

to preserve a beloved neighborhood trail that was slated for development. As Co-Chair of the Friends of La Rocha Trail, she raised awareness and funds to preserve it as a dedicated green space under the supervision of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. Alexa also joined in the effort to establish the Franklin Ivar Park located on a former neglected empty lot.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Alexa Iles Skarpelos.

HONORING THE SANTA MARIA
MADDALENA SOCIETY ON THE
OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, for generations, the Wooster Square neighborhood of the City of New Haven has been the cornerstone of its Italian American community, and Wooster Street has been its heart. Along this street you will find many icons of the community—Sally's Apizza, Libby's Italian Pastry Shop, Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana, and the Society of Santa Maria Maddalena. Often referred to as simply "the club", the Society remains a gathering place where members can meet, share a meal, discuss community issues, and build lifelong friendships.

This year the Santa Maria Maddalena Society celebrates its 125th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this very special organization. Founded on May 1, 1898, the Society of Santa Maria Maddalena is the oldest Italian American fraternal organization in Connecticut—whose purpose is all about the community. Named for the patron saint of Atrani, the Society of Maria Maddalena was originally established to assist fellow Atrani immigrants with housing, employment, English translating, and legal matters. In a time when such government assistance did not yet exist, the Society acted as the original social safety net for the community.

The Society of Santa Maria Maddalena has preserved the traditions, heritage, and culture of our members' ancestors—while also maintaining the ties from the town of Atrani—in the Salerno Province of Italy—who settled in Wooster Square. During the week of July 22, a replica of the original statue of the saint, which was brought to the United States in 1914, is carried through the streets of Wooster Square. The saint is adorned with jewelry provided by the original members of the society. The feast procession culminates at St. Michael's Catholic Church where a high mass is celebrated. The feast celebration extends for 4 days with Italian music and food, and on Saturday evening, Neapolitan music is featured. The holiday is a time for reuniting with friends and providing younger generations with opportunities to learn about their culture. Year after year, for 125 years, Society members have ensured that the special tradition of the procession and celebration of Saint Maria Maddalena continues—that we continue to gather to celebrate our rich history and strengthen the bonds of our community.

Since its founding, the Society has been a place where families faced with the many challenges of starting a new life in a new country could turn for support, comfort, and friendship. Over the years, the Society's purpose has become even more community oriented, helping any worthwhile cause or individual regardless of ethnic background. It has donated tens of thousands of dollars to numerous charities and organizations in New Haven and across the State. St. Michael's Church in New Haven, the Salvation Army, Columbus House, Connecticut Hospice, and Iwo Jima Survivors are just a few of those organizations who have benefitted from their generosity. The Society provides scholarships to inner city youths—as well as assistance to the church in Italy.

People across the country struggle to create a sense of community—a sense of belonging. Over the course of its 125 years, the Society of Maria Maddalena has helped the families of Wooster Square do just that. The bonds of community that the Society has helped to shape will continue to impact generations to come. The Society over the years, have aided multiple generations—and have become more integrated and more mobile in our community. I applaud the Society's role in the Italian American community, particularly those from Atrani, for pursuing a simple mission to make sure that this new generation is aware of their past as well as their responsibility to the future.

For their many invaluable contributions as well as their continued support and friendship, I am proud to stand today to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members, past and present, of the Society of Maria Maddalena. As we say in Italian—C'ent Anni!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the chamber on July 20, 2023 due to official travel with President Biden to the Philadelphia Shipyard. Had I recorded my vote, I would have voted:

"Yes" on Roll Call No. 361, on the question of agreeing to the Amendments En Bloc No. 4 offered by Mr. GRAVES (OH);

"No" on Roll Call No. 362, on the question of agreeing to amendment No. 76 offered by Mr. PERRY; "No" on Roll Call No. 363, on the question of agreeing to amendment No. 77 offered by Mr. PERRY; and

"Yes" on Roll Call No. 364, on the question of passage of H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act. This bipartisan bill will improve safety, travel experience, and consumer protections for passengers and contribute to our economic recovery by addressing workforce shortages in the aviation sector.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, of which I am a member, was meeting for official committee business when the vote series on 7/20/23 began. Chairman JIM JORDAN kept the committee in order despite votes being called. The committee eventually recessed but the vote was held open long enough for me to cast my vote on the first 2 votes of the series, through no fault of my own.

For Roll Call No. 361, I would have voted NO, and for Roll Call No. 362 I would have voted NO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 323 on H.R. 2670, I mistakenly recorded my vote as No when I should have voted Yea.

RECOGNIZING MASTER GUNNERY
SERGEANT SCOTT STALKER FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Master Gunnery Sergeant Scott Howard Stalker of the United States Marine Corps for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. After 31 years of service to the United States Marine Corps, Master Gunnery Sergeant Scott Stalker is retiring from active service culminating as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader of United States Space Command.

A native of Lebanon, New Hampshire, Master Gunnery Sergeant Stalker earned the title "Marine" on January 20, 1993. As a Command Senior Enlisted Leader, in addition to his current assignment, he has serviced for the Defense Intelligence Agency, United States Cyber Command, the National Security Agency, and as the Intelligence Chief for Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

He has completed a total of 5 combat deployments to Somalia (1) and Iraq (4), and several deployments to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos as an assistant team leader for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Stalker earned his B.A. in Intelligence Studies from American Military University, and his M.S. in Cybersecurity from American Public University. He also attended certificate programs at Harvard Kennedy School of Government and John Hopkins University.

