

Emergence Health Network (EHN), the local mental health authority in El Paso, has a dedicated facility focusing on behavioral needs and services. The Veterans One Stop Center (VOSC) in Northeast El Paso provides behavioral health services and additional support to veterans, active-duty military, and their families. Recovery-oriented care is offered to meet the needs of veterans, thus promoting hope and encouragement.

EHN's partnership with Fort Bliss has proved to be a tremendous benefit as an additional resource and support system for these individuals to solve the wait and intervention times for care. EHN's Veteran's One Stop Center has the capability and resources to expedite these services to a much-needed population and can provide care to service members anywhere from two to five days of initial contact.

Today, it is my privilege to honor Emergence Health Network's Veterans One Stop Center for the grand opening of their new facility in East El Paso and thank them for their ongoing efforts to help our veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

RECOGNIZING FRANK ROMANO

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual whose unwavering dedication to providing exceptional care to the most vulnerable in our society, Frank Romano.

For over four decades, Frank Romano has been creating and nurturing several successful enterprises that provide essential services to elderly and disabled individuals. His notable portfolio includes skilled nursing, assisted living residencies, adult day health programs, as well as home care services and senior transportation.

A graduate of Merrimack College and the Harvard Business School Program in Entrepreneurship, Frank embarked on his entrepreneurial journey at IBM in Boston where he worked for six years, interspersed with a two-year leave of absence to honorably serve our nation in the Vietnam War. Upon his return, he channeled his passion and expertise into establishing his first healthcare facility in 1972, laying the foundation for what has been a long career synonymous with dignity, care, and deep-rooted respect for the care of our elders.

Frank has served on the Board of Governor's for the American Health Care Association, the largest association in the United States representing long term and post-acute care providers. His contributions have not gone unnoticed, as he was honored with the Joe Warner Patient Advocacy Award, acknowledging his unparalleled commitment to senior care.

On Thursday, November 16th the Massachusetts Senior Care Foundation will honor Frank at its annual breakfast. Today, Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the many years of service Frank has dedicated to his profession, which will undoubtedly continue to inspire and uplift our community for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING WWII U.S. ARMY
VETERAN SERGEANT JOSEPH
DRAKE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the bravery and valor of U.S. Army Veteran Sergeant Joseph Drake, recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal and one of only 12 remaining WWII Army Rangers. Born on October 24, 1924, Sgt. Drake recently celebrated his 99th birthday with family and friends at his home in Hawley, PA, where he currently resides.

As the member of the U.S. House representing Hawley, in Wayne County, I am grateful to have this opportunity to recognize the courage, dedication and selfless service that Sgt. Drake offered in support of our Nation during WWII in April of 1943 at just 19 years old.

Sgt. Drake honorably served with Company A of the U.S. Army Ranger Battalion and after training in Mississippi, Louisiana and England he fought in five battles in the European Theater, including the Battle of the Bulge and Central Europe. His outfit spearheaded the invasion of Europe by climbing the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc on D-Day on June 6, 1944.

Sgt. Drake proudly recalls Company A moving to relieve a Battalion from the PA National Guard's 28th Infantry Division in Ardennes, France, during the initial German attack that led to the Battle of the Bulge. Sgt. Drake and his Company fought through Luxenberg, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia until the end of WWII in 1945.

Sgt. Drake's distinguished service has earned him many medals, including this institution's highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions—the Congressional Gold Medal.

Upon returning to the United States in October of 1945, Sgt. Drake was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in December and started a family with his late wife, the former Lydora LaTourmous, in Hawley. They were married on September 23, 1950, and raised two daughters and one son. Life gifted them with many grand and great-grandchildren.

Shortly after arriving back home, Sgt. Drake joined the U.S. Postal Service and worked there for 34 years, 15 of which he was the Hawley postmaster. He's proud to be the first person from Hawley, and without a political appointment, to have served in this position.

Sgt. Drake was active in his community, serving as Quartermaster and Treasurer with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5823 in Hawley, founded by his late brother Robert J. Drake. He worked with the Mayor of Hawley and others to plan parades and carnivals. After the post disbanded in 2008, he made arrangements to have the post headquarters on Park Place turned over to the County of Wayne, for the Hawley Senior Center.

Sgt. Drake's devotion to our Nation is evident in his exemplary military career, and I thank him for his service while wearing, and after hanging up his uniform. He truly embodies what it means to be one of the few remaining members of the "Greatest Generation."

Sgt. Drake is a true American hero whose commitment to duty and service distinguishes him as an individual whose character represents the very best of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, and I am proud to be his Representative in Washington.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting on H.R. 1607 and H.R. 359. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 599, and YEA on Roll Call No. 600.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KELLIE RUETSCH

HON. MIKE CAREY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Kellie Ruetsch, a constituent from Plain City, Ohio.

