

Don began work at the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office in 1972, and in 1993 was elected County Sheriff. As Sheriff he upgraded deputy training and helped plan the new corrections center to include medical and mental health care facilities.

In 2010 he was elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, where he served with distinction until 2022. While on the Board he improved mental health services, improved access to parks and open spaces, and provided expanded services for the homeless.

Don Horsley was a remarkable man and a tireless public servant whose tremendous legacy and impact will not be forgotten. He was a man who cared about the most vulnerable in our community, was a man of enormous integrity, and had a great sense of humor. He lived a full and distinguished life, and his work defines what good government is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and work of Don Horsley, and in extending our most sincere condolences to his entire family.

He was a good man who did great things to better our communities and strengthen our country. Don Horsley was a national treasure.

CONGRATULATING FATHER
TOLTON ON THEIR CLASS 5
GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Father Tolton Catholic High School on their victory in Missouri's Class 5 Girls' Team Cross-Country Championship.

The Trailblazers claimed the Class 5 title, becoming the only school in the state to win state titles in three separate classes. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home this state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Father Tolton Girls' Cross-Country Team for a job well done.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALFRED
'SMOKEY' DREHER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Alfred 'Smokey' Dreher of Vernon, Connecticut. Alfred was a true, devoted member of the Vernon community, always looking for ways to keep others safe. Aged 89, Mr. Dreher sadly but peacefully passed away on December 2nd.

Born on August 14, 1934, to Gladys and Alfred O. Dreher, Sr. in Rockville, Connecticut, Alfred attended Rockville High School, graduating in 1953. Even before his completion of high school, Alfred joined the Rockville Fire Department in 1950 as a Junior Firefighter. Alfred served as a part of the Hockanum Host

Company as a hose-man, ladder-man, and driver, eager to fill in wherever necessary.

Upon his high school graduation, Alfred entered the workforce, joining the Aetna Life and Casualty Insurance Company in Hartford as an Apprentice Underwriter. It was here that Alfred met the love of his life and wife of 59 years, Diane.

In 1955, Alfred heeded his nation's call to action and joined the Army as a Heavy Equipment Transport Driver at Fort Lee Virginia and Fort Dix New Jersey. It was during this service that Alfred and Diane got married and began their lives together. After an honorable discharge in 1962, Alfred and Diane relocated to Rockville, where they would remain the rest of their married life. Alfred rejoined Aetna in the Supply Department, as a Security Guard. Alfred retired from Aetna in 1992, after 40 years. As if 40 years of service isn't enough, Alfred never missed a day of work because of illness, always dedicated to his commitments.

Throughout his career, Alfred remained unwavering in his work as a firefighter. When the Rockville and Vernon Fire Departments merged into the Town of Vernon Fire Department, Alfred became an EMT. He served with Rescue 411 as a driver and paramedic and attained the rank of second Lieutenant. After 55 years as a Firefighter and EMT, Alfred semi-retired. This retirement did not, however, stop Alfred's work with the Vernon Fire Department. Alfred joined the Town of Vernon Fire Police to make sure responding crews were sufficiently equipped with tools and to help with traffic control during accidents and fires. Alfred is the longest-serving firefighter in Vernon's history, concluding an astonishing 65 years with the Fire Department upon his retirement in 2015.

Alfred's selfless devotion to creating a safe and welcoming community was without limits. He was involved in numerous local organizations such as American Legion Post 14 in Vernon to organize and advocate for fellow veterans. To help ensure others were equipped to successfully serve their communities, Alfred taught as a First Aid and CPR instructor for the American Red Cross. He spent his free time as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, delivering meals to seniors in the region. Alfred was also a devout member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Vernon for over half a century.