Mr. Speaker, Master Gunnery Sergeant Scott Stalker has dedicated his life to the service of our Nation and to the United States Marine Corps. On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless sacrifice of "Team Stalker," his wife Malerie, and their children, Olivia, Grace, and Scarlett. I wish them the very best in this next chapter.

MOUNT SALEM AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 151 YEARS

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mount Salem American Baptist Church on its remarkable 151st anniversary this year. This amazing milestone is a true testament to God's grace toward his people, as well as the unwavering faith, fellowship, and dedication of the congregation and its leaders throughout the years.

Founded in 1872, the church began in Indianola as the Mount Salem American Baptist Free Mission Church. Soon after its founding, the church was sadly hit by 2 major hurricanes in 1875 and 1886, destroying the church's building. Yet with faith in God's providence, the congregation endured and continued the ministry. Led by Reverend Robert Greer, 20 church members moved to Victoria, bringing with them the pulpit, bell, and some of the salvaged lumber from the original church building to start anew—where the congregation reestablished and pressed forward in the mission. With that perseverance came God's guidance and blessing. The church continued to grow over the years and was eventually renamed as Mount Salem American Baptist Church in 1939. In 1962, the church moved to another new building, where they still prominently display the original bell and pulpit used by the founding members.

To this day, Mount Salem American Baptist Church has touched countless lives in the Victoria community through its selfless acts of service. Through outreach programs, compassionate ministries, and social initiatives, the church has been a steadfast advocate for the greater community, serving their neighbors for over a century.

But more than any building, program, or person, Mount Salem's anniversary milestone is a testament to God's enduring faithfulness toward his people. Through both triumph and trial, it is clear that the Lord has provided the path and made clear His purpose.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Mount Salem American Baptist Church on this incredible day. May God continue to bless and keep them in the days and years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I inadvertently missed the second vote in the first vote series on July

18, 2023 due to a constituent meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 332.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH SHERIDAN

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my warmest congratulations on the occasion of Mr. Joseph "Joe" Sheridan's retirement from Wakefern Food Corporation based in Keasbey, New Jersey.

Joe's impressive 47-year career with Wakefern has been nothing short of remarkable, and his dedication to the company's success has been truly exemplary. Throughout his tenure as President, he has displayed exceptional leadership, vision, and a commitment to excellence.

Under his guidance, Wakefern Food Corporation has thrived, becoming a pillar in the food retail industry and a source of pride for the community.

His contributions to Wakefern and the broader business community have not gone unnoticed. He has left an indelible mark on the industry, inspiring countless individuals with his passion and determination. His commitment to fostering a positive work environment and promoting the well-being of Wakefern employees is truly commendable.

I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the positive impact Wakefern has had on New Jersey, and I can attribute much of that success to Joe's steadfast leadership. His dedication to the company's values and principles has set a high standard for the industry to follow.

As Joe transitions into retirement, I do not doubt that his legacy will endure, and his guidance will continue to be an inspiration to those who have had the honor of working alongside him. His exceptional leadership and integrity have earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues, business partners, and the community at large.

On behalf of the constituents of New Jersey's 7th Congressional District, please accept my sincerest congratulations once again. May his retirement be filled with joy, good health, and the opportunity to enjoy special times with your loved ones.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Marine Corps League. The Congressionally Chartered Veteran Service Organization over the past century has been critical in the care and welfare of our military, its Veterans, and their families.

The Marine Corps League was established in 1923 by World War I hero, then Com-

mandant of the Marine Corps Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune. On August 4, 1937, it was Congressionally Chartered by the 75th Congress of the United States and signed and approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The Marine Corps League provides millions of hours annually in service to the community, represents thousands of Veterans in cases with the Department of Veterans Affairs, performs tens of thousands of funeral honors annually for our passing Veterans, and provides millions of toys to the youth of America through the Toys for Tots Foundation and Marine Corps Reserves. This volunteer work directly and positively impacts force readiness for the Marine Corps Reserves allowing additional focus on training and preparation.

As a retired Lt. General and the former Commander of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and Marine Forces North, I deeply understand the importance of strong and battle-ready reserve units and will continue to support their mission here in Congress. The work of the Marine Corps League and the impact of their advocacy on behalf of our servicemembers, Veterans, and their families cannot be overstated.

It is an honor to recognize the Marine Corps League for 100 years of service to our country. I look forward to assisting in fulfilling their mission to support our Servicemen and women. Please join me in congratulating the Marine Corps League for this historic achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER LAKE

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Youghiogheny River Lake on its 75th anniversary. Located in Pennsylvania's Fayette and Somerset Counties, the lake provides flood protection for the upper Ohio River and the Youghiogheny and lower Monongahela River Valleys.

The flood control reservoir was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938. Since its completion in 1943, the dam is estimated to have saved more than \$569 million by preventing upstream flood damage.

The benefits of the Youghiogheny River Lake don't stop there. Alongside its support staff, the lake also alleviates pollution, improves water quality, and enhances the navigability of nearby rivers. A hydroelectric plant along the dam generates enough power for approximately 8,000 homes per year.

Visitors can camp, fish, swim, picnic, and boat on the Youghiogheny River Lake. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regularly stocks the lake with trout and operates a boat launch along the shoreline. The Youghiogheny Outflow Campground offers a nearby camping experience that allows even more visitors to enjoy the lake's beautiful scenery and recreational opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate the Youghiogheny River Lake on its 75th anniversary. I thank the staff, volunteers, and community members who support