

with the Northville FD revamping policies and developing HR training. Chris, a charter member of Local 3961, served as the first union Vice-President and worked to implement 24-hour staffing for the fire department. When the Department transitioned to Advanced Life Support, Chris attended and graduated from Eastern Michigan's School of Fire Staff and Command in addition to earning his Paramedic's license. He served as a representative on the Western Wayne Hazardous Materials Response Team for over 10 years, and he was selected by his peers as the Firefighter of the Year in 2017.

Almost 12 years ago, Chris rediscovered his love of music. Currently, he is a tenor in the Livingston County Choir and participates in concerts hosted by Expressions Music Academy in Novi. He has had the unique opportunity of representing the Department while singing the National Anthem at First Responder nights for the Detroit Tigers, Red Wings, and Pistons. He plans to continue his work in public service for Howell Public Schools as a paraprofessional, where he will assist impaired children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Captain Chris Madzik for the 28 years of service he has dedicated to the City of Northville. Chris's dedication and respect for the job serves as a constant reminder that local communities are dependent on the commitment of such public servants to keep its residents safe. We need more public servants like Chris, and though he may be retiring from fighting fires, I am hopeful that we will continue to hear that beautiful voice ringing out for years to come. I thank Chris and we wish him the best of luck with his future endeavors.

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HONORING THE LATE RICHARD  
STEWART

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Richard Stewart, a beloved and well-known figure from my hometown of Petersburg, in Virginia's Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Stewart was the honorary "Mayor of Pocahontas Island," one of the oldest Black neighborhoods in our Nation.

Since 1732, enslaved, escaped, and free African Americans have called Pocahontas Island home, and Mr. Stewart fought relentlessly to preserve artifacts, properties, and the stories of those who lived there. He even created the Pocahontas Island Black History Museum, the first Black history museum in Petersburg, to educate visitors and memorialized the storied history of the neighborhood. He was a veteran, a community leader, and an engaged citizen who devoted his life to preserving our history and preparing the next generation through storytelling and learning.

He leaves behind a lasting legacy and will be sorely missed by the Petersburg community and our Commonwealth.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MARJORIE "MARGE" STANTON RYAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's Spirit of Mercy Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Marjorie "Marge" Stanton Ryan. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend all of those who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

Marge Ryan is one of South Buffalo's most dedicated activists, and her passion for bettering this neighborhood is nothing short of commendable. After graduating from South Park High School in 1959, Marge worked as a stenographer with RJ Walsh/Equitable Insurance before marrying Tom Ryan in 1959 and raising six children. Marge took on an active role in the parents' guilds at Mount Mercy Academy and Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School while her children were in school. Marge was a founding member of South Buffalo Alive, a nonprofit organization that dedicates its time and energy to improving the quality of life in South Buffalo and beautifying the neighborhood. She has worked with the Olmsted Conservancy Board and has a long history of working with elected leaders in the community to get things done including, the Mayors in the City of Buffalo, Buffalo City Council Members, the Parks Department, and the Department of Public Works, as well as working closely with county, state and federal representatives on important projects in our community. Marge is consistent and attentive, and you can tell almost immediately which gardens Marge makes her own by their beauty, simplicity, and by the way they are kept—tidy. Marge still actively helps to maintain: Mount Mercy Academy, Trocaire College, the Firemen's Memorial, Morgan/Heacock Park, the traffic circle gardens on McKinley Parkway, and the brick paths in Cazenovia Park and pocket park gardens around Abbott and South Park. Of course, her passion of gardening has been a constant through all her years, and it has led to the beautification of countless areas and parks in South Buffalo. Her friendship with Sister Marie Bernard was the foundation of her involvement and gardening at the Mt. Mercy Convent and Trocaire College. As a friend of Marge, I can say with confidence that our community is a better, more attractive place to live because of her unrelenting efforts.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Marjorie Stanton Ryan continues to live these values in all she does. Marge shares this legacy with her husband, Tom, as well as her children, Mary Lynn ('79), Karen ('80), Maggie ('83), Kevin, David, Tom, Jr., and their grandchildren.

