

The co-chairs aim to make the walk family-friendly year after year, because suicide and mental health do not just impact adults. There has been an increase in pediatric mental health issues in recent years, and mental health affects the whole family. The co-chairs have included events for the whole family in the walk, from face painting and bracelet making to live music and therapy dogs.

Although the walk takes place on one day, Joni, Nicole, and their team begin preparing for the event months in advance. They start planning in January and meet often to organize sponsors, vendors, and volunteers. This year, the walk had 15 sponsors supporting the event. 80 percent of every dollar from sponsorships goes to suicide prevention and mental health research tight here in Iowa.

Joni and Nicole are tireless advocates for mental health, and their dedication to raising awareness in the community is remarkable. Joni has worked with the American Suicide Prevention Foundation for 12 years and Nicole has served the organization since 2015. Both women coordinate an amazing walk that provides a space for families of those lost to suicide to feel understood and to meet other families affected by suicide.

The American Suicide Prevention Foundation offers free resources for individuals and families across the region. The organization has monthly support groups, community-based presentations, and programs to help Iowans become more aware of mental health.

Joni and Nicole's advocacy for suicide prevention and mental health awareness have changed lives and provided hope for countless Iowans. It is my pleasure to honor Joni Thornton and Nicole Mortenson as Iowans of the Week.

HONORING NEWS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor NEWS, Napa County's only domestic violence and sexual abuse agency, as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Founded in 1981, NEWS was created by members of the Napa County community with the mission of providing a safe place for women and children who experienced domestic abuse. With the help of local Napa County leaders, NEWS founders were able to acquire a house, and begin to shelter survivors of domestic abuse when they had nowhere else to go. Since 1981, NEWS has grown into an organization that serves over 1,300 Women, Men, Children, and LGBTQ+ folk annually.

The critical services NEWS provides to the Napa community include a 24-hour domestic violence and sexual abuse help line, referral services for domestic violence and sexual abuse survivors, and food, clothing, transportation, and medical support. Additionally, the NEWS shelter provides private bedrooms, private bathrooms, a family room, a full kitchen, and spacious areas for children to play for up to 20 community members at a time. Further, the NEWS court advocates assist survivors in filing protective orders, and NEWS case managers work with clients to find safe and affordable housing.

NEWS is an active member of several local, state, and national organizations that advocate for and promote domestic violence and sexual abuse prevention. These organizations include the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, the Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Community Leaders Coalition, the Napa County Continuum of Care, the Napa County Behavioral Health Committee, the Napa Valley Communities Organized Against Disaster, and more.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that NEWS' contributions to our community have made Napa County a safer place for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor it here today.

RECOGNIZING JOHN BASALYGA,
ITALIAN AMERICAN MAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Basalyga who will be recognized as the Italian American Man of the Year by the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County at their annual gathering on Sunday, October 10, 2021.

John was raised in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. When he began his career in 2001, he knew he wanted to maintain the deep connection he felt to his home region by creating jobs and supporting the local economy. He founded Eastern Roofing Systems in Jessup, Pennsylvania, which began as a small local business and eventually grew into one of the largest commercial and industrial roofing contractors in the country, known for a commitment to quality and innovation.

In 2006, John founded JBAS Realty and began turning industrial properties into housing, transforming spaces from the region's manufacturing past into modern accommodations. The Lofts at 300 Bowman in Dickson City, the Railroad Lofts in Moscow, the Warehouse Lofts in Scranton, and the North Valley Lofts in Olyphant are a testament to John's architectural and design vision and his commitment to providing housing in Lackawanna County. His company also takes on commercial properties. In 2015, John acquired the Mall at Steamtown, which he transformed into the Marketplace at Steamtown: a modern, mixed-use facility that attracts tourists and locals to downtown Scranton. Other properties that have benefitted from John's talent and expertise include Crunch Fitness; the Olde Brook Inn, a popular fine dining restaurant; Geisinger Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, set to open later this year; and the Rock Creek Corporate Center and the Rock Creek Shops.

