

varieties of tomatoes and harvested a bountiful crop each year.

Andy left his mark in many remarkable ways, but most notably through his personal and voluntary philanthropic efforts. He served on the Board of Directors of the Gellert Foundation. Over the decades, he and his fellow board members donated many millions of dollars, chiefly to education, but also to youth programs and seniors. We will probably never know how much he donated through his own charitable giving, but it is said to have been a significant sum. Always concerned about putting a roof over the head of someone or something, he designed and built birdhouses, made from wooden wine boxes, and he donated these birdhouses to charity where they sold at fundraisers. His philanthropy included the Fallen Heroes Memorial in the City of San Mateo, the Wounded Warrior Project, and the San Mateo Police Activities League.

Andy Cresci was the proud father of Lisa Christensen, the father-in-law of John Christensen, and the stepfather of Nicole Pobuta Aquino (Miguel), Kristen Pobuta Iwata (Nick), the grandfather of Nicolas and Anthony Christensen, and the step-grandfather of Carson Iwata. He was predeceased by his first wife Kathy Cresci and survived by my friend and the former Mayor of San Mateo, Maureen Freschet.

Madam Speaker, a long life leads to many accomplishments arising from opportunities. Most people seize opportunities that arrive by chance, but a few people also spend their lives creating opportunities. Andy Cresci was the latter. He was a doer and a dreamer. Without question, and for tens of thousands of customers, friends and family members, Andy Cresci made a difference for the better in our community. He was the personification of patriotism. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MS. DENISE SMITH

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Denise Smith of Canton, Michigan, upon her 70th birthday. Ms. Smith is a tireless community servant and personal friend who has dedicated her life to advancing many social and political causes that are critically important to the people of Michigan's 11th Congressional District and the greater Metropolitan Detroit community. The entire Nation benefits from the work of Ms. Smith, and it is a pleasure to join her family and friends in celebrating and thanking her today upon achieving this significant milestone.

Ms. Denise Smith grew up in Waterford, Michigan and has continued to make Southeast Michigan her home for many years since. She spent much of her career with Ford Motor Company in corporate finance, retiring after 25 years, in 2014. In addition to the full-time commitment of maintaining a family and career, Ms. Smith found great pleasure in serving her community through volunteering and grassroots organizing. She was inspired to lead a life of service by her experience as a child, watching her parents offer help to anyone in need. This instilled in Denise a strong sense

of service, leading to her affiliation with many local organizations throughout her life that have the mission of helping others.

Among the many causes that Ms. Smith has taken up, she has worked to support and advocate for survivors of domestic and sexual violence with First Step Michigan, address the gun violence epidemic with Moms Demand Action, and organize and distribute clothing to those in need as a high school clothing bank volunteer. Expanding the scope of her activism, Ms. Smith was drawn to assist with the election of Barack Obama, serving as a volunteer for his 2008 campaign. Ms. Smith loves sharing her enthusiasm for her community by making phone calls to engage voters, assembling yard signs to remind neighbors of the upcoming election, and overseeing campaign offices and their administration. She also served on the board of the Canton Democratic Club and was Treasurer of the Township Treasurer's campaign. Because of her tireless efforts, she was deservedly awarded the 2013 Grassroots Activist Award from her local Democratic Party organization.

Along with being a prolific local activist, Ms. Smith is proud to be a mother and grandmother. Her beloved son, Sam Plymale (Chelsea Plymale) of Livonia, Michigan, and daughter, Sarah Plymale-Ponza (Victor Ponza) of Portland, Oregon, have brought her great joy in welcoming two lovely grandchildren, Annabelle Plymale and Zadian Ponza; she is also thrilled for another grandson, Joseph Plymale, to join the family this June. Being a mother and grandmother motivates Ms. Smith's efforts to extend beyond rhetoric, as she translates her passion into action that is certain to leave our nation a better place for future generations.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Denise Smith has dedicated herself to helping others and has improved the lives of countless individuals within Michigan's 11th Congressional District and beyond. Her acts of kindness as a servant leader have an impact that will positively influence our community and Nation long into the future. It is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Denise Smith upon her 70th birthday and to thank her for the years of service on behalf of her fellow Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICK YOST

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Mr. Rick Yost, the Superintendent of Fredericksburg Christian School. Rick has faithfully served as Superintendent since 2004. Each year, Rick's love for Fredericksburg Christian School and commitment to the students has grown exponentially. A polished leader and expert communicator, Rick worked tirelessly throughout his time as Superintendent to educate the next generation of Christian Americans and prepare them for a life of amazing opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Rick Yost. Words alone cannot express the positive impact he has had on the next generation. May

God bless the next phase of Rick's journey and continue to guide him in all his endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARIA GUADALUPE "LUPITA" AGUILAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Guadalupe "Lupita" Aguilar.

