

RON SLINGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Slinger for receiving the 2019 Chairman's Choice Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

The Chairman's Choice is selected annually by the Chairman of the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to recognize a member of the community who has shown leadership and outstanding support to the Arvada Chamber.

For more than 10 years, Ron has been a staple of the Arvada and Jefferson County community. During that time, Ron served as Red Rocks Community College's Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Strategic Partnerships and Workforce Solutions as well as Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Red Rocks Community College Foundation.

Ron's extensive involvement, leadership and contributions in Arvada have resulted in a significant and long-lasting impact in the community. His sense of humor and kindness bring positive energy and perspective to any opportunity he undertakes. In addition, Ron positively impacted the community through active and abundant volunteerism, leadership and advocacy. He is a true advocate for the Arvada Chamber and has fully dedicated himself to the betterment of the community.

Recently Ron took a new position as President of Miles Community College but has left a legacy in our community that will be difficult for anyone to fill. Congratulations to Ron on this recognition from the Arvada Chamber, and I extend my deepest appreciation for his contribution to our community.

**HONORING TOWNSEND LEATHER
FOR RECEIVING THE FULTON
MONTGOMERY REGIONAL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE EDWARD L.
WILKINSON INDUSTRY OF THE
YEAR AWARD**

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Townsend Leather for receiving the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce Edward L. Wilkinson Industry of the Year Award.

Townsend Leather Co., Inc. in Johnstown has been offering high-quality leather products to its customers for the past 50 years. This third-generation-business, founded in 1969 by Albert "Red" Kucel, along with his wife Dorothy and their children, now employs more than 160 partners. They maintain 128,000 square feet of manufacturing space in three buildings on Townsend Avenue, complemented by the recent opening of a 62,000 square foot building on Grove Street. Known by many as "The Stitch," this new space is located in a refurbished 1900s knitting mill. Townsend Leather Co. offers a wide range of residential, hospitality/hotel and corporate applications including

jet interiors, as well as for luxury motor coaches, show cars and yachts in more than 1,000 colors, textures, and qualities.

Townsend Leather Co. is an industry leader and reflects the best qualities of the business community in the North Country. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to congratulate the entire Townsend Leather team for this well-deserved recognition. I look forward to their future success.

HONORING DR. JAMES DENNIS**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Dennis, President of McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois, for dedicating a quarter century to strengthening the school's mission and expanding its national profile.

Born in Los Angeles, Dr. Dennis had teaching in his DNA. With both his parents working as teachers, he spent his childhood living on a college campus, where he gained his passion for reading and learning. After receiving a Ph.D. in education and a law degree, Dr. Dennis began his career at the University of Southern California before beginning his tenure at McKendree in 1994. Dr. Dennis has helped transform the local college into a large university with a high percentage of out-of-state and international students. One of Dr. Dennis's most important goals is to create a relationship with every student that he can; he wants them to understand how much he values their success. When he's not focused on administration of university, Dr. Dennis enjoys traveling and spending time with his five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dr. James Dennis for his commitment to making McKendree University a top destination for young people charting their path for a lifetime of success.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE PRO-
MOTING HEALTHIER LIFELONG
IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND
EXERCISE ACT OF 2020**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Promoting Healthier Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise Act (LIFE Act), which authorizes a national initiative to attack a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Increasing rates of overweight and obesity are now found among Americans of every age, race and major demographic group, and threaten the health of Americans like no disease or condition. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is not only to reduce overweight and obesity, but also to encourage exercise of all kinds.

The LIFE Act would provide \$25 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion (CDC) for a coordinated national effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar. Specifically, my bill would require the CDC to establish the first national strategy to combat the overweight and obesity epidemic. The CDC, either directly or through grants to states or local organizations, would train health professionals to recognize the signs of overweight and obesity early in order to educate Americans about proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct public education campaigns about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies for use in everyday life, such as in the workplace and community settings.

