

Sondra has been instrumental in bringing the world to Scranton, and her impact on the community cannot be overstated.

Before joining The University of Scranton, Sondra served in various leadership roles, including as a special assistant to the chairman for partnerships at the National Endowment for the Humanities, cultural advisor to Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey, and senior associate at the University of Maryland's Democracy Collaborative. She has also held numerous positions in academia, including director of the President's Millennium Seminars at The George Washington University and senior advisor on civic affairs to the president of Connecticut College.

Sondra has written, edited, and co-edited several books on democracy and civic engagement, presented programs in several countries, and organized and moderated symposia on culture and public policy for academic institutions and cultural organizations throughout the United States. Her impact on the national stage is evident through her appointments by Presidents Obama and Carter to the Commission on Presidential Scholars and the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts, respectively.

Sondra's leadership and expertise have been invaluable to the University of Scranton. Under her guidance, the Schemel Forum has become a highly popular program that brings renowned speakers to Scranton to engage in dialogue on a wide range of topics. Sondra's commitment to promoting cultural understanding and learning has enriched the community, and her legacy will continue to inspire scholars for generations.

Sondra's contributions to the arts and humanities are immeasurable, and her dedication to public service, is truly admirable. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on her retirement and wish her many fulfilling and enjoyable years ahead with her husband, Morey, and family.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER  
SERGEANT JAMES J. WELLER

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 28, 2023*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Chief Master Sergeant James J. Weller. CMSgt Weller is retiring from the United States Air Force after 42 years of faithful service to our country.

Born in Norristown, Pennsylvania, Jim went on to graduate from Upper Dublin High School in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. He began his career of service early as a Civil Air Patrol Cadet and would go on to enlist as an Infantryman in the U.S. Army Reserves. In 1983 he transferred to the Air Force and began an illustrious career that saw him serve in locales throughout the world in support of the Cold War and the Global War on Terror.

Jim has served in many positions in defense of our great nation to include Military Law Enforcement, Aircraft Armament Technician, Emergency Manager, and various other additional duties. In March of 2003, Jim was part of the Red Tail Express, the first successful Air Force ground convoy into Iraq. On a sub-

sequent deployment to Iraq, he served as the Security Escort Manager to Baghdad Air Base. Jim's professional excellence and dedication to service is exemplified in his support of Operations Desert Storm, Deny Flight, Southern Watch, Southern Focus, Inherent Resolve, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

On the domestic front, Jim leveraged his extensive military experience in disaster management across 20 domestic operations. Notably he supported efforts during Covid-19, Hurricanes Floyd and Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and Super Storm Sandy. His security expertise has been used in support of G-20 summits, a Papal visit, the 2016 Democratic National Convention and Presidential Inaugurations. Jim has also been instrumental in service to our local community where he serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol as well as volunteer Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services.

In his private life, Jim and his wife Michelle reside in Warrington, Pennsylvania where they have raised 4 wonderful children.

We are all incredibly grateful for the positive impact Jim has had through his long career, and we wish him countless blessings during his retirement.

APPRECIATING SOUTH KOREA

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 28, 2023*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the South Korea and United States alliance, formed in October 1953, with the signing of a mutual defense agreement at the end of the Korean War. Over the past seven decades, the alliance has proved to be successful, as the goal of protecting South Korea, specifically from another North Korea invasion has been achieved.

South Korea, officially the Republic of Korea, is one of the United States most valuable economic and strategic partners in Asia. South Korea is now our sixth largest trading partner, and we are their second largest, behind China.

Thursday, I was grateful to greet His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of Korea, to the Capitol and attend his address to the joint meeting of Congress along with my good Korean-American friend, Mr. Jaehoon Choe, who is also a fellow South Carolinian.

Amazingly the President cited "Known as the 'Miracle on the Han River,' Korea's economic growth rate was unrivaled. Korea was one of the Least Developed Countries after the war. Its annual income was just U.S. \$67 per capita. Now its economy ranks tenth in the world." Today, South Korea per capita is \$33,340 as North Korea is estimated a gruesome \$1,298.

In His Excellency's address he stated, "My friends, freedom and democracy are once again under threat. The war against Ukraine is a violation of international law. It is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo with force. Korea strongly condemns the unprovoked armed attack against Ukraine.