Maria Guadalupe "Lupita" Aguilar was born and raised in Laredo, TX. A proud daughter of a WWII Veteran and a farmworker turned seamstress, Lupita was taught about the values of community and service at an early age.

Lupita honorably graduated from Nixon High School and Laredo Community College and made a career in the service industry—working in housing and health care spaces primarily focusing on servicing low-income, Latino families throughout Laredo and Webb County.

The biggest accomplishment of her life has been being a mother of four grown children who are in their late 20's and early 30's: Jorge "Georgie" Aguilar, Jaime "JB" Aguilar, Lorena Aguilar, and Randy Aguilar. Watching them graduate from college, start a job and form their own families has been a blessing. Guided by her Catholic faith, positive mentality and optimism, Lupita has surmounted many challenges in the past including beating breast cancer twice.

During her free time, Lupita enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, cooking and traveling when she gets the opportunity. She and her husband reside in Rio Bravo, TX—just blocks away from the Rio Grande—where they've lived for over 20 years.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Maria Guadalupe "Lupita" Aguilar.

HONORING CHARLES MINOT DOLE FOR HIS FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL SKI PATROL AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the extraordinary life of Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole. Minnie Dole played a pivotal role in founding the National Ski Patrol and creating the 10th Mountain Division as we know it today.

Minnie Dole was born in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts on April 18, 1899. He attended Phillips Academy and then graduated Yale in 1923. Mr. Dole was an outdoor enthusiast and a member of the prestigious New York amateur Ski Club. He recognized the need for an organization that would supply first aid and rescue support at ski races and downhill skiing venues, so he established the National Ski Patrol in 1938 and served as its national director until 1950. His leadership and vision allowed for greater safety, accessibility, and enjoyment in skiing. Thanks to Mr. Dole's contributions, the National Ski Patrol is the largest

rescue organization in the world, and its members are world renowned.

During World War II, Mr. Dole convinced the United States War Department that success against the Germans in the mountainous Italian terrain required troops trained in mountaineering. His persistence led to the formation of the United States Army Ski Troopers in the 10th Mountain Division. After intense training in skiing and climbing, the 10th Mountain Division deployed to Northern Italy and began a series of daring and successful assaults against the German army in the northern Apennine Mountains of Italy, proving Mr. Dole to be correct.

Minnie Dole has made an indelible impact on the National Ski Patrol and the 10th Mountain Division. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to remember and celebrate the life of Minnie Dole. The contributions he has made to the safety and security of Americans through the 10th Mountain Division and the National Ski Patrol cannot be overstated.

CELEBRATING MR. ALVIN BROOKS' 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor Mr. Alvin Brooks for his decades of service to Missouri's Fifth Congressional District and to congratulate him on his most recent milestone: his 90th birthday. Having spent a lifetime advancing civil and human rights, Alvin Brooks is a Kansas City legend who has been recognized in both chambers of Congress. On this momentous occasion, it is once again worth reflecting on Al's inspiring narrative.

Born into poverty during the early years of the Great Depression, Alvin and his family struggled to make ends meet. Coming of age during a time when legal segregation was still yet to be declared unconstitutional, Alvin never forgot the lessons he learned while navigating the injustices of Jim Crow. Firsthand knowledge of the country's racial caste system, and the oppressive measures used to uphold it, generated within him a deep desire for justice and a strong sense of right and wrong. Alvin understood the importance of Black Americans being represented in all professional fields, particularly law and politics. It is only fitting, then, that he became one of Kansas City's only Black police officers in the 1950s. Not only that, but he also founded the AdHoc Group Against Crime—a grassroots organization dedicated to reducing violence, solving crimes, and bringing about healing—and later organized the city's Human Relations Department, making him the first Black department head in Kansas City government.

Alvin continued to inspire. He was twice elected to City Council, served as the Mayor Pro Tem, and came within 851 votes of becoming Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri. Alvin chaired city's the Public Safety Committee, the Police Capital Improvements Oversight Committee, the Police Site Selection Committee, and was vice-chair of the Aviation Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee. Whatever his station, though, Alvin was always a

man of the people. He opposed racism in all its forms, brought justice to the community, and prioritized fairness and equality. "Hate the sin, love the sinner"—that is Alvin. Through it all, he kept his roots. His work in Kansas City, though, is demonstrative of the work we need to do in communities all across America. Justice, fairness, and human rights: these are neither specific to locale nor timeframe. They are universal and eternal.