John is always working on new and innovative ventures that improve the landscape of our community. He recently founded Serenity Care, LLC, which will own and operate five senior care centers in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. In his most ambitious move yet, he plans to demolish the Red Carpet Inn to construct the City of Scranton's tallest building, which will feature retail establishments, a restaurant, a hotel, office space, and residential units.

His success in commercial roofing led John to expand his business to include independent service and residential departments in 2019. Eastern Residential Solutions won an Angie's List Super Service Award in 2020 and is integral to John's charitable work. The company recently provided a new roof for a local veteran through the Beacon of Hope Project in 2020, and in 2021, they donated the labor and materials to replace all the roofs at South Scranton Little League.

I am honored to join with the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County in recognizing John as the Italian American Man of the Year. John's hard work, dedication, and vision have transformed the City of Scranton, and I wish him all the best as he continues to help our beloved city reach new heights.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA NEUWIRTH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend, Jessica Neuwirth, for her longstanding commitment to women's rights and her work against human trafficking around the world.

As one of America's preeminent lawyers and activists on women's rights and a graduate of Harvard Law School, Jessica has worked extensively in the international women's rights movement with the United Nations, in international criminal courts, and within the larger global women's movement. She served as Special Advisor on Sexual Violence to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, drafting the sections on sexual violence of the historic Akayesu judgement in 1998, which defined rape for the first time in international law and found sexual violence to constitute a form of genocide.

Jessica continued her important work in the international sphere, helping to organize a global Afghan Women's Summit just three months after 9/11 in December 2001, and a Beijing +10 campaign on laws which discriminate against women, resulting in the creation by the Human Rights Council of a UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and Practice. She played a key role in the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000, as well as the international Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the United Nations in 2000. Jessica has also served as Special Advisor on Sexual Violence to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, where she continued to highlight the gruesome use of rape as a weapon in armed conflicts around the world. Today, as the Rita E. Hauser Director of the Human Rights Program at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College, Jessica serves as an incubator for the Global Reparations Fund for Victims of Sexual Violence launched last year at the United Nations.

It is therefore no surprise that Jessica was honored this past week with the insignia of Knight of the French Legion of Honour. This is the highest award that a citizen or noncitizen of France can receive, and speaks volumes about the strong devotion, and enduring drive for justice that has characterized Jessica for her entire life.

She can now add the Legion of Honour to the host of other accolades bestowed upon her over the years, including the National Organization for Women's Susan B. Anthony Award (1997), the Visionary Ending Violence Award from the Harvard Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (2005), the New York County Lawyer's Association Edith I. Spivack Award (2009), and the Civic Spirit Award from the Women's City Club (2016), among a plethora of others throughout her storied career.

I am so pleased that our long-time ally has recognized Jessica for her critical contributions to anti-trafficking and women's rights around the world, and I am proud to be able to do the same today.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINE HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing October as National Spine Health Awareness Month.

In 2019, nearly 40 percent of Americans suffered from chronic neck or back pain according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those numbers increased to nearly 45 percent in adults with income below the federal poverty level. Back pain is also the number one cause of missed workdays and the leading cause of job-related disability and pain. In fact, it costs \$250 billion to the U.S. economy annually.

Unfortunately, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have been sitting more, eating more, and moving less: all of which have exacerbated spinal problems.

The National Spine Health Foundation (NSHF) located in my district in Reston, Virginia, is the only patient-centered non-profit dedicated to helping patients overcome debilitating spinal conditions. The Foundation is especially dedicated to helping prevent abuse of opioids used for pain. Back pain is the most common non-cancer related reason for an opioid prescription. Decreased opioid use also reduces the risk of future opioid dependency.

I would like to congratulate NSHF on receiving the International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery's award in 2021 for its research on the hospital protocol called Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS). The ERAS for back and neck surgeries has resulted in a greater than 50 percent reduction in postoperative opioid consumption and pain scores.

