

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2023  
LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL  
OF FAME INDUCTEES

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 4, 2023*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the 2023 Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame inductees. This year's class of sports superstars includes multiple All-American athletes, high school and collegiate hall-of-fame inductees, an iconic broadcaster, a dedicated official, and more.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

This year's inductees include:

Richard J. Callahan, sports broadcaster  
Scott Davis, athlete—baseball and wrestling  
Eugene S. Domzalski, athlete and coach—baseball

William J. Downey, sports official  
Jamie Kauczka Esqro, athlete—basketball  
Marsha Krysiowski Hanson, athlete—swimming, track and field and field hockey

Joseph J. Hasay, athlete—basketball  
Jim Hill, coach—baseball  
Joanne McComb, athlete and coach—baseball and basketball

Rebecca Mack McGraw, athlete—track and field

Joseph M. O'Hara, DVM, athlete—water polo, swimming, and volleyball

Katlin A. O'Hara, DPM, athlete—swimming, water polo, and track and field

Michael J. Papi, athlete—baseball

James J. Stehle, athlete—baseball

Amy Viti, athlete—track and field and cross country

Ninaleigh Stratton Wozniak, athlete and coach—swimming, softball and volleyball

Each person honored has made local sports history through their outstanding feats of athletic achievement, broadcasting, refereeing, or by leading their teams to victory as coaches. They have left an indelible mark on regional athletics, and I am pleased to celebrate their contributions to our sports communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

It is an honor to recognize these 16 talented individuals on their induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May their stories and impressive careers inspire the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

HONORING SISAY SENBET

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 4, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sisay Senbet on receiving the Tom Miller Advocacy Award for his outstanding work and self-advocacy in Didlake's AbilityOne Program, a federal program that creates employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Sisay immigrated to the District of Columbia from Ethiopia in 2010 and started working for

Didlake as a custodian at the Pentagon in 2012. In 2015, he started working the night shift so he could enroll in college. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2019.

Shortly after obtaining his college degree, Sisay was promoted to Site Safety and Health Officer. In his new role, he conducted work inspections and trained new employees in the proper use of safety equipment. Last September, he was promoted to Lead Worker and is now responsible for coordinating and leading the Pentagon custodial crew's day-to-day operations.

In his spare time, Sisay volunteers at his community library, teaching classes and tutoring other individuals with disabilities. In particular, he helps people with visual impairments use screen reading software to access digital information.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to recognize Sisay Senbet, whose life and career are a source of inspiration for both immigrants and individuals with disabilities.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION +  
PUBLIC SAFETY

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 4, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I must shed light on the growing public safety concern regarding gun violence.

In 2022, firearm injury was the 12th leading cause of death in the United States of America.

Every day, 120 Americans are killed with guns.

And each year, hundreds of law enforcement officers lose their lives to gun violence, having been shot to death while protecting their communities.

Our government's continued lack of proactivity towards preventing gun violence has led to countless, unnecessary deaths.

Countless lives have been cut far too short, and countless families have had to experience the excruciating pain of knowing their loved one will never make it back home.

And although gun violence affects us all, I would like to highlight the disproportionate effect of gun violence on Black communities.

Black Americans are 10 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide.

Black Americans are three times more likely than white Americans to be fatally shot by police.

And while Black Americans made up 12.5 percent of the United States population in 2020, they were the victims in 61 percent of all gun homicides.

According to the American Progress, "this is due to a combination of weak gun laws; systemic racial inequities, including unequal access to safe housing and adequate educational and employment opportunities; and a history of disinvestment in public infrastructure and services in the communities of color most affected by gun violence."

Discriminatory and unjust policies and practices such as slavery and Jim Crow are the reason that Black communities are still struggling to overcome the inequities in our society today.

Time and time again our country has forced Black Americans to pay the price for its sins, causing countless lives to be lost in the process.

Instead of acknowledging this public safety concern, our government continues to choose to remain ignorant, crafting a narrative of a war on the Second Amendment.

So, allow me to be clear: I support the Second Amendment.