Mr. Speaker, I am incredibly lucky to represent constituents as devoted to serving their communities as Alfred. As a resident of the town of Vernon for the last forty years, I had the honor and privilege to know Al and his son Jeffrey and can personally attest to his steadfast commitment to the fire department, and what a beloved and respected leader he was in town. He was completely down to earth and had a wry sense of humor. The loss of Alfred leaves a deep void in the Vernon community. Alfred's work giving back to those around him was extraordinary. Though we mourn this loss, we take solace in the knowledge that his legacy will live on in those he impacted. Alfred is survived by his sons John and Jeffrey, sisters Nancy, Irene, and Tina, half-brother John, grandson Joseph and countless nieces and nephews. I ask my colleagues to join me as we memorialize Alfred's faithful service to his community.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF
MR. IRA DAVID WOOD, III

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor and celebrate an icon of North Carolina's cultural landscape. Mr. Ira David Wood, III, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of his legendary portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge in Ira David Wood, III's "A Christmas Carol."

Mr. Wood's unique and comedic adaptation of this Christmas classic has become a beloved holiday tradition for the Raleigh community.

As the first Eagle Scout in Enfield, North Carolina, and one of the first students to graduate from the North Carolina School of Arts. Mr. Wood has always been a trailblazer and his passion for the arts has been unwavering.

His visionary leadership in theater, coupled with his remarkable talents as an actor, author, singer, and playwright, has left a profound impact on the arts in North Carolina.

As the founder and Executive Director of Theatre in the Park in Raleigh, Mr. Wood has been instrumental in making theater more accessible and engaging for our community.

Mr. Wood wrote and directed the Opening Ceremonies for the U.S. Olympic Festival in 1987, served as a guest artist with the North Carolina Symphony and the National Symphony Orchestra, and has written numerous original plays and three books.

His success in elevating North Carolina's vibrant all scene has earned him prestigious recognitions, including two Medal of Arts awards, the North Carolina Award in Fine Arts, and The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian honor in North Carolina.

It's with great admiration and gratitude that we celebrate Ira David Wood, III's 50 years of artistic excellence, particularly his innovative and humorous rendition of "A Christmas Carol."

As we celebrate this milestone, let's applaud Mr. Wood's extraordinary contributions not only to the arts but to the heart and soul of North Carolina.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Wood on this remarkable achievement and wishing him continued success.

CONGRATULATING LUKE SIEVERS
ON THE CLASS 5 CROSS-COUNTRY
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Luke Sievers on his victory in Missouri's Class 5 Individual Cross-Country Championship.

Luke claimed the Class 5 title by setting a course-record time of 14 minutes, 51.9 seconds in the 5,000-meter race to secure his first high school cross-country victory and lead the team to a win in the Team Championship. Luke should be commended for all his hard work throughout the past year and for bringing

home a state championship to his school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Luke Sievers for a job well done.

HONORING GEORGE LITTLE FOR HIS SERVICE TO SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE PEOPLE OF MOORE COUNTY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Little for his great service to Sandhills Community College (SCC) and to thank him for serving as Chairman of SCC's Board of Trustees.

Earlier this month, George announced that he was stepping down as Chairman of the SCC Board of Trustees, a role he has served in for almost four decades. George became board chair in 1985 and under his leadership both the college and our community at large have grown tremendously. When George became Chairman, SCC was still a small, growing institution. However, George saw its potential as an academic institution and development driver. During his tenure, SCC has risen to become an academic powerhouse and established an endowment of over \$50 million, a sum unheard of at the community college level.

George is a nationally recognized academic leader, great American and dear friend. While he will continue to serve on the college's board, I certainly know he will be missed at the helm. That being said, I know he will continue to serve with vigor and have full faith that his chosen successor, Larry Caddell, will be able to carry on George's great work.

George's dedication to service and constant willingness to step up when needed is commendable and inspiring. It has been an honor serving the people of Moore County alongside him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing George Little for his service to our community and the great state of North Carolina.

HONORING CRYSTAL LANGHORNE

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. I rise today to honor the achievements and outstanding athletic career of Crystal Langhorne, a resident of Willingboro, New Jersey and a trailblazer on the basketball court.

A former member of the Willingboro High School's girls basketball team. Crystal became the all-time highest scorer with over 2,000 points in her high school career. Not only did she possess athletic prowess on the court, she continuously showed sportsmanship and camaraderie to her teammates, coaches, and opponents.

