

GOLD STARS MOTHERS FAMILY
MONUMENT EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the Gold Star Mothers Family Monument Extension Act of 2021.

Since our country's entrance into World War I, the Gold Star tradition has remained a simple, yet powerful reminder of all the sacrifices made by our servicemembers and their families. The qualities that our Gold Star Families possess are the qualities that we all seek in America: courage, perseverance, strength, and above all, an unflinching determination to see the right prevail.

The passage of this bill and the ultimate completion of the Gold Star Mothers Family National Monument would be the clearest display of gratitude from the American people. The monument would embody the spirit of national service, highlight the ongoing contributions Gold Star Families contribute to our communities, and provide visitors with a space to reflect and remember loss.

This bill would not have been possible without the tireless advocacy of Judith Young, a constituent of mine from Moorestown, New Jersey. I thank Judith for her work for the commemoration of Gold Star Families through the monument and thank the House for passing this meaningful legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the bipartisan work that was undertaken in the last Congress to get to this moment and the same work that was done to bring this bill to the floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS
DOMBROSKI

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Thomas "Tom" Dombroski, a long-time resident of Detroit, who contributed actively to several community-based organizations and was especially known for his service as a member of the board of the Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition and as a proud member of the Teamsters.

Tom was a tough, big-hearted person whose sense of humor and warmth belied his tenacity in the fight to protect his community in southwest Detroit. Tom was a champion of the underdog and advocated for justice on behalf of those who needed it most. Before he retired, Tom's work with the Teamsters Union prepared him for his second act in life as a community advocate for equitable development of the Gordie Howe Bridge international border crossing in Detroit. He was outspoken in the fight for clean air and good quality of life for residents who will live in the shadow of the large-scale transportation infrastructure.

I have always known Tom to be generous with his time and energy. His spirit will be sorely missed by the community he served.

Please join me as we recognize Thomas Dombroski's many contributions to the families of southwest Detroit and beyond as we give honor to his memory.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH COSTELLO ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete, coach, and Northeastern Pennsylvania native Joseph Costello. Joseph will be inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 2021 for his distinct athletic and coaching achievements in the sport of track and field. He and his fellow inductees will be honored at a reception on August 8, 2021.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Joseph was a standout athlete in football and track and field at West Pittston High School from 1957 to 1961. He was a two-time PIAA District II champion in the shotput. Joseph continued his academic career at the University of Scranton where he earned an undergraduate degree in education and a master's degree in administration. In 1966, he began his teaching, coaching, and administrative career at Pittston Area High School.

In 1970, Joseph founded the Pittston Area track and field program, beginning his legendary coaching career. He developed and built the program on the foundation of measured and thoughtful coaching while fostering a strong feeder system which resulted in hundreds of students participating in the program under his leadership. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Pittston Area Patriots dominated regional track and field. Between 1980 and 1983, the team won 55 consecutive meets, four consecutive Wyoming Valley Conference (WVC) League championships, four consecutive PIAA District II championships, and four Jordan Relay titles, in addition to setting district records and winning state medals. In 1983, the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader named him the first WVC Track Coach of the Year.

Some of the impressive records set by Joseph's athletes still stand today in PIAA District II, nearly four decades later. The Pittston Area 4 x 400 relay record of 3:23.44 set in 1981 by state medalists Ed Zaleski, Al Michalec, Vince O'Boyle, and Jack Goldowski still stands, as does the District II record in the 400 of 48.74 seconds set in 1982 by state medalist Vince O'Boyle and the District II 4 x 800 relay record of 8:00.84 set in 1981 by Mike Lombardo, Jay Loughney, Joe Bannon, and Bruce Marancik. Many of Joseph's star athletes went on to have impressive collegiate careers at institutions such as East Stroudsburg University, Bucknell University, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

In 1983, Joseph retired from coaching to serve as the assistant principal of Pittston

Area High School, and in 1992, he was named principal, a position he held until his retirement in 1998. The effects of Joseph's coaching were felt in the years after his retirement during the 1984 and 1985 seasons as the Patriots went on to win 86 consecutive regular season WVC meets and six consecutive WVC and PIAA District II titles.

