

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,

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to memorialize that solemn day in our history and pay tribute to those who lost their lives and sacrificed in service to our great nation. May the world also never forget that tragedy that occurred on the morning of September 11, 2001, or the strength and dedication of the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIVES OF FRED
AND YVONNE BARBER

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Korean War Veteran and great American, Fred Eugene Barber and his wife, Yvonne Barber. Fred passed away on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 90 years old. Fred's beloved wife, Yvonne, passed away only 13 hours earlier of heart failure at 88 years old. They are survived by their 2 daughters, Karen and Jan, in addition to 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Fred and Yvonne married in June 1953 after dating for only 6 months. This year involved several exciting milestones for the couple, as they celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in June and family and friends gathered to celebrate Fred's 90th birthday in August.

The couple was also extremely active in their community and held a deep love for Lake Havasu City. Fred and Yvonne were involved in the Republican Party, PACE, and their local church. Fred taught a Constitution class at various schools and other local organizations in addition to writing and publishing over 25 novels about American historical fiction and spy fiction.

Madam Speaker, I am here to express my deepest condolences to the family of Fred and Yvonne Barber and to honor their memory. Fred and Yvonne's selfless public service and local impact will never be forgotten by the people of Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
WILLIAM ST. ONGE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Attorney William "Bill" H. St. Onge after fifty years in the legal profession. Bill recently announced his retirement from a busy smalltown practice that ethically and capably represented thousands of individuals and families, sometimes at moments of crisis. Despite that demanding schedule he still found time to elevate the profession as an active member of the Connecticut Bar Association, and completed a distinguished stint serving his community as the First Selectmen of Putnam. Throughout his years, Bill has been a shining example of professionalism, compassion, and service to those around him. His retirement is one that is well-deserved.

Bill's family has a long history of public service most notably his father Congressman William St. Onge, who served the Second district of eastern Connecticut from 1963 to 1970 with great success. That example certainly rubbed off on Bill Junior who has been a life-long contributor to the local community in northeastern Connecticut and someone who avidly followed world and national politics. I have always particularly enjoyed when Bill would share stories about his father as well as his shrewd understanding of public affairs.

Bill was a graduate of Georgetown University and continued his education by attending the University of Connecticut Law School. Upon obtaining his JD in 1974, Bill went on to practice law through to his retirement. As I mentioned earlier, that while fresh in the field of practice, Bill wasted no time in running for and serving as First Selectman of Putnam, which he did so very successfully for nearly a decade.

Even after leading his town as First Selectman, Bill remained a constant in the community and utilized his expertise to give back to his neighbors. Providing a form of accessible representation for fellow towns like Killingly and Thompson, Bill ran a highly successful small-town practice for probate, municipal, and real estate law. As the local lawyer, he sought to continuously improve upon the services available to those in the area, taking the initiative to serve on the Connecticut Bar Association's Task Force on the Future of Probate Court. He was also a staple at town meetings and local proceedings, providing legal advice and often cooling local issues of passion to the respectful, personable tone that they deserved. His thoughtful nature as a practicing lawyer always kept the town discussion purposeful and productive. As someone who practiced law for 27 years in nearby Tolland County, I did have the opportunity to work with Bill on real estate closings and an occasional civil matter. He was a true gentleman—very pragmatic, down to earth and cordial in all his dealings—kind of a modern-day Atticus Finch.

Madam Speaker, Attorney St. Onge's passion for his home was a predominant presence throughout his life and career. His wife and children, Jane, Will and Caroline as well as his grandchildren and his many friends in Connecticut can attest to his caring, thoughtful approach to all he came into contact with. Although his long career is coming to an end, his family legacy of passion and work for his home will unquestionably go on to reverberate throughout the Town of Putnam and beyond for years to come. I can only hope that the example of his service is carried on and that hope he enjoys a fruitful retirement with his wife, children and grandchildren. To that end, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring and congratulating Attorney St. Onge for his dedication to the public and nearly 50-year exceptional career.