

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sybil Shainwald for her remarkable advocacy for the health of women all over the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RALPH MONACO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 17, 2021*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the Members of the House to join me in mourning the passing of Ralph Monaco, a highly talented and respected lawyer in the State of Connecticut, a devoted husband and father, and all-around outstanding citizen who cared for his community and always went above and beyond to help others. We tragically lost Ralph on July 10, 2021 at the young age of 54. Ralph truly represented the best of eastern Connecticut and was a role model to so many in the field of law. His legacy and his leadership in private practice and in the public sphere will always be remembered and cherished.

Ralph was born in the Bronx in 1967 and spent most of his adolescence in the Big Apple. After exceling in his primary and secondary education, he decided to continue his education and attended Fordham University. While there—he made the decision that he would pursue a career in the field of law and chose to attend Quinnipiac Law School in North Haven, Connecticut, where his love for law truly flourished. After a successful academic career and graduation from law school in 1993—Ralph pursued his legal career and ventured to become a trial lawyer right here in eastern Connecticut. Through his determination and hard work, Ralph ascended in the field and became a partner at a firm right here in New London, CT at Conway, Londregan, Sheehan & Monaco P.C.

His passion for the law eventually carried Ralph to becoming an active member of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA). There, through his convivial personality and highly ethical and sophisticated knowledge of the law, he rose through the ranks and became the 87th and youngest President in the history of the CBA by 2010. With the CBA, he formed relationships with many public officials and led several initiatives within the organization including his activity as the founder of the Civics Education Committee and serving as chair of the Modernizing Lawyer Referrals & Law Firm Models Subcommittee of the State of the Legal Profession Task Force; as well as the legislative liaison of the Litigation Section. Moreover—he was a crucial contributor to the CBA's Volunteer Attorney Program which grants families and individuals in need access to pro-bono legal assistance.

Ralph's community involvement went far beyond his major contributions to the CBA. He served on the Jury Committee of the Chief Justice's Public Safety and Trust Commission and was appointed by Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill to serve on the Civics Commission. He was also an active member of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, Connecticut Bar Foundation, and New London County Bar Association. Ralph was an individual who gave all his energy to

supporting the greater good and one cannot quantify all the lives he positively impacted with his contributions to our eastern Connecticut community through the field of law. We will be forever grateful for Ralph's efforts and will work to carry his legacy of compassion.

Those who had the pleasure of working with Ralph attest to his tireless and focused work ethic. Ralph was a gentleman but not stuffy—he enjoyed a good laugh and was sensitive to anyone he interacted with. I had the pleasure to get to him know him during my years in the practice of law and as his Congressman. Ralph's sudden and unexpected loss has left a void in Eastern Connecticut and the legal community. Madam Speaker, to that end, I again ask that my colleagues and this Chamber to join me in expressing our deepest respect for Ralph's work and life and send our deepest condolences to the Monaco family. Ralph is survived by his wife Dina and daughters Abby and Anna—his sister Angela—and many other family members and friends who will carry the lasting memory of Ralph in their hearts.

AMERICAN TAMIL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 17, 2021*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I wish to honor the work of the American Tamil Medical Association, an organization devoted to promoting charitable work both in the United States and around the world.

Formed by ten Tamil physicians in 2005, ATMA has grown to include 13 chapters in 3 countries. Its annual convention brings together the brightest minds in the Tamil medical community to share ideas and initiate projects to create healthier conditions for the poor and underserved in this country and abroad.

As a Tamil American, I share a deep sense of pride in the accomplishments of fellow Tamil Americans. ATMA has raised thousands of dollars to underwrite relief efforts for natural disasters all over the world. Its charitable endeavors support homeless shelters in the United States, construction of children's hospitals in India, and organizations that prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ATMA provided funding and resources for hospitals, and operated a 24-hour helpline to aid those in need of medical assistance.

ATMA also serves as an important educational resource through its efforts to mentor medical students of Tamil origin, and the Continuing Medical Education seminars it offers in the United States and India.

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize and commend the American Tamil Medical Association for the contributions its members make to improve public health around the world.