It is an honor to recognize Joseph on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and coaching career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes and coaches striving for excellence.

IN RECOGNITION OF MTV'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize MTV, on its 40th anniversary for the cultural imprint it has left on our country and the work it continues to do as one of the world's leading global youth brands. Throughout MTV's 40 years, the brand has created reality television, expanded the creative mediums of the music industry, and inspired our nation's youth. Today, this New York-born and bred brand reaches 180 countries and 1.8 billion people around the world.

In August 1981, MTV exploded onto the airwaves with the release of the first-ever music video, "Video Killed the Radio Star" by The Buggies. Shortly after, MTV began to define popular culture and the music industry in an unprecedented manner with popular music becoming more visual and dance and clothing styles garnering a greater importance to the whole experience of music. MTV's popularity grew to such heights that in 1984 it hosted the network's first Video Music Awards—known as the VMAs—ceremony at Radio City Music Hall in the great city of New York.

In 1985, MTV began to air safe sex Public Service Announcements (PSAs), making it one of the first television networks to do so. These safe-sex initiatives continued over the years through MTV's It's Your Sex Life campaign and more, helping to educate our nation's youth on the importance of safe sex practices. MTV was a pioneer in the nascent efforts to ensure our nation's teens and young adults had the knowledge to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases and infections, contributing to lowering the rates of such diseases in the following decades.

Continuing its work in this type of educational programming, in February 1992, MTV launched Choose or Lose during the 1992 presidential election. The awareness campaign successfully engaged young people by demystifying the political process, encouraging registration, stressing the importance of voting, and highlighting issues of daily importance to Americans. The Choose or Lose campaign contributed to a twenty percent increase in youth turnout during the 1992 general election and remains a model for encouraging youth voter engagement.

In 1996, MTV grew Choose or Lose to include a bus that toured 80,000 miles between forty-eight states to engage even more young

Americans in the political process and shed light on the issues impacting them. During this time, MTV devoted more than 100 hours of airtime to policy issues affecting young people. The campaign was successful in registering 30,000 new young voters, and when President Clinton signed the Voter Registration Act of 1993 into law, he cited MTV and Rock the Vote's role in making such a landmark law possible. MTV used its voice to promote the bill, educate the public on the bill on MTV News, and provide a platform for the bill's sponsors and proponents. In addition, MTV provided \$20 million worth of airtime for Motor Voter PSAs, directing viewers to call their representatives in support of the legislation.

In March 2008, MTV broadcast an hour-long special event that brought together presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, John McCain and Barack Obama, as well as eight young veterans for an intimate discussion on the 5th anniversary of the Iraq war.

MTV also built a coalition of 3,000 partners in 2020 to launch the first-ever Vote Early Day. This new civic holiday and day of action aims to keep younger Americans informed and assist them in exercising their right to vote. Through these actions, MTV has shown the power of popular culture in motivating our younger generations to vote by using its influence to encourage millions of young people to "Choose or Lose" and "Vote Early."

In addition to its civic education work, MTV also has a longstanding history of mental health advocacy. They were awarded a Peabody Award in 2007 for their work on mtvU: Half of Us, a multiplatform campaign that includes a thorough website and numerous public service spots to help college students deal with stress and depression. And earlier this year, they launched a new multi-year initiative, "Mental Health is Health," which will harness the power of storytelling to destigmatize mental health.

Inspired by the spirit of youth—from escapism to activism—MTV's impact has transcended the entertainment industry and pop culture reaching audiences and driving social change all around the world.

I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing MTV for its contributions to society and culture. Happy 40th anniversary, and we can't wait to see what the next 40 bring.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. LEON
HALEY, JR.

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Leon Haley, Jr., who served as CEO of UF Health Jacksonville in my district. His sudden passing on July 25, 2021, is an incredible loss not only to his many family and friends who loved him but was also felt deeply by our Jacksonville medical community.

