

RECOGNIZING ATTORNEY NEIL O'DONNELL, GREATER WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Attorney Neil O'Donnell who was named the Man of the Year by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. He was honored at the group's annual gathering on March 17, 2023.

Neil graduated with honors from Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, before matriculating at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1987 and began practicing law that same year.

Neil spent three years working for the Philadelphia-based law firm of Baskin, Flaherty, Elliott & Mannino. He returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania in 1990 and started the O'Donnell Law Offices. Over the past 30 years, Neil has grown the O'Donnell Law Offices into one of the leading legal practices in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He has cultivated an impressive reputation through his commitment to practicing to the highest standard.

In addition to the Pennsylvania Bar, Neil is admitted to the Middle District of Pennsylvania and Eastern District of Pennsylvania District Courts, the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. For his legal acumen, he has been named to the Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Top 100, the National Trial Lawyers Top 100, Best Lawyers, American Society of Legal Advocates Top 100 Lawyer, Rue Ratings Best Attorneys of America and National Association of Distinguished Counsel. He also received a Martindale Hubble AV Preeminent Rating and is a Litigation Counsel of American Fellow. Neil has shared his extensive legal experience with his peers as a presenter for leading attorney groups like the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, Melvin Belli Society and the Brain Injury Association of California.

In addition to his legal practice, Neil has served as the chair of the Senatorial Advisory Committee Panel for the Selection of United States Attorneys and U.S. Marshals for the Eastern, Western and Middle Districts of Pennsylvania. He is the co-chair of the Senatorial Advisory Panel for the Selection of the U.S. District Court. This past November, Neil was named to the 11-person board for the Governor Josh Shapiro and Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis's Transition after their election.

I am honored to join with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons to recognize Neil as the Man of the Year. His career has been marked by impressive integrity and service to the legal profession, and I am proud to celebrate his many achievements and contributions to the field of law and our community. I wish him the best.

HONORING CHUCK McMINN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chuck McMinn, the St. Helena Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year for his excellent work in our community.

Mr. McMinn is a graduate of Harvard business school and a successful Silicon Valley entrepreneur. Mr. McMinn and his wife Anne purchased the Vineyard 29 winery in the Napa Valley in 1999. They began producing Cabernet Sauvignon and established a beacon of environmentally sustainable winemaking, combining a passion for excellent wine with responsible production. The winery uses an on-site well and generates electricity on-site, minimizing its impact on the Napa Valley ecosystem. These and other sustainability practices allow Vineyard 29 to be 250 percent more efficient in how it utilizes natural resources, ensuring that the area can continue to supporting winemaking for generations to come.

After moving to Napa Valley, Mr. McMinn has also worked tirelessly in various philanthropic pursuits to improve our area. Mr. McMinn founded Napa-Learns, a nonprofit devoted to providing students in Napa County with valuable skills and resources through innovative public education programs. He also founded the Rail Arts District, a contemporary outdoor art museum designed to extend the benefits of public art to the semi-industrial neighborhoods of Napa Valley. As a board member of the St. Helena Hospital Foundation, the St. Helena Viticultural Society, and Appellations St. Helena, Mr. McMinn has extended his time, passion, and energy to the Napa Valley community.

In addition, Mr. McMinn is the founder and board president of the nonprofit Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition. Under his leadership, the Vine Trail board team has grown to include members and organizations representing a broad spectrum of community and civic interests. This dedicated all-volunteer team share a vision to build a continuous trail connecting the entire Napa Valley from Vallejo's Ferry Terminal to the foot of Mount St. Helena. The Vine Trail will link the entirety of Napa Valley, physically, culturally, and artistically. The benefits of such a trail include increased tourism, a safe and environmentally friendly commuting alternative, and greater access to the beautiful and diverse Napa community.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Mr. McMinn has worked selflessly for the betterment of the Napa Valley community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
RICHARD JOHNSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Johnson, who retires this March from 42 years of consummate service to the Town of Glastonbury—nearly 30 of

which have been as Town Manager. Richard's leadership has helped Glastonbury maintain its standing as a highly successful community in Connecticut, which I am proud to say has a large footprint in the Second District of Connecticut as a result of redistricting under the 2020 census. I have had the pleasure of knowing of Town Manager Johnson's work over the years as a Member of Congress, a state legislator and a town attorney from the neighboring town of Vernon and can personally attest to his dedication to the Town of Glastonbury.