In 2017, estimates from the CDC National Center for Health Statistics showed that since 1971 to 1974, the percentage of children and adolescents who are obese has increased from 5 percent to 18.5 percent. The CDC also reports that Type 2 Diabetes, once considered an adult disease, is now widespread among children. The rising cost of the health care system, including insurance premiums, reflects this epidemic. Today, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight and obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S., and 75 percent of U.S. medical care costs. A focused national health initiative would provide guidance to the states to engage in similar programs, as mayors of some cities have done.

A national focus could lead to changes, such as greater participation in high school physical education classes, which dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 25 percent in 1995 and has remained constant through 2015. Changes in nutrition are equally critical because more than half of all young people consume too much fat, a factor in the increase of overweight youth. Data also show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity.

To cite an example of the need for action, the District of Columbia is one of the fittest cities in the United States, according to a 2019 study by the American College of Sports Medicine, yet even here, obesity continues to be a severe problem. Approximately one-fifth of District residents are considered obese. Most of the obesity epidemic is exercise-and-food-related.

I urge support of this important bill to mobilize the country now before entirely preventable health conditions, which often begin in childhood, overwhelm the nation's health care system.

THRIVE WORKPLACE**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thrive Workplace for receiving the 2019 Chairman's Choice Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Since opening in Arvada just one year ago, Thrive Workplace—or Thrive West Arvada—has proved their commitment to the Arvada community. By offering a place for individuals and businesses to come together, they have shown their investment in the success of local entrepreneurs and businesses and their focus

on resiliency, leadership and building community.

The workspace features ample desk space laid out to foster a welcoming, vibrant space where people feel inspired to work, the lively energy that permeates our dedicated and mobile/drop-in desk space is captivating. Our workspaces aim to establish a sense of community and a familiar atmosphere that strives to promote collaboration and innovation. With more than 50 private offices and a number of private phone booths, Thrive's third location also offers a serene escape from the bustling energy of our open spaces. It also offers a 1,400-square-foot training room designed to accommodate a variety of events and is equipped with whiteboard walls and a projector as well as three conference rooms of varying sizes and a private rooftop deck.

Thrive West Arvada has become the "go-to" spot, from lunch-and-learns to corporate training sessions for the whole team, happy hours for networking and so much more, our new venue is equipped with the versatility to meet the needs of teams large and small.

It is also conveniently located near RTD's G Line and I-70, connecting the thriving Arvada community to downtown Denver.

Congratulations to Thrive Workplace for the recognition from the Arvada Chamber, and I extend my deepest appreciation for their contribution to our community.

**HONORING RUGGIERO REALTY LLC
FOR RECEIVING THE FULTON
MONTGOMERY REGIONAL CHAM-
BER OF COMMERCE SMALL BUSI-
NESS AWARD**

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ruggiero Realty LLC for receiving the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce Small Business Award.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and I am proud of the strong small business community in the North Country. Lana Ruggiero, owner of Ruggiero Realty LLC, is a Fulton County native and lifelong resident of Gloversville. Lana holds numerous real estate designations, is a notary public, and has been honored numerous times; including as a top producing agent and REALTOR of the year in Fulton County. She is very active in the community and in various business organizations, currently serving as a member of the Fulton-Montgomery County Regional Chamber of Commerce, President of the Gloversville Women's Alumni Club, and on the board of the Parkhurst Field Foundation. She previously served as treasurer of the Fulton County Board of REALTORS. Heading into her sixteenth year as a REALTOR, Lana attributes her success to her desire to serve her clients as if they were part of her own family.

Lana's deep knowledge and passion for the community has led to her continued success. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to congratulate Lana and the Ruggiero Realty LLC for this well-deserved recognition. I look forward to their future success.

HONORING CINDY DACH

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Cindy Dach, a leader and visionary entrepreneur in Arizona. Throughout her career and in every endeavor she takes on, Cindy has always been tireless in her pursuit to make our community a better place for everyone. Cindy's work was recently acknowledged with the 2019 ATHENA Businesswoman of the Year award, an honor from the Greater Phoenix Chamber awarded to women who demonstrate excellence in leadership, community service, and mentorship.

