

RECOGNIZING DR. SHETAL SHAH,
MD, FAAP

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Shetal Shah, MD, FAAP, for his advocacy on the behalf of New York's children and for his many years serving as a resource to my office.

A noted pediatrician, neonatologist, and researcher, Dr. Shah has tirelessly fought to protect the well-being of children. He has promoted increased funding for childhood vaccinations and children's hospitals and improving the Medicaid and CHIP programs to ensure children always have access to the care they need. He is a voice for his fellow doctors, and his efforts will help guarantee that medical school graduates continue to pursue careers in pediatrics and pediatric subspecialties in underserved communities.

Dr. Shah has also played a critical role in promoting public health throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by hand-delivering protective equipment to doctors across Long Island. His determination provided children in our communities with the critical care they needed.

In New York, and across the country, we are incredibly fortunate to have people like Dr. Shah, whose work ensures that our children grow into healthy adults. I would like to commend Dr. Shah for his commitment to public health and to the children of New York's Fourth Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF GERARD "ROD" GAYNOR, JR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss Gerard "Rod" Gaynor Jr, of New London, Connecticut who passed away on August 29, 2022, at age 80. Rod was a well-respected, virtuous man, whose positive, lifelong contributions to the City of New London were honored by an overwhelming turnout from the community at his wake and funeral on September 2nd and 3rd.

Born in 1942 to Gerard and Gemma Gaynor, Rod was raised within, grew through, and empowered by the City of New London. His family upbringing and his deep religious faith, drove his passion to serve those around him. He gained impactful learning experiences from New London's schools, attending both public schools and Saint Joseph's parochial school before earning a college degree from Mitchell College, located right in the center of the city.

Upon graduating college, Rod embarked on a full-time career within the New London Police Department, eventually gaining a promotion in his service from officer to detective for the force. He had a penchant for purposing his sharp sense of loyalty toward creating a more effective and safer town, particularly through community policing. For example, he helped found several programs within the De-

partment, including both the first crime prevention program and scuba diving unit for a town that borders the Thames River and Long Island Sound. A level-headed, diligent professional, Officer Gaynor became the first member of the New London Police Department to earn the VFW Police Officer of the Year award early on in his tenure, one of the innumerable commendations he received throughout his 37-year-long career for committing both his heart and mind to the Department.

Upon his retirement from the force, Rod became all the more active within the City and its local institutions. It was no small footnote within his life of service that he ran for and was elected to the position of city councilor before becoming mayor of the City of New London. He was an active member of New London politics, and as a candidate who has been on the ballot in New London a number of times, I personally benefitted from his stalwart support and advice.

If you were to ask him, however, one of the accomplishments he prided himself in most was performing the role of the first full-time, permanent Deacon of St. Joseph's Church. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, Rod eventually made the difficult decision to move from New London to live closer to his family in the neighboring town of Waterford. He of course remained active within the local communities, maintaining strong ties to the city while also becoming elected to Waterford's Representative Town Meeting.

Madam Speaker, it is nothing short of inspiring when constituents, like Rod, remain as loyal and dedicated to giving back to the very communities that were so formational in their own upbringing. It is a kind of mission that speaks a thousand words about one's character. Rod dedicated his life in service to the People of New London and was known to be gentle in every relationship. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him, and we remain forever grateful that there are so many community members to carry on his name and memory. This includes his wife, Carole, of more than 58 years, his four children, Maureen, Teresa, Christine, and "Rod" III, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as the greater family. To that end, Madam Speaker, it is fitting that my colleagues in the House join me in uplifting the memory of Gerard "Rod" Gaynor, Jr.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
MARSH FOUNDATION'S 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Marsh Foundation. The Marsh Foundation has a remarkable history within Van Wert and the surrounding community. Over the last 100 years, the Foundation has been committed to its mission of inspiring hope, teaching others, and caring for children and families.