REMEMBERING JAY ROBERT SORENSEN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 17, 2021*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Jay Robert Sorensen, a U.S. Navy veteran, dedicated public servant, and lifelong outdoorsman. Jay's passion for the outdoors was not limited to his own fishing, as he took any opportunity to share California's natural wonders with those around him. His endless love of the water led him to become one of California's most outspoken conservationists, constantly working to protect the state's complex ecosystems.

Born on September 28, 1936, Jay grew up in Stockton before enlisting in the Navy in 1954. Upon the conclusion of his service, Jay returned to Stockton where he spent the next 17 years working for the Stockton Unified School District. When presented with the opportunity to turn his lifelong passion for the outdoors into a career, Jay purchased a local bait shop where he spent decades helping others enjoy the Delta as much as he did.

Jay's passion for fishing led to him becoming an outspoken conservationist. He was among the earliest leaders to draw attention to declining fish populations and the loss of crucial spawning environments in the Delta. In order to protect the Delta's fragile ecosystem, Jay helped found the California Striped Bass Association and wrote about the need to protect fish populations in numerous publications. I was lucky to work alongside Jay for many years in my efforts to protect California's unique natural gems. His passion for the Delta was unmatched, and his legacy will live on through the continued efforts to preserve its wildlife populations.

He is survived by his two step-daughters Sandi Smith and Theresa Forbes. I know that they, along with the rest of his extended family and friends, join me in celebrating his life and his memory.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA UPON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS DESIGNATION AS A CITY

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 17, 2021*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the city of Monessen, Pennsylvania, on the 100th anniversary of its designation as a city.

The land that would ultimately encompass Monessen was surveyed in 1897 by H. Dallas McCabe. Along with Colonel James M. Schoonmaker and colleagues, McCabe initially sought to expand the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie railway to reach coalfields further south. Industrialist William H. Donner approached the group and decided to bring his American Tin Plate Company to Monessen, forever changing its trajectory.

The construction of the first mill spurred further settlement by businesses and families

from around the world. On September 3, 1898, the community was officially founded, and the name “Monessen” was chosen because the community would be a “New World Essen on the Monongahela,” combining “Mon” for the Monongahela River and “Essen” for an industrial city in Germany.

Perfectly situated with access to the city of Pittsburgh, the Mon Valley’s waterways, and the immense coal reserves of southwestern Pennsylvania, Monessen grew exponentially. By the early 20th century, it was an industrial hub, hosting the Pittsburgh Steel Works and the American Steel Hoop Company, among others.

On September 16, 1921, Monessen was officially designated a city under the leadership of Mayor Carl Woodward. At its peak, Monessen was home to more than 20,000 residents.

By the mid-20th century, Monessen had become a center of the budding American middle-class. So much so that it attracted the attention of organized labor leaders and prominent American politicians. President Harry S. Truman visited Monessen in 1956. President John F. Kennedy travelled there in 1962.

Madam Speaker, today Monessen is home to 7,600 men, women, and children. I am proud to represent this uniquely American city, and I have no doubt it will continue to make its mark on our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF MARINE LANCE CORPORAL RYLEE MCCOLLUM

**HON. LIZ CHENEY**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 17, 2021*

Ms. CHENEY. Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Marine Lance Corporal Rylee McCollum.

Rylee was a beloved son, brother, friend, husband, and soon-to-be father who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our freedoms and defending our interests while serving in Afghanistan.

His family remembers him as someone who was wholly intolerant of injustice and stood up for those who could not stand up for themselves. He was a deeply patriotic young man who had a passion for learning. Specifically, he was interested in the ceremonies that encompassed our Nation’s most sacred traditions. As his father remarked “He’s the most patriotic kid you could find, loved America, loved the military. Tough as nails with a heart of gold.”

His willingness to put himself in harm’s way to keep our country safe and preserve our freedom represents a level of selflessness and heroism that embodies the best of America.

Rylee was a native of Bondurant, Wyoming, and demonstrated an interest in joining the Armed Services from an early age. He attended Jackson Hole High School, where he became a decorated wrestler, and later went on to graduate from Summit Innovations School in Jackson in 2019. It was no surprise to his friends and family when right after graduation, on his 18th birthday, he followed through on his determination to serve this Nation at the highest level by enlisting in the U.S. Marines.