That Cindy should be awarded an honor in the name of the Greek goddess Athena is fitting. Like Athena, Cindy is a force a nature, who lives her life with fearlessness, bravery, and authenticity. It was these qualities that led her to co-found the Roosevelt Row Community Development Corporation. The organization revitalized a downtown neighborhood into the Roosevelt Row Arts District, now a walkable arts district in Phoenix's urban core, nationally known for its arts and cultural events, rotating exhibits and wonderful local restaurants.

Most emblematic of her spirit of service is Cindy's role as co-founder and CEO of Changing Hands bookstore, a gathering place for people all over the Valley to exchange ideas. The bookstore has served as a touchstone in our community for more than 45 years, and has hosted presidents and leaders including Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Jimmy Carter, and Madeline Albright.

Cindy has also helped inspire a generation of young women to build and create in their own art studios, craft breweries, and boutiques on Roosevelt Row. While Cindy has been a pillar of Roosevelt Row for decades, she is saving space and a saving grace for women in business. Not only does she lend square footage of her own properties, but she also mentors and actively supports female entrepreneurs in the arts district.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Cindy Dach as a leader and entrepreneur behind the helm of a rising Phoenix. I'm grateful for the opportunity to witness her work and to call her a friend.

**HONORING THE POSITIVE
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE**

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to The Positive Community Magazine for 20 years of promoting African-American culture, values and traditions.

In the late 1990s, Adrian Council, Sr. and Jean Nash Wells wanted to change the way African Americans were perceived in their communities and in the country. They did not like the fact that most of the publicity they

read about African Americans was negative. They started a newsletter, called the Good Newsletter, and filled it with positive stories from black culture. Then they distributed it to churches and other popular gathering places throughout the northern New Jersey and New York area. Eventually, the Good Newsletter became the Positive Community Newsletter.

In 2000, the founders decided to turn their newsletter into a magazine, called The Positive Community, and still contains stories about the people, organizations, and companies that are doing good things in black communities. For example, one of their issues is dedicated to college graduation with photos and descriptions of the graduates.

Today, The Positive Community has evolved into a faith-based lifestyle magazine written for African-American consumers in the New York and New Jersey market. It continues to be focused on the good news reported from churches and communities. The co-founders initial dream to create a balanced medium that accurately reflects the efforts of churches, small businesses, corporations, and concerned individuals to improve their neighborhoods, towns and cities has become a reality. In addition to the monthly publication, The Positive Community co-sponsors church and community events that focus on health and financial literacy-related issues.

On New Year's Day of 2020, the magazine hosted the inaugural Great American Emancipation Day Awards Banquet at the historic Robert Treat Hotel in Newark, New Jersey to celebrate their 20th anniversary. They presented seven guests with awards to honor their commitment to African-American communities, such as the Torchbearer Award, Servant Leadership Award, and the Community Spirit Award. The event continued the same devotion to respect for the audience as the magazine has shown to its readers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and recognize The Positive Community Magazine for its 20-year commitment to positive publicity for African Americans across the country.

**HONORING LONNIE GILBERT
NEFOUSE**

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and fellow veteran, Lonnie Gilbert Nefouse, who recently passed away at the age of 73 in Carmel, Indiana.

Early in his life, Lonnie chose a path of service to our country. Lonnie defended our stars and stripes with the courage and selflessness that will continue to make our nation great for generations to come. This is evident in the many honors he was awarded including a Bronze Star Medal and a Purple Heart.

Not only was Lonnie a patriot, but a pillar of our Hoosier community and a true family man. He valued spending time with his family and served as a role model for future generations through his civic leadership and commitment to country.

The Pence family is lucky to have considered Lonnie a close friend. He was a generous person who will be remembered fondly and greatly missed.