Born in Avon, Richard has always been a true-blue, central Connecticut native and was destined to serve one of that region's many thriving communities. Armed with a Connecticut education—a bachelor's from Southern Connecticut State University and an MBA from the University of Connecticut—Richard was uniquely equipped to ensure Glastonbury's upward trajectory. Richard's career with the Town of Glastonbury began in 1980, first as Glastonbury's Parks and Recreation Director and then as Assistant Town Manager. With nearly 13 years of experience, he was appointed to the permanent position of Town Manager in 1993. Since becoming Town Manager, he has become an institution of knowledge in service of the town's interests.

As Town Manager, Richard has worked with 15 town councils, including some 50 community leaders. Richard brokered more than 60 land acquisitions and preservation projects, totaling more than 2,500 acres, that in his words, "helps shape the community, preserves our farms, open spaces, and riverfront land". Under his visionary leadership, the town acquired and converted brownfields into what is now the iconic Riverfront Park and Riverfront Community Center and Boathouse, the very location where his retirement celebration is to be held. His persistence and tenacity over the years also must not go unappreciated. For example, he recently helped the town achieve a multigenerational goal by way of the acquisition of a roughly 540-acre property, previously owned by the Metropolitan District Commission. Town Manager Johnson's leadership in this land acquisition demonstrates the strength of Glastonbury's officials and process, setting an example that ought to be emulated across the state and nation.

Richard has also famously worked to strengthen the town's capital improvement program, which led to its receiving of an AAA bond rating from both Standard and Poor's and Moody's Investors Service. These ratings have and will continue to bolster Glastonbury's ability to attract capital for municipal projects well beyond his retirement. As Glastonbury's steward for more than a generation, countless projects under Richard have rightfully been recognized on the national and local level.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Johnson's unwavering loyalty to and love for the Town of Glastonbury public has made him a fearless leader and honorable civil servant. Throughout his tenure, the town has been recognized with accolades including the Engineering Excellence Award, the National Recreation and Park Association's Innovation in Park Design Award, Climate Leader Designation, Nationally Accredited Police Department, and countless others. Richard's conscientious approach to leadership has forged him into the epitome of a good public servant. Though Glastonbury is

losing an institution of 42 years, we know that his contributions and mindful leadership have set Glastonbury forward for a new era of uncontested success. To that end, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Richard Johnson on a well-earned retirement, thanking him and his family for his life of service.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of Pasco-Hernando State College. Pasco-Hernando State College combines high-tech educational facilities and state-of-the-art programs with a focus on teaching for student success. With six convenient locations, students can expect personalized attention, small class sizes, highly credentialed faculty, and tuition and fees that are among the most affordable in the State of Florida. The Associate in Arts (AA) degree program provides a solid foundation in the arts and sciences. Successful completion of PHSC's AA degree guarantees seamless transfer to one of Florida's public universities or state colleges at the junior level. PHSC provides training for more than 30 high demand careers in business, health, industry and technology, and public service through new bachelor's degree, Associate in Science degree and certificate programs. PHSC, offers educational opportunities for students of all ages and abilities. Their "Open Door" policy welcomes all high school graduates and GED recipients. Under the skillful leadership of Dr. Tim Beard, PHSC has a team of highly dedicated professionals working to provide students with valuable career preparation and education advancement opportunities. We are grateful for their efforts.

HONORING THE ART ASSOCIATION OF NAPA VALLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Art Association of Napa Valley as this all-volunteer arts organization celebrates its 75th Anniversary.

Founded in 1948, the Art Association of Napa Valley is a nonprofit arts organization, with a mission to foster a more inclusive environment for all individuals through the arts and to support local artists of all ages and backgrounds. Many in Napa Valley have come to know the Arts Association of Napa Valley through their art exhibits and their several facilities. Some of the most notable facilities they have to offer include their downtown Art Gallery, the art center on Berens Street, and a newly opened clay and glass center on Jefferson Street.

