

COMMEMORATING THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF PIHRL AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY ROBERT H. MCKINNEY SCHOOL OF LAW

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the Program in International Human Rights Law (PIHRL) at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, founded by Professor George Edwards in 1997.

PIHRL is the first U.S. law school program of its kind to which the United Nations granted "Special Consultative Status" which underscores the PIHRL's remarkable commitment to and contributions to the United Nations' efforts of global promotion and protection of human rights.

PIHRL has embarked on an extraordinary range of global activities, including facilitating over 250 law student intern placements and consultancies in over 75 countries on 6 continents, working with human rights organizations, U.S. and foreign governmental bodies, academic institutions, and inter-governmental organization such as the UN.

I commend the PIHRL, Professor George E. Edwards and all current and former students and affiliates for their tireless work and significant contributions to legal scholarship in international human rights law.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF POLICE CHIEF FRANK KAMINSKI

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and long career of Park Ridge Police Chief Frank Kaminski. Today is Chief Kaminski's last day on duty.

I have had the opportunity to work with Chief Kaminski on numerous occasions, and I have always found him to be a dedicated and capable public servant. He has served as the Chief of Police for the City of Park Ridge since 2009, where he was brought out of retirement to serve the community in which he lived and revitalize that local Police Department. He succeeded, creating a Chief's Advisory Board (an initiative he also brought to Evanston, Illinois) and re-envisioned the City's department-wide philosophy behind the concept of community policing.

Prior to his service in Park Ridge, Chief Kaminski spent thirty-three years with the Evanston Police Department. He led the department for two decades before retiring in 2006. During his tenure, he presided over a dramatic 55 percent reduction in the index crime rate, and just like in Park Ridge, Chief Kaminski was a constant advocate behind the concept of community policing. He championed a host of local initiatives in this capacity, including the Citizens Police Academy, the Chief's Advisory Board, and a Police-Chaplain-Clergy Team to further deepen interactions between the Police Department and the public.

In a development that would characterize much of his career, the Chief originated and implemented a philosophy of policing that he called "The Partnership, Police and Community Working Together."

I am grateful that Chief Kaminski spent his working years in the service of two communities within the 9th Congressional District of Illinois. I have no doubt that the residents of these communities are better off thanks to his philosophy and his efforts to further interactions between the police and the public. We will all feel the loss in the absence of his continued leadership on these issues.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I thank Chief Kaminski for his service. He leaves shoes that will be very hard to fill, and I hope that Park Ridge is able to find someone who can lead the Department with the same skill and compassion that he did. I wish him nothing but the best in future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ALAN SMITH

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of Alan Smith as he retires from the Contra Costa Library Commission.

Throughout his career, Alan has faithfully served his community and has played a key role in supporting Contra Costa County's library system. When I was serving as a Contra Costa County Supervisor, I was proud to appoint Alan to the Library Commission and I am immensely proud of the work he has done to serve our community during his tenure. His career with the Library Commission began in May 1997 and he served as chair from 1998 to 2001, 2003 to 2005, and once again from 2015 to 2017. He has worked throughout the State of California conducting training sessions to various library boards and commissions. Additionally, he served as President of the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners (CALTAC) and represented Contra Costa County on the Bay Area Library Information System's (BALIS) Advisory Board. In 2006, Alan was awarded the California Library Association's President's Award in recognition of his leadership.

As part of his service, Alan has been a fierce advocate for legislative action to strengthen our nation's public libraries. He chaired the 2006 Proposition 81 library bond measure campaign in Contra Costa County, presenting critical information on this subject and obtaining over fifty endorsements for the proposition. Alan also served as a key advisor to other State and local campaigns.

Please join me in congratulating Alan Smith on his well-deserved retirement after 26 years of service with the Contra Costa Library Commission.

CONGRATULATING DR. PAMELA GUNTER-SMITH ON HER RETIREMENT FROM YORK COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith on her retirement as President of York College of Pennsylvania (YCP).

Over the course of her ten years of service, Dr. Gunter-Smith has impacted the lives of thousands of YCP students, parents, and alumni by modernizing YCP's curriculum and expanding opportunities for students of all backgrounds to pursue higher education.