Rylee McCollum died a hero, and his bravery will never be forgotten. I want to thank him

for his service to our country and express the deepest condolences of the entire Congress to his family and loved ones.

HONORING DAVID ROYBAL’S 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 17, 2021*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor David Roybal’s incredible contributions to our beloved New Mexico. His passion for life, for family, for the land, and for members of his community is everything that we cherish and stand for in our great state. David turns 80 years old today—still working the land and still giving back, as he has done his entire life.

David was born and raised in Chupadero, New Mexico, and comes from a family that believed and practiced service and selflessness. David’s grandfather—served in the Army, David’s father served in World War II, and David followed in their footsteps and served in Vietnam. David, his father, and his father before him all received the Purple Heart. David gathers Purple Heart veterans together still and is a leader among these wounded warriors.

While David served as a firefighter for 25 years, he worked with his neighbors in the acequias. He knows the profound significance that these irrigation systems bring to our agriculture, culture, economy, and heritage. In fact, David became Mayordomo in 1970. He worked and managed the lifeblood of our communities for 40 years. He worked because of his endless spirit to help others and improve the place he called home—never even expecting to be paid for his work.

David embodies community. With everything he does, he promotes love, respect, selflessness, tradition, and kindness. There is no more perfect example of this than David’s leadership in managing the acequia that brings so much value to every single member of the beautiful valley they call home.

Happy Birthday, David. As I often say: *agua es vida y acequia es comunidad*. You are the life of our community. But it doesn’t start and end with only water. Thank you for your lifelong commitment to breathing so many different kinds of life into our beloved communities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MIKE FORSTER

**HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 17, 2021*

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Monroe County Commissioner Mike Forster. Commissioner Forster’s unwavering sense of conviction and outstanding public service to his community earned him respect and admiration from those who knew him and anyone he crossed paths with.

Mike Forster was first elected to office in the Village of Islamorada where he served for twelve years. Before becoming commissioner,

he served as mayor twice, vice mayor twice, and served on the Islamorada Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

A man of dignity and integrity, commissioner Mike Forster was an exemplary role model for many. His grand contributions cannot be measured. From Uganda to the Florida Keys, he was always attentive to his community and gave it his all. He earnestly fought to ensure that anyone he met had a quality of life.

He rose to the challenge. When it was needed, he stepped up to the plate. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, he provided free meals to servers, bartenders, cooks, bussers, and other Florida Keys residents involved in the hospitality industry out of his restaurant. During Hurricane Irma, he led efforts to assist those who were ill and help their families when the community underwent disasters.

Commissioner Mike Forster will be remembered for his lifelong charitable contributions to the Florida Keys and his genuine character. It was a pleasure knowing Commissioner Forster. He will be profoundly missed.

HONORING THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

**HON. BARRY MOORE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 17, 2021*

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on September 11, 2021, our nation commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001. On this solemn occasion, I rise to remember the lives lost on that dark day and honor the sacrifices made in the two decades since.

America is a nation of patriots that choose to face danger head on when others run away. When terrorists hijacked four airplanes and carried out the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of the world, our nation came together to comfort, encourage, and ultimately defend one another. With two planes hitting the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, the third plane hitting the Pentagon, and the fourth plane crashing in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, our first responders, including our law enforcement, firefighters, and other emergency personnel valiantly ran towards danger to save lives and prevent further destruction. We owe these heroes a great debt of gratitude, and without them, countless additional lives could have been lost.

The 9/11 attacks tragically cost the lives of almost 3,000 men, women, and children, and the following efforts to combat terrorism around the world resulted in the loss of over 7,000 servicemen and women. I am proud of the thousands of brave servicemen and women who answered the call to duty, and I’m especially proud of my constituents who have since served to defend the United States and protect the innocent around the globe. Without their heroism, the world would be a much darker place. We will always remember their sacrifice and bravery.

On this September 11th, communities across the United States, including in my hometown of Enterprise, Alabama, will gather to mourn the lives lost, honor the bravery of the American people, and dedicate themselves to ensuring that these sacrifices were not made in vain,