HONORING COMMISSIONER  
KALPANA KOTAGAL

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus to recognize Commissioner Kalpana Kotagal as we celebrate her well-deserved ascension to EEOC Commissioner.

As you may know, women still lag behind in pay and promotions, are the victims of pregnancy discrimination, and are the primary survivors of sexual harassment in the workplace. We cannot overstate the importance of enforcing EEOC laws and pay data collection. Commissioner Kotagal will do exceptional work to ensure that every individual, regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information, has an equal opportunity to succeed in the workforce. This mission is not just a legal requirement; it is a moral imperative.

We know that having strong equality laws are not enough. Enforcing these laws requires dedicated individuals who understand the urgency of their mission. Our newly sworn-in commissioner embodies this commitment. Her experience, expertise, and unwavering dedication to the principles of equality makes her the right person for the job.

I would like to personally thank her for her leading role in the class action against Sterling Jewelers which was an impetus for two major bipartisan bills that became law in 2022, nullifying forced arbitration and nondisclosure agreements in cases of sexual harassment and abuse.

As we celebrate this moment, we recognize that the EEOC's work extends beyond individual cases. When people are given an equal opportunity to succeed, we all benefit. Diverse teams lead to innovation and stronger decision-making. Equal pay ensures that every family can thrive. A discrimination-free workplace fosters a culture of respect and dignity for all.

The work of the EEOC is also about fostering a culture where respect for diversity is not just a requirement but a guiding principle. It's about educating employers and employees on best practices and the benefits of a more inclusive workforce. It's about shaping our collective future by ensuring that opportunities are open to everyone, regardless of who they are or where they come from.

So today, we celebrate our commitment to equality, fairness, and justice in the workplace by congratulating Kalpana Kotagal and wishing her only the best on her new journey. I am confident that as commissioner, she will continue her life path of exceptional work.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN DAVE  
CRESICO'S SERVICE TO YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Dave Cresico of the Ypsilanti Township Fire Department in Ypsilanti, MI

on the occasion of his retirement. His tremendous dedication to protecting our community is worthy of commendation.

Born and raised in Ypsilanti Township, Captain Cresico joined the Fire Department in 1993. He consistently moved up the ranks of the department, advancing to Lieutenant in 2010 merely three months before becoming Fire Captain later that year. Members of Captain Cresico's crew salute his legacy of selflessness, describing him as someone who always puts the lives of others ahead of his own. Over the course of his extensive career, Captain Cresico served as a powerful force for good in our Ypsilanti Township community. He has saved countless lives, risking his own safety to rescue citizens from burning homes and acting quickly to administer life-saving medical care under immense pressure. Captain Cresico exemplifies the Ypsilanti Township Fire Department's dedication to providing excellence in all aspects of fire safety, and his steadfast commitment to protecting the township and its residents is laudable. Effective and devoted public servants like Captain Cresico are the backbone of this nation, and I am proud to have had such an admirable individual leading our Ypsilanti Township community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Dave Cresico for over 30 years of exemplary service. He has selflessly worked for the benefit of Ypsilanti Township in his role as a Captain of the Fire Department, and his heroic legacy will continue to inspire our community for decades to come. I sincerely thank Captain Cresico for his three decades of dedication, and join with his family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

#### HONORING CAMP BLANDING MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

#### HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this Veterans' Day, I thank each and every one of our brave servicemembers who heroically answered the call to defend the United States of America from those who despise our free country.

These men and women, of whom some suffered the ultimate sacrifice, deserve our unending gratitude. One way we can attempt to pay back our impossible debt is to preserve these veterans' legacy, and the Camp Blanding Museum, since its inception in 1990, has been doing an incredible job undertaking this responsibility.