Dr. Gunter-Smith's influence has also been felt off YCP's campus. During her time as President, she consistently took steps to expand YCP's role in the greater York community. This impact is best highlighted through numerous redevelopment and community engagement projects, including the soon-to-be completed Knowledge Park, as well as her service on boards such as the York County Industrial Development Authority, WellSpan Health, and Better York.

Mr. Speaker, the tireless work of Dr. Gunter-Smith has helped to establish YCP as one of America's best northeast colleges and will positively impact YCP students and York County residents for generations to come. I thank her for her steadfast dedication to improving the lives of students, her community, and wish her well in all future endeavors.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF BRANDON BYLO, CORNELIUS RODGERS, AND ANONYMOUS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three exceptional residents of Connecticut's Second Congressional District: Brandon Bylo of Groton, off duty Police Lieutenant Cornelius Rodgers of the New London police department, and a third, an anonymous Good Samaritan. Each of these individuals acted swiftly and decisively to save the lives of two strangers in dire distress.

On the morning of April 21, 2023, a horrific collision occurred when an oil tanker collided with a stranded car, causing both to be engulfed in flames on the southbound lane of the State of Connecticut's largest bridge, the Gold Star Memorial Bridge. This bridge, which was built in the 1940's spans the Thames River between the City of New London and the City of Groton and accommodates thousands of trucks and cars every day. In the moments following the collision, three commuters traveling from behind the impacted vehicles, Mr. Brandon Bylo, Lt. Cornelius Rodgers, and the anonymous individual saw an inferno unfolding before their eyes and instinctually sprang into action. They sprinted over to the collapsed car, supported one passenger fleeing the scene before dragging and carrying the driver out from their seat—all as the flames from the

tanker careened toward the car. Moments after the extraction, the car in question was overtaken by the flames of the crash.

This was a shocking incident in the region that received national news coverage. The selfless behavior displayed by these three individuals reduced the sense of tragedy Connecticut residents continue to feel. These three constituents truly embody the spirit of heroism, risking life and limb in perilous circumstances to save another life without hesitation. It was Mr. Bylo's unwavering conviction to live out his life as "your brother's keeper" which prompted his actions that fateful day. Lt. Rodgers similarly went above and beyond, rushing into action despite being off-duty at the time of the collision. Each had their own reasons to put themselves first that day—Mr. Bylo was on an errand with his two-year-old daughter—and yet, clearly, their unyielding sense of compassion and duty took over.

Mr. Speaker, we must also observe the tragic loss of Mr. Wallace "Wally" Fauquet III, the oil tanker driver, who lost his life in the crash. He leaves behind a loving family and many friends and coworkers who viewed him as a hardworking, friendly person who was diligently doing his job on the day of this tragic conflagration. We mourn the void that is left in his wake. We also find solace through the selfless actions of those in the eastern Connecticut community. These three individuals, who have sought no praise in their lifesaving response, are a continuing example of the good-natured people that uplift the Second District of Connecticut. They were honored by the New London Police Department on May 8 at a well-attended community event at the New London Garde Theater, and it is most appropriate that we extend this recognition. To that end, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Brandon Bylo, Lt. Cornelius Rodgers, and their Good Samaritan cohort, committing their deeds into our national memory.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREG'S PIZZA

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Greg's Pizza on its 60th anniversary in business. This family-owned pizzeria, nestled in the heart of Johnson City, Tennessee, has been a culinary landmark in our community for the past 60 years.

Since its establishment in 1963, Greg's Pizza has been a bastion of quality, service, and culinary excellence. Through dedication and passion, they have built a legacy that spans generations, with their mouthwatering pizzas and warm, inviting atmosphere that brings the community together. Over the years, they have provided thousands of jobs in the community with many of them being first-time jobs for young people.

Their commitment to using only the finest ingredients and their traditional, time-tested recipes have earned them the well-deserved title of the best pizza in the Tri-Cities. Greg's Pizza has been more than just a place to enjoy delicious pizza; it has also been a Washington County gathering spot where families, friends,

and neighbors come together to celebrate milestones, share stories, and create lasting memories.