President George H.W. Bush appointed Alvin to the President's National Drug Advisory Council. He was one of President Bush's "Thousand Points of Light,"—a select group of Americans who were recognized for volunteering in cities and towns across the country—serving in that capacity for three years. Understanding the devastating impact that the influx of drugs inflicted on underserved communities, Alvin worked tirelessly to steer others away from substance abuse. Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed him to the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners, where he used his seat at the table to advocate for the fair meting of justice. Alvin is also the fortysecond recipient of the Harry S. Truman Award for Public Service, the highest honor awarded by the City of Independence, Missouri. His name is on that list along with some quite notable company: Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Bill Clinton, to name just a few. I would be remiss not to mention Alvin's five honorary doctorates as well.

Aside from the work itself and all the accolades, Alvin has always sought to educate and inspire the next generation. He has served on boards of many community organizations, nonprofits, and businesses, sharing his knowledge and experience. His work as a motivational speaker, lecturer, and conductor of seminars and workshops has ensured that leaders in all fields are not only aware of how far our country has come, but of the work that still remains. Indeed, his passion for education bears out in his work with universities throughout my district. The next generation has a great example in Alvin, and his ninety years on Earth offer a gold mine of invaluable lessons.

As we celebrate his 90th birthday and distinguished career, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Alvin Brooks. Here's to many more.

RECOGNIZING VICTOR SIX HEALTH AND FITNESS ORGANIZATION

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a groundbreaking Veterans' Service Group in my District, Victor Six Health and Fitness Organization. Victor Six was founded by decorated Vietnam Veteran, David A. Christian, with the mission to improve the physical and mental health of Veterans in the community.

On April 24, 2022, I had the honor of celebrating the graduation of Victor Six's inaugural class. The course promoted the mutual improvement of the physical health and mental well-being of the Veterans, fulfilling the mantra that a strong body fuels a strong mind. This was made possible by a partnership with the Newtown Athletic Club, which graciously of-

fered their space, equipment, and personnel to the program. Nine Veterans, ranging from 39 to 74 years of age, completed a rigorous 12-week physical training program. The nine Veterans are:

Ronald Warren Brand, United States Army
Robert Peter Cassalia, United States Navy
Daniel Marion Christian, United States Army
William Charles Farence, United States Marine Corps

Carla Estelle Figueroa, United States Marine Corps

James Taylor Ford, United States Army
Tanya Marie Rinkus, United States Air Force

William Patrick Schultz, United States Air Force

Rodney Darnell Wyatt, United States Marine Corps

Participants completed pre- and post-assessment measures of upper and lower body, core strength, cardio endurance, and flexibility as well as a self-evaluation of their mental status. An individualized personal training plan for each Veteran was formulated by trainers based on their assessments. The Veterans were introduced to various private group exercise classes such as aqua exercise, yoga, dance, strength, and cardio training.

The program built camaraderie and esprit de corps by providing a safe haven from stressors and improving the mental well-being of all. In the continuing battle against Veteran and Servicemember suicide, organizations like Victor Six provide the tools necessary to fight back and give hope to our Nation's heroes. We are incredibly grateful for the positive impact that this organization has already had on our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LONG BRANCH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY 10TH ANNUAL LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Senator CORY BOOKER, Veronica Buffaloe-Stubbs, Peggy Cadigan, Sergeant Kimberly Leavy and Monmouth Medical Center as they were recognized as Library Champions by the Long Branch Free Public Library on April 29, 2022.

Each year, the Long Branch Free Public Library recognizes those who are committed to the success of the library, and libraries in general, with its Library Champions Dinner and Awards. These individuals and entities promote library programs and resources and support its objectives. Senator BOOKER, Veronica Buffaloe-Stubbs, Peggy Cadigan, Sergeant Kimberly Leavy and Monmouth Medical Center are truly deserving of the Library's Champion distinction.

As a United States Senator from New Jersey, Senator CORY BOOKER continues to advance legislation that directly impacts our state and residents. In addition to introducing and supporting legislation benefitting children, immigrants and veterans, Senator BOOKER co-sponsored the Build America's Libraries Act. His efforts to advance underserved populations, improve library access and internet