As the flagship training base for our Florida National Guard, Camp Blanding is a shining example of Northeast Floridian excellence. Offering a rich military history coupled with a tremendous Museum and Memorial, I could not be prouder to honor Camp Blanding on this Veterans' Day. Camp Blanding has my unending support and best wishes.

HONORING STAFF SGT. TANNER  
GRONE

#### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the life and service of Staff Sgt. Tanner Grone of Gorham, New Hampshire, who tragically died on November 10, 2023. Tanner was a beloved son, who proudly served our country and was one of five soldiers killed in a helicopter crash in the Eastern Mediterranean, and assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR).

A graduate of Gorham High School, Staff Sgt. Grone enlisted in the Army as a helicopter repairer in 2017. He was later assigned to the 1st Battalion, 160th SOAR, also known as the "Night Stalkers," which is composed of the Army's best qualified soldiers. In 2018, Staff Sgt. Grone deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Enduring Freedom, respectively. He also deployed on multiple "no-notice deployments" supporting our nation's national security and freedom.

Staff Sgt. Grone will be remembered for his leadership, conduct, and selflessness. He was awarded and decorated with the Air Medal with Combat Device, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal with Combat Device. Staff Sgt. Grone will be remembered by his Gorham community for winning the first NHSL D2 Championship for the Mount Washington Valley Soccer Club following an undefeated 10–0 season as well as helping at his family's business, Scoggin's General Store alongside his sister and parents.

During this difficult time, my thoughts and condolences are with the Grone Family, including Staff Sgt. Grone's parents, Steve and Erica, and his sister, Emily. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend Staff Sgt. Grone for his service and sacrifice to our nation. His legacy of service and commitment to our country will live on through those who knew and loved him.

#### CELEBRATING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

#### HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of National Adoption Day.

Each November, National Adoption Day is celebrated across the country to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in need of permanency. On November 1, 1995, President Clinton proclaimed that November would be recognized as National Adoption Month, and the first National Adoption Day occurred in 2000. Over the past twenty-two years, more than 75,000 children have been adopted from foster care during National Adoption Day ceremonies alone.

In the Fifth Judicial District, which is comprised of Onondaga, Jefferson, Oneida, Oswego, Herkimer, and Lewis counties, the first National Adoption Day ceremony was held in November of 2001 with just fifteen people in attendance. This year, on Friday, November 17th, Family Court judges will convene at the OnCenter in Syracuse to finalize the adoptions of 42 children.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important day for children who will finally have a forever family.

#### CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YPSILANTI FIRE- HOUSE MUSEUM

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ypsilanti Firehouse Museum in Ypsilanti, MI on the 25th anniversary of their founding. The historical education they provide while celebrating the accomplishments of our firefighters is worthy of commendation.

The Ypsilanti Firehouse Museum was established in 1998 by Norma and Howard Weaver. Norma's father, Henry Clement, was a firefighter for the city of Ann Arbor and died while on-duty in 1961. The Weavers were members of several vintage car clubs, including the Antique Fire Truck Association, also known as SPAAMFAA. In 1998, they created the Michigan Firehouse Museum and Education Center.

Needing a permanent home for their museum, the Weavers purchased the Old Firehouse in the historic district of Ypsilanti. The building, still standing from 1898, contains a bunk area and brass pole. A modern, multi-level exhibit area was constructed in 2002. Now encompassing a total area of over 26,000 square feet, the exhibits feature the history of fire fighting in the State of Michigan and the evolution of fire fighting technology. The collections include trucks, hoses, extinguishers, ladders, breathing apparatuses, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Ypsilanti Firehouse Museum. For 25 years they have provided not only an excellent educational experience for people of all ages but have also honored our brave men and women who fight fires and save lives on a daily basis across the state of Michigan. We thank the volunteers who make the Museum possible and wish them all the best for the next 25 years.

#### CONGRATULATING KEITH COLE OF THE WOLF RIVER CONSERVANCY ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keith Cole, the executive director of the Wolf River Conservancy, who will be retiring December 15 after helping build fourteen miles of an eventual 26-mile corridor of trails