But I will not sit idly by and hear the abuse of the far right's interpretation of the Second Amendment.

In June 2022, the Supreme Court took a radical step when it ruled in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen* that the right to carry a weapon or self-defense extends to outside the home.

In this case, plaintiffs challenged the 100-year old New York state handgun licensing law requiring individuals to show proper cause before they can be licensed to carry a concealed weapon in public.

The Court ultimately ruled New York's concealed carry law unconstitutional, extending the right to own a gun for self-defense in the home to exist outside the home as well.

This decision altered the well-established test for evaluating gun safety laws and threatens the lives of millions around the country.

The Court's decision sheds light to a growing misinterpretation of the Second Amendment.

As both a legislature and a legal scholar, I must point out that the Second Amendment is not absolute.

No where in the Second Amendment does it prohibit regulating guns.

How dare we sit by when lives are being lost and act as though there is nothing we can do?

Is there no sense of responsibility to provide restrictions to save lives?

Our role in Congress is to ensure that we utilize every tool available to us to keep our cities safe.

We need to reimagine public safety by holding law enforcement officers who violate the public trust accountable, using public health resources to address mental health crises, and ensuring all communities are not overpoliced, well-resourced with access to job opportunities, affordable childcare, and capable social services to improve the quality of life.

We need to increase the use of civilian responders deployed to incidents involving mental health concerns and disturbances or disputes.

We need to strengthen governmental agencies dedicated to violence intervention and neighborhood safety.

We need to pass legislation such as H.R. 52, the Kimberly Vaughn Firearm Safe Storage Act, a bill I introduced which establishes best practices for safe firearm storage to protect Americans, especially children, from improperly stored or misused firearms.

We need to pass legislation, such as H.R. 48 the Gun Violence Reduction Resources Act of 2023, which will work to hire additional Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive agents and investigators to enforce gun laws.

We need to focus on mental health and pass legislation such as H.R. 46 the Mental Health Access and Gun Violence Prevention Act, which will authorize funding to increase

access to mental health care treatment to reduce gun violence.

These bills are particularly important as it pertains to mental health given the following facts:

Suicide is the leading cause of gun related deaths in America.

More than 60 percent of deaths by guns in the country are the result of individuals using these weapons as a means to commit suicide.

Approximately 1 in 4 American adults have a mental illness and nearly half of all adults in America will develop at least one mental illness during their lifetime.

Less than half of children and adults with diagnosable mental health problems receive the treatment they need.

Gun violence is a nonpartisan issue with bipartisan solutions.

We act as though our hands are tied behind our back, despite the countless options at our disposal.

I join my CBC colleagues in advancing common-sense bills that work to prevent gun violence.

Protecting our communities and protecting our families need to be priority.

#### REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE CYNTHIA DOTY

#### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 4, 2023*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Honorable Cynthia Doty, long time resident of the Upper West Side, political activist, and Democratic District Leader, who passed away in Manhattan at the age of 72 on July 17, 2023.

I first met Cynthia 30 years ago working in local Democratic politics. I worked alongside her former boss Assemblymember Ed Sullivan in the New York State Assembly. Cynthia served 9 years as his Legislative Associate and Special Assistant. In Albany, she drafted legislation and negotiated budgets. In the district, she advocated on behalf of thousands of constituents to protect their housing and deliver needed services.

Cynthia was a major force in the Three Parks Independent Democrats political club and served as its President and as District Leader. Cynthia was kind, honest, and skilled at her position, and was both respected and beloved within the community. She was extremely reliable—if she said she was going to get something done, it would always get done—and she was a gracious host to me and others who visited her political club frequently. Under her leadership, the club members were very active in gathering petition signatures and mobilizing the vote in our area for countless elected officials at all levels of politics from District Leader to Congressman, Senator, and President. Cynthia and her club did the work to help get Democrats elected across the country—not just in New York—and organized bus trips to Connecticut and Pennsylvania to get out the votes. She ran phone banks that reached voters across the country and was always finding ways for volunteers to get involved and fight for causes they believed in. She was my