His colleagues have shared their tremendous respect for Dr. Haley, remarking that he led his team with integrity, kindness, and commitment to all he was called to serve. As the first Black CEO of UF Health, Dr. Haley prioritized the importance of providing high-quality and compassionate care to patients of

all backgrounds and was a known advocate for equality in healthcare. Dr. Haley played a pivotal role in Florida's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and is believed to be the first Floridian to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

On behalf of our Northeast Florida community, I rise today to recognize Dr. Haley for his years of public service and dedication to our community. I offer my heartfelt prayers for peace and comfort for his family, friends, and all who were blessed to know Dr. Haley. We come together during this difficult time to honor his memory as a great medical leader, doctor, colleague, friend, and father. May he rest in peace.

IN APPRECIATION OF MS. TESSA
E. BROWNE FOR HER SERVICE
ON MY STAFF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in deep appreciation of Ms. Tessa E. Browne for her service to the American people as a member of my staff.

Ms. Browne joined my office in February 2019, having worked previously for former Secretary of Energy Dr. Ernest J. Moniz following his departure from the Obama Administration. She was referred to us by the office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and after just one meeting we hired her on the spot.

The Scheduler is widely considered to be one of the most demanding and critical staff positions in any Congressional office. From ensuring that I made it to cast votes on the floor of the House of Representatives, join Committee proceedings, or attend meetings with foreign dignitaries and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Ms. Browne's work each day ensured that I was able to carry out my duties as a Member of Congress.

In addition to serving as my Scheduler, Ms. Browne has also served as my Digital Director. From day one in that role, she helped to revitalize and significantly increase our online engagement across my social media channels. Many of my highest-performing social media posts occurred during her tenure, for which I am grateful. She raised the bar for my office's social media presence and set an example that I will hold my staff to for years to come.

This fall, Ms. Browne will be pursuing her Master of Public Administration at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in New York City. I and all the members of Team Garamendi wish her the very best in her graduate studies. During her tenure on my staff, Ms. Browne demonstrated an unfaltering work ethic, approached every task with upbeat enthusiasm, and cared deeply for her colleagues and those around her. These same qualities will serve her well in her future endeavors.

While we will miss her deeply, we all look forward with anticipation to what Ms. Browne will do next and expect great things. She will remain a deeply valued member of Team Garamendi, always.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHANA
WELCH ON HER INDUCTION INTO
THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS
HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete, coach, and Northeastern Pennsylvania native Shana Welch. Shana will be inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 2021 for her distinct athletic and coaching achievements in the sports of swimming and water polo. She and her fellow inductees will be honored at a reception on August 8, 2021.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

At Wyoming Valley West High School, Shana was a standout member of the swim team. She received All-American recognition from the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association in both the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle event. She was named Conference Swimmer of the Year four times and won 15 PIAA District II swimming medals.

Shana was not only a skilled swimmer, but she was also a key player on the soccer, water polo, and track and field teams, earning four letters in water polo and soccer and one in track and field. On the water polo team, she helped lead the team to their first State Championship in 1999. She was a four-time All-State and four-time All-American, and in her freshman year she was named Rookie of the Year. After her senior year, she was crowned MVP.

Shana continued her academic and athletic careers at the University of Michigan, establishing herself as one of the best players in school water polo history. She set new program records for career goals and points and led the team as captain in 2006 and 2007. The Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) recognized her athletic prowess throughout her collegiate career, naming her Rookie of the Year in 2005, MVP of the CWPA Western Division three times, and CWPA Player of the Week nine times. Shana was instrumental in leading the team to the 2005 CWPA Championship and earned an NCAA tournament berth, as well as four consecutive division crowns from 2004 to 2007. USA Speedo named her a Top 40 player in both 2005 and 2006. In addition to her dominance in the pool, Shana excelled academically. She received the University of Michigan Athletic Academic Achievement Award in 2006 and 2007, and she received the Bob Ufer Sr. Athlete Award in 2007.

Shana played professional water polo in Australia with the UWA Comets the year after graduation and in Greece from 2010–2011. Stateside, she focused on coaching, accepting a position as Bucknell University's assistant swim coach for the 2008–2009 season. For the 2009–2010 season, she coached the Harvard men's water polo team. In 2014, Shana joined Long Beach State University as the women's water polo volunteer assistant, and, in 2020, she was named the first dedicated