Kellie is a regional operations manager for Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service of Ohio Inc. She was recently recognized as one of Superior Ambulance's "Stars of Life." Every year, Superior Ambulance recognizes a handful of its EMTs for their exceptional leadership skills. An EMT since 1997, Kellie has devoted her life to helping others.

Apart from being an EMT, Kellie is also a paramedic and a firefighter. Despite volunteering countless hours to her community and raising two children, Kellie has also found time to advance her skills and professional growth.

In 2016, Kellie was offered a leadership position in which she immediately excelled. In 2017, Kellie obtained her EMS instructor license and completed Ambulance Service Manager training in 2022. Kellie's colleagues and superiors say, that she's someone who leads by example, never seeing a task as below her station.

Plain City and central Ohio are better places to live because of people like Kellie Ruetsch. I salute her service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to be present at votes on November 6 due to travel reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 599, and YEA on Roll Call No. 600.

RECOGNIZING THE PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE AHSAA CLASS 2A STATE TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pleasant Valley High School volleyball team for being undefeated and winning the AHSAA Class 2A state title.

On November 1, 2023, Pleasant Valley High School defeated Sand Rock for the 2A state championship in straight sets at Bill Harris Arena in Birmingham.

Pleasant Valley's volleyball squad won its sixth state championship in program history led by head Coach Dana Bryant, who notched her 559th and final victory as a coach.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Bryant, the Pleasant Valley High School volleyball team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Raiders.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on November 6, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 599, and YEA on Roll Call No. 600.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, due to events in California, I was unable to cast my vote for legislation considered on the House floor. Had I been able to be present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 599, H.R. 1607—To clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, and for other purposes, as amended, and YEA on Roll Call No. 600, H.R. 359—Fort San Geronimo Preservation Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, due to events in my Congressional District in

Kentucky, I missed votes the evening of November 6, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 599, and YEA on Roll Call No. 600.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on Roll Call vote No. 599, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass as Amended H.R. 1607, To clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, and for other purposes, I would have voted YEA; and on Roll Call vote No. 600, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 359, the Fort San Geronimo Preservation Act, I would have voted YEA.

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF WJHL-TV

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and acknowledge a cornerstone of our community and a leading source of news and information in Northeast Tennessee and surrounding regions, WJHL-TV. This year marks the 70th anniversary of WJHL's dedication to broadcasting excellence.

On October 26, 1953, WJHL made its debut, serving as the first voice of television in Northeast Tennessee and the second station to sign on in our great state. It was the vision and determination of founders Hanes Lancaster, Jr., Hanes Lancaster, Sr., and Jay Birdwell that brought this dream to fruition. Nestled in the heart of downtown Johnson City, WJHL has since been a familiar presence, illuminating our homes with news, information, and entertainment each day.

Over the decades, WJHL has been dedicated to informing, educating, and entertaining over 300,000 households, spanning not just our Tennessee counties of Washington, Sullivan, Carter, Greene, Unicoi, Johnson, and Hawkins, but also extending its reach to into Virginia and Kentucky. The expansive reach of WJHL's signal is a testament to its leadership and trust within the region.

Under the leadership of General Manager Paula Jackson, the station has maintained its commitment to broadcasting excellence. Paula and her team of over 80 employees—writers, producers, reporters, technicians, and staff members—all play a crucial role in ensuring that our region stays connected and informed. Their commitment to integrity, fairness, and

community service is more than admirable. For seven decades, the dedicated staff of WJHL has been firm in their mission to report accurate local news that is vital to our region. Their creed is simple: news that matters to you and your family.

Throughout its history, WJHL has seen numerous milestones. For many decades, they have proudly operated as a CBS affiliate. And in February 2016, they expanded their broadcasting network, adding ABC to their second channel, further adding to the content available to their viewers. However, it wasn't just in content where WJHL sought change. In the Fall of 2019, the station embarked on a new chapter, unveiling a state-of-the-art studio, certainly fitting for a station of its legacy. As part of the Nexstar Media Group, WJHL, which encompasses News Channel 11 and ABC Tri-Cities, is poised for continued growth and success.

As they celebrate their 70th anniversary this year, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Paula and the entire WJHL team on 70 years of broadcast excellence. May they continue to shine brightly, informing and uniting our communities for many more years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend this afternoon's votes as I had a longstanding, immovable commitment that necessitated I not be in Washington, D.C. today.

Had I been present for the vote to order the Previous Question, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call No. 601.

Had I been present for the vote on H. Res. 847, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call No. 602.

Had I been present for the vote on the Escobar #5 amendment, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call No. 603.

Had I been present for the vote on the Perry #20 amendment, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call No. 604.

Had I been present for the vote on the Perry #25 amendment, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call No. 605.

Had I been present for the vote on the Grotham #29 amendment, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call No. 606.

Had I been present for the vote on the Breecheen #20 amendment, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call No. 607.

Had I been present for the vote to table H. Res. 845, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call No. 608. I will vote "no" on the resolution to censure Representative RASHIDA TLAIB when it comes before the House.