"When North Korea invaded us in 1950, democracies came running to help us. We fought together and kept our freedom. The rest is history.

"Korea's experience shows us just how important it is for democracies to uphold solidarity. Korea will stand in solidarity with the free world. We will actively work to safeguard the freedom of the people of Ukraine and support their efforts in reconstruction."

South Korea is well represented in Washington with Ambassador Cho Hyun-dong who effectively promotes Seoul for defense and job creation for Korea and America.

As our military continues the fight in the War on Terrorism, we can find inspiration in remembering the Korean War victory over communism, which reminds us that Americans have a long history of defeating enemies of freedom all over the world achieving peace through strength.

CONGRATULATING INOCENCIA  
JUSINO ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 28, 2023*

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of my constituents Inocencia Jusino from Lajas on her 90th birthday.

Mrs. Jusino was born in Lajas on April 15, 1933, to Juan Jusino and Laura Torres, the second daughter of six children. Her father took her out of school in the fifth grade to work in the fields, to help support the family. This gave her valuable life lessons, work ethic and the drive that she still has today.

She moved to Brooklyn at the age of 19, speaking only Spanish and started working with the Ladies Garment Workers Union where she worked for the following 47 years.

Mrs. Jusino married Miguel Angel Corales on May 14, 1955, and they had two children Edwin and Marilyn. Her family grew when her daughter married Philip and her son Annabell.

She is the proud Abuela (grandmother) or as her grandchildren call her Vendo Vendo to Ina Marie, Mel, John-Michael, Jose, Genevieve, Bryant, Philip II, Kelly, and Sam. She is also a great-grandmother to Naylani, Leeland and Ava.

Mrs. Jusino returned to Puerto Rico full time in 1995 and was widowed in 2003. Despite losing her husband, she has continued to be active in her church and community. She frequently travels and has never missed a milestone in her children or grandchildren's lives.

I call on my colleagues to join me in congratulating Inocencia Jusino on her 90th birthday and wishes for continued health and happiness with her family.

HONORING SGT. KENNETH SUTER

**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 28, 2023*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent SGT. Kenneth Suter for his distinguished service to the U.S. Air Force.

Hailing from Kodak, Tennessee, SGT. Kenneth Suter served on the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squad as an engine mechanic, primarily working on helicopter aircraft.

Stationed in Da Nang, Vietnam, SGT. Kenneth Suter proudly served from 1971 to 1972. May his sacrifice and service and that of his comrades never be forgotten.

COMMEMORATING CHARLES  
STEELE'S SERVICE TO THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND THE CITY OF MANCHESTER

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 28, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles Steele, a resident of Manchester, Michigan on the occasion of his 93rd birthday. His dedication and patriotism to his country and to his city is worthy of commendation.

Born in 1930, Charles moved to Manchester shortly after his birth. During high school and

after graduation, he was a member of the Navy Reserve. Shortly after an honorable discharge from the Navy Reserve, Charles was drafted into the Army in 1951, where he stayed until being honorably discharged in 1953. In April of 1953 he joined the Manchester American Legion, Post 117.

Charles' dedication to Post 117 and the veteran's community over the last 70 years cannot be understated. He was heavily involved in the construction of their new hall in the 1970s, which for decades served as a popular location for community events, parties, weddings, and bingo games. The last seven decades has seen him serve as the Commander of Post 117 on five separate occasions, as well as being the Post Chaplain for the last 15 years. As Chaplain, he has spoken at many of the Memorial Day Services in the area, as well as attending military funerals where he presents the flag to the families of fallen veterans.

Over the last 70 years, Charles' involvement in his community has been visible to everyone outside of the veteran community as well. He

started the Color Guard Team that has been present at every Manchester High School football game since 1953. He missed his first game in 70 years last season but is hopeful to be back this fall. Starting with the Centennial Celebration of the City of Manchester in 1967, there are around 70 flags that are put up and taken down daily on holidays and special occasions on Main St. For 55 years, he has helped with the flags. Most recently and when he is available, he drives the truck with the flags.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Charles Steele's lifetime of service to this Nation and his community. His commitment and dedication go beyond Legion Post 117. He has demonstrated the same qualities to his community, Emanuel United Church of Christ, the Manchester Athletic Boosters, and his family. We thank him for his service and wish him the happiest of birthdays.