The Marsh Foundation was made possible by the family of George and Hilinda Marsh. George, Hilinda, and their daughter Katie donated their substantial estate for the purpose

of helping children and families in need. The concept for the Foundation originated when George and Hilinda were traveling through Van Wert on their way home from Fort Wayne, Indiana when they noticed two small boys huddled together in a dark doorway. Their mother was working that evening, so the boys had to wait during the winter night for her to finish. The sight of the cold, young boys drove the compassionate Marshs to use their resources to help those in need.

Through his will, George Marsh created a foundation to benefit youth in the area. His will provided \$5,000,000 for the establishment of the Foundation. During the last 100 years, the Marsh Foundation has provided many services including: on-campus group homes for boys ages ten to seventeen, a specialized residential program for male juvenile sex offenders, a strong network of foster homes, clinical services, an on-campus school for youth in care, and a full-time activities program for youth.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Marsh Foundation and its staff, past and present, on this remarkable occasion. By celebrating the one hundredth anniversary, community members and Ohio residents recognize the contribution of the Foundation to our region and community. Congratulations to the Marsh Foundation on this significant milestone.

COMMENDING JOAN W. SACAROB
AND DONALD A. SACAROB

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the lifetime of service that Joan and Donald Sacarob have dedicated to Hadassah, a non-profit organization that seeks to expand women's rights and their leadership capacity. Hadassah embodies Jewish values to advance health equity, fight antisemitism, and equip women with the tools they need to make a difference in their communities.

Hadassah's mission is to provide education, advocacy, and youth development opportunities to enhance the lives of those in their community. Their work extends to the Hadassah Medical Organization to research cutting-edge medical procedures and provide first-rate care for those who need it. To these ends, they connect and empower Jewish women to lead by example.

The organization traces its origins back to the extraordinary public service of Henrietta Szold, who dedicated her life to ameliorating disease and starvation that were disproportionately affecting Jewish people. She founded youth villages to house Jewish children who fled their homelands as Nazi troops invaded Eastern Europe. Her legacy of care has rippled outward for over a century. Hadassah was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize nomination for their work to offer world-class medical care to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, or national origin, following their commitment to building a bridge to peace through medicine.

For 50 consecutive years, Joan Sacarob has served Hadassah with national portfolios focused on advocacy and philanthropy. Her husband Donald has served as the National Associate Vice President of Hadassah, the

men's branch of the organization. For decades, these two hardworking philanthropists and activists have committed themselves to the betterment of the Northern Virginia and Greater Washington Metropolitan Area Jewish communities.

Joan was a pivotal figure in the development of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, and her friends and colleagues recognize her as a passionate and resilient force. She served for 20 years on the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington and was honored for her distinguished service on the board in 2006. Her advocacy work has not dwindled since then, and I am honored to know such a fierce advocate for equity.

Joan and Donald have earned the respect and recognition of their peers. Their work has been instrumental in advancing the causes of health equity, women's leadership, and access to much needed resources. I wish them every success and comfort as they continue their work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joan and Donald Sacarob for their exceptional dedication and leadership within our community.

HONORING THE GEORGE L. ALTAMURA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hands Across the Valley President and Founder, George Altamura, upon the creation of the George L. Altamura Endowment. Mr. Altamura has dedicated his life to serving others, choosing to focus on preventing his fellow citizens from going hungry by creating programs that offer food resources.

Mr. Altamura was born in 1934 in Buffalo, New York, and came to live in the Napa Valley in the 1940s. He began a successful career in real estate after owning both a dry-cleaning business and a restaurant. Community service became a priority in Mr. Altamura's life, starting largely with food insecurity prevention.

This all started with the cancellation of an annual food fundraising event. Mr. Altamura acted quickly in inviting Francis Coppola, Johnny Miller, Steve Young, and me to help him serve food at his restaurant, in the Napa Valley, instead. Our team was able to serve over 300 people and raise more than \$30,000, making Mr. Altamura's efforts profoundly successful.

This event inspired Mr. Altamura, along with other leaders in our community, to come together "to do something about the hunger in Napa Valley." Learning that hundreds of people in Napa County went hungry on a daily basis, Mr. Altamura founded Hands Across the Valley, an annual event which raises funds for the Napa Valley Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army, and The Table.