Throughout the decades, the Art Association of Napa Valley has contributed greatly to its

community through its constant advocacy for the arts. The organization has also been a pioneer in starting art festivals for the community, with its first one dating back to the 1950s. Today, the organization participates in the Arts in April festival, a valley wide celebration honoring the arts.

The Art Association of Napa Valley's philanthropic activities include providing scholarships for talented students who are pursuing an art career, organizing local art exhibits to display and market creations, and providing classes for those who wish to explore their artistic talents. Additionally, many students who have benefitted from the contributions of the Art Association of Napa Valley have pursued advanced degrees in the arts, with several earning a Master of Fine Arts degree.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Art Association of Napa Valley has not only contributed immensely to highlighting Napa Valley's unique artistic community, but also has uplifted and encouraged students to fulfill their artistic ambitions. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor here today the work of the Art Association of Napa Valley as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary of artistic advocacy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SARAH DEBBINK LANGENKAMP ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, more than 40,000 people were killed last year on America's roads. This tragic toll is unacceptable, even more so because every single one of these deaths is preventable.

Today, I am introducing legislation named for Sarah Debbink Langenkamp, who was killed while bicycling here in the Nation's capital.

Sarah was a U.S. diplomat whose family had just been evacuated from Kyiv. She was bicycling home from her children's new school in Bethesda on August 25, 2022, when she was struck and crushed by a flatbed truck.

She was riding in an unprotected bike lane on the shoulder of a five-lane urban highway, a route she was forced to take because it was the only connection between the low-traffic neighborhood street of the elementary school and the multi-use path to her home. While drivers are responsible for operating safely around cyclists and pedestrians, fixing gaps in infrastructure presents opportunities to build safe systems that could have protected Sarah.

Disconnected and incomplete networks are unfortunately common features of bicyclist and pedestrian infrastructure in the United States.

These gaps in infrastructure present serious dangers. Deaths and injuries of pedestrians and bicyclists have grown dramatically in recent years, rising to the highest levels in decades, and now make up 20 percent of traffic deaths. This legislation encourages the construction of complete active transportation networks, separated from vehicle roadways, which will contribute to safer trips and fewer deaths on our roads.

I look forward to working my colleagues in the House and Senate to pass this legislation

in memory of Sarah and every other person killed on our Nation's roads.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DICK MANN

HON. MARK ALFORD

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize a true American Patriot, Mr. Dick Mann of Webster County, Missouri.

Mr. Mann began his career of public service in the United States Marine Corps, where he served in active duty from 1968 to 1974. From then until 1992, he served in the Army Reserves as a medic in a preventative medicine unit.

He continued his service to his community while serving as an Environmental Public Health Specialist and Emergency Planner from 2007 to 2013 for the Webster County Health Unit. In these roles, Dick was responsible for food and drinking water safety and quality, developing response and mitigation plans for large scale public health emergencies, and child daycare facility safety for Webster County residents. Since 2015, Dick has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Webster County Health Unit.

Additionally, Mr. Mann has served as a community mentor for families struggling with addiction, the American Red Cross representative for Webster County, and as a member of the Local Emergency Planning & Disaster Management Committee.

I stand here today to congratulate Dick Mann on his retirement, to extend my gratitude for his many years of exceptional service to our community and to our great Nation, and to wish him the best of luck in his next endeavor.

HONORING STEVEN ROGERS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yountville's Town Manager, Steven Rogers, for his excellent work serving our community and congratulate him as he begins his retirement.

Mr. Rogers has been a devoted servant in California local governments for 37 years. He is the longest serving town manager in Napa Valley County history, being chosen in 2007 and serving for 15 years. Mr. Rogers was awarded Citizen of the Year by the Yountville's Chamber of Commerce in 2012. Under his leadership, Yountville navigated through challenges such as the Great Recession, Campbell wildfire outbreak, the Yountville mass shooting in 2018, and the COVID-19 global pandemic.

In addition, Mr. Rogers is recognized for his contributions in bolstering Yountville's financial position. As Town Manager, Mr. Rogers is noted for delivering balanced budgets, having an influential role in creating the Town's Revenue Stabilization Fund and Napa County's Tourism Improvement District. Steve is also