotism of community members such as Tina.

I'm inspired not only by Tina's work but by her dedication to our servicemen and women. Tina's brother Frankie died while fighting for his country in Vietnam. Frankie was one of the

brave young men that risked their lives for the sake of our country and tragically passed away fighting for our freedom. Tina was young when her brother died but remembers the profound loss that her family felt with Frankie's passing. By teaching the importance of leadership and patriotism to her students, she honors his memory and keeps it alive for herself and others.

Tina is retiring from teaching this year to spend more time on the farm with her family. She will be greatly missed by students, faculty, and community members alike whose lives have been touched by her generosity and patriotism, as I have been.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Tina Brown for receiving this award.