Crystal continued her basketball career at the University of Maryland, where she led the team to an historic national championship in 2006 as a key starter for the Terrapins. A

fierce athlete, she became Maryland's all-time highest scorer and record holder with 2,247 career points. Upon graduating Crystal started her tenure as a professional basketball player in the WNBA, playing for the Washington Mystics and, later, the Seattle Storm. She continued to demonstrate her love for the game and unparalleled talent racking up more remarkable accolades, including Most Improved Player and All-WNBA honors.

Crystal's talents don't end within the 94 feet of hardwood. Since her retirement from the WNBA she has been a force for social justice across our country. As the Director at Forece4Change, a social justice platform for the Seattle Storm, Crystal helps amplify the voices of black women, fights for voting rights for all Americans, and supports BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities through a wide variety of initiatives. Recently, she had the opportunity to speak about racial and social justice platforms at the White House.

The scope of her work has touched the lives of thousands across the country, including many in New Jersey's Third District. This month, Crystal's alma mater, Willingboro Township School District, dedicated the high school gymnasium in her honor. Crystal was able to celebrate the special night and notable achievement with the Willingboro community, former coaches and teammates in what is now the Crystal Langhorne Gymnasium.

Crystal Langhorne embodies the tenacity and spirit of Willingboro Township that makes me proud to represent this community. We are lucky to have her as one of our own as an inspiration to young basketball players and community leaders throughout our district.

CONGRATULATING THE SCHOOL OF THE OSAGE ON THEIR CLASS 2 GIRLS' GOLF STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the School of the Osage on their victory in Missouri's Class 2 Girls' Team Golf Championship.

The Indians claimed the Class 2 title for the second consecutive year by beating Incarnate Word by 32 strokes. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home this state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Osage Girls' Golf Team for a job well done.

COMMEMORATING GEROLD PRATHER

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the heroic actions of Gerold Prather. On May 15, 2022, Mr. Prather of Kalamazoo, Michigan, rescued a

teenage boy who was struggling to swim in Lake Michigan.

That day, the teenage boy and his friends were at least 100 feet out in the lake when they started to call for help. The friends were struggling and had submerged under the water.

In another group at the beach, Mr. Prather heard calls for help, entered the lake, and swam to the boys. Reaching them, the boys submerged and resurfaced. With difficulty, Mr. Prather first pushed a boy toward the beach and then positioned him on his back and towed him to a point about 50 feet from shore where, tiring, Mr. Prather shouted for help. Another man waded into the lake and helped Mr. Prather and the boy get to the beach.

In honor of these lifesaving actions, Mr. Prather has been awarded the Carnegie Medal, a prestigious honor bestowed upon those who "enter extreme danger while saving or attempting to save the lives of others." Mr. Prather is one of 16 total Carnegie Medal recipients slated to receive the honor in 2023.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Prather for his heroism and commemorating him for his lifesaving actions.

RECOGNIZING GLOBAL HUMANE'S LAUNCH OF HUMANE TOURISM CERTIFICATION PROGRAM HELPING TO PUT ANIMAL WELFARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF TOURISM

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize important efforts on behalf of animals worldwide and the humane treatment of animals through a new Humane Tourism certification program created by Global Humane, the international brand of American Humane, the first and most experienced national humane organization which was created in 1877 to ensure the safety, welfare, and well-being of animals.

Global Humane has extended its conservation impact with this new Humane Tourism program. At the same time as millions of people worldwide seek opportunities to connect with Earth's majestic wildlife, Global Humane has identified an opportunity to apply its expertise in animal welfare and create a unique certification program to help ensure animals are treated humanely in the travel and hospitality industry. The first audits were conducted in August 2023, which established that the properties met the certification requirements. The sites that are certified include Nyosi Wildlife Reserve and Mantis Founders Lodge in South Africa, Ichingo Chobe River Lodge in Namibia, and Zambezi Queen on the border of Namibia and Botswana.

Humane Tourism is a unique animal welfare certification program that assesses and certifies wildlife reserves, lodging facilities, and tour operators for their humane responsibility toward the animal life that these operations may encounter and have the potential to impact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask today that we recognize the importance and impact the Global Humane Tourism certification can have on keeping animals safe in the tourism industry worldwide.