Since its founding in 1994, Hands Across the Valley has raised over \$2 million to help benefit Napa Valley's Safety Net Food programs. In addition to providing much needed funding to these services, Hands Across the

Valley helps the Food Bank, Catholic Charities, The Table and American Canyon Family Resource Center provide holiday turkeys and food baskets each year.

In honor of over 30 years of service, Hands Across the Valley has established the George L. Altamura Endowment to permanently aid in the fight against hunger in Napa Valley. The Endowment will supply safety net food programs in Napa Valley with long-term financial support.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Mr. Altamura has worked endlessly to help the fight against hunger in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Amber Richardson who has recently been nominated for the Angels of Adoption Award. Historically, the Angels of Adoption program has celebrated individuals, couples, families, and organizations from across the nation who have made an extraordinary contribution on behalf of vulnerable children and families. Those recognized through Angels of Adoption represent a wide variety of individuals involved in the adoption, foster care, and the child welfare world. I am proud to nominate Amber for this award as she is the founder and CEO of Foster Love and has fostered 14 different children over her lifetime.

In June 2020, Amber Richardson Founded Foster Love, an official 501c3 within my district in Omaha, that has made an extraordinary impact on the lives of foster children within our community since its creation. Their mission is to provide basic needs and opportunities for children in foster care, so they feel confident, empowered, and valued, and foster families feel supported. They have done this by opening a storefront boutique in which foster children can shop the latest trends in a welcoming, unique setting where merchandise is new, high quality, and free of cost. The store front offers multiple programs each month such as shopping days, appointments for emergency needs, and an art program called Artsy Kids.

Amber and her husband, Matthew, have fostered 14 different children. Starting in 2007 they welcomed Trevor, their first foster child, into their home and later adopted him in order to give him a "forever home". This was the spark that led Amber to continue developing relationships within the foster community as well as volunteering and advocating on different foster panels. Amber has been a driving force within the Omaha foster care community; her drive and passion for this cause has been truly inspiring.

Through Foster Love, Amber has built a vibrant community that helps support both foster children and their families. To date, Foster Love has served and supported over 800 children and foster parents, their work continues to expand and grow. Not only are these children provided with the necessary resources that they need to thrive on a daily basis, but they are also loved every step of the way.

Foster Love exemplifies love and dignity, and I could not be happier to recognize Amber Richardson for the Angels of Adoption Award.

I salute and thank Amber for her impression upon the Omaha community, which will be felt for years to come.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK STATE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the New York State Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Council of Chapters. The New York State MOAA Council has worked hard to bring New York State's chapters together since its charter in 1972 and is now the only state council to have held fifty consecutive conventions. It is my honor to recognize the dedication of New York State's chapters to MOAA's mission as they celebrate this incredible achievement in New York's 21st District.

Since 1972, the New York State MOAA Council has worked hard to promote the "Never Stop Serving" motto of MOAA. In 1970, Lt. Col. Leslie Reichardt, United States Air Force (Ret.) led the New York MOAA Chapters in uniting to create a Council of Chapters. The Council was chartered on October 7, 1972 with the goal of promoting camaraderie and selfless service among its members.

MOAA works to bring the voices of all military officers to the highest levels of government through leading the charge on fighting for fair compensation and benefits for all members of the military community. The New York State MOAA Council fosters relationships among military officers at every stage of their career, so they can work together to protect the rights and interests of officers and their families. This work has led them to be the top ranked association in advocating for all members of the uniformed services for 15 years. Not only do member chapters work for the military community, they also are active within their communities and support a wide variety of service member organizations.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate the New York State MOAA Chapter of Councils on 50 years of loyal service to our military officers. And I want to thank all of you and your families for selflessly dedicating your lives to our Nation's armed services. I thank them for their service.

RECOGNIZING LEILANI CAAMAL

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of 17-year-old Leilani Caamal, who has broken barriers to become a tackle football star and wrestling standout.