The success of Greg's Pizza is a testament to the hard work and perseverance of its owners, Eddy and Cindy Zayas-Bazan, their dedicated staff, and the local community that has supported them for six decades. Their achievements stand as a shining example of the American dream in action, showcasing how a small, family-owned business can thrive and have a lasting impact on the community it serves.

I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Greg's Pizza and its owners Eddy and Cindy on their 60th anniversary. May their continued success be an inspiration to small businesses across our great Nation, and may they serve as a reminder of the power of community, hard work, and dedication to quality.

HONORING WORK SKILLS CORPORATION FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th anniversary and the life-changing work of Work Skills Corporation in Brighton, Michigan. For the past half-century, this non-profit has empowered and enriched the lives of people with disabilities and other barriers by providing meaningful employment and both educational and artistic opportunities.

It's been said that necessity is the mother of invention, but in the case of Work Skills, its creation was the work of both mothers and fathers, motivated by both necessity and love. In the early 1970s, a group of parents of children with disabilities saw very few options after high school to support their children, so they created the opportunities we celebrate today.

In 1973, they officially founded Work Skills Corporation, with the goal of creating innovative training and vocational programs to allow participants to identify skills and perform real work for competitive pay. In so doing, the programs offered benefits to participants, employers, and the community at large.

In 1978, Work Skills Corporation moved to a larger location on Weber Street to expand services, as the organization's person-centered approach to vocational assessment, training, and job placement programs flourished and evolved. Soon after, Work Skills Corporation established its first account with General Motors, a relationship that continues today. It was also at the Weber Street building where Work Skills Corporation first received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, a demonstration of commitment to continuous improvement Work Skills has maintained to this day.

By 1981, Work Skills Corporation had outgrown its space again and moved to its current location on Summit Street to accommodate a larger portfolio of community and business opportunities and increased demand for services. Work Skills Corporation partnered with Brighton Area Schools to offer on-site adult education classes, developed a custodial training program and was awarded contracts with the Michigan Department of Transpor-

tation, and provided mailroom services for Detroit Diesel Corporation.

Today, Work Skills Corporation has evolved to operate nine distinct service lines, and has enriched the lives of more than 50,000 participants who have collectively earned more than \$25 million through meaningful work opportunities and artistic commissions.

For 50 years, Work Skills Corporation has helped people with disabilities create a pathway to economic opportunity, equity, and advancement. As a result, we are a more vibrant, inclusive, and supportive community, and I express my profound gratitude and best wishes for the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER- SARY OF THE PASADENA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Pasadena Strawberry Festival located in Pasadena, Texas.

When the 1900 Galveston hurricane decimated the island, it flooded much of Pasadena's cropland. Afterward, Clara Barton—founder of the American Red Cross—was rendering aid to residents in the area when she realized the surrounding farmers were now in desperate need of a new cash crop. Acting swiftly, she arranged to have strawberry plants shipped to the city. The plants flourished, and strawberries quickly became the town's most popular commodity. Pasadena's strawberries, famous for their unique size and sweetness, earned the city the title of "Strawberry Capital of the South." Trains carried freight cars full of the bright red berries as far north as Chicago.

By the late 1930s—and the rise of Texas's oil and gas industry—refineries soon stood in place of the strawberry fields that once drove the town's economy. However, the historical impact on the community was not forgotten. In 1974, the city held its first Strawberry Festival to celebrate the opening of the Pasadena Historical Museum; the festival continues to this day.

Each May, Pasadena citizens gather to remember their town's heritage as the Strawberry Capital of the South. In fact, the festival is one of the largest and most beloved events in the area, drawing in visitors from across the state. In addition to the various attractions and entertainment offered, attendees can view the "World's Largest Strawberry Shortcake," barbecue cookoffs, and beauty pageants. The festival also awards scholarships to local students.

Mr. Speaker, the Pasadena Strawberry Festival is a testament to the fortitude and ingenuity of Pasadena's citizens, and it is an honor to recognize this milestone. Congratulations to those involved in the festival's continued growth and success. May the next 50 years prove even more fruitful.