In addition, NSHF's Medical and Scientific Board includes fifty of the top spine specialists in the nation. Through patient education, award-winning research, and advocacy, NSHF partners with these top spine specialists to provide patients with the tools to make informed decisions by providing information on prevention, nonsurgical and surgical treatments.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the importance of good spinal health, supporting individuals who suffer from spinal issues, and thanking the NSHF

and the health care providers who help not just in October, but all year long.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 313.

EDWARD ROTHSCHILD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward Rothschild for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year Award.

This award is given to a member of the community who has displayed outstanding leadership and a passion for helping those around them. As a business owner, advocate, and dedicated volunteer for his community, Edward has proven himself to be a champion for businesses and the larger Arvada community.

He has served in many leadership roles in the community including on the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Advocacy KAPS Council; the Sooper Credit Union Community Foundation Board; Bike Friendly Arvada Board; City of Arvada Chatter Review Committee; and the Whisper Creek Townhomes Homeowners Association. He also volunteers his time with numerous organizations such as the Arvada Planning Commission, Foothills Animal Shelter Foundation, and MS Society of CO/WY. In addition to volunteering, Edward has helped support and sponsor several local organizations such as Arvada Festivals Commission, Arvada Center for the Arts & Humanities, Bicycle Colorado, Chabad of NW Denver, Colorado Environmental Film Festival and Colorado Automobile Dealers Association.

Congratulations to Edward Rothschild for receiving the Man of the Year Award. His hard work, leadership and dedication to our community is greatly appreciated.

CELEBRATING THE 132ND ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JAMES A.M.E. CHURCH OF DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2021

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 132nd anniversary of the St. James African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church of Douglasville, Georgia on October 10, 2021.

Since its founding in 1889, St. James A.M.E. Church has served the greater Douglasville area through ministry, service,

and fellowship. As they mark this momentous occasion, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations to the church leaders, elders, and congregation. There are many ways to gauge the impact a religious institution has on its community. However, one of the most telling is its longevity, for that demonstrates that teaching of a loving gospel can move generations of God's people.

The mission of St. James A.M.E. is to minister to the spiritual, physical, emotional, and environmental needs of all people through spreading the word of Christ. However, this church community does not just preach the gospel on Sundays, but instead carries the gospel with them every day through their good deeds. Saving the lost, serving the needy, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless, caring for the sick, are only a few examples of how St. James A.M.E. impacts its community.

St. James A.M.E. has been a beacon of Christian light and fellowship for a very long time. They take care of their community and those that are struggling. Loving our neighbors as we love ourselves is deeply engrained in St. James A.M.E.'s culture. Through the spirit of selfless generosity and love for others, God has shined his light on this congregation, and you all have taken that light and steadfastly turned it on your community. For fifteen years, St. James A.M.E. has partnered with the Atlanta Community Food Bank to serve meals and provide goods to fellow neighbors. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the church set up a mobile food bank and food pantry for patrons to easily get meals for their families. Additionally, St. James A.M.E. organized a COVID-19 vaccination event to ensure that citizens of the greater Douglasville area had access to this lifesaving vaccine.

Throughout the 132 years of St. James A.M.E., its members and fellow Black and African American neighbors were not afforded the same freedoms as their white brothers and sisters. This church has lived through the great Civil Rights Movement and the continued effects of racism and bigotry. Through their perseverance, they have continued to promote equality in their community, through actions such as working tirelessly during the 2020 election cycle to ensure voters were registered and had all the information they needed to cast their ballot on election day.

I am pleased to congratulate your church leaders, elders, and the generations of congregants at St. James A.M.E. Church for setting positive examples as leaders in ministry for the city of Douglasville. From the first pastors back in 1889, Reverend Pierce and Reverend Lawrence, to today's Reverend LeRoy Ladson, Jr., these leaders have grounded this community's faith and united the people of Douglasville through the Word of God.

Madam Speaker, as St. James A.M.E. Church of Douglasville, Georgia marks its 132nd anniversary, I would like to applaud this church's steadfast commitment to God's Word and God's people. I want to close with a fitting scripture that epitomizes the spirit of St. James A.M.E., Galatians 6:9, which reads, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

May God continue to bless St. James A.M.E. Church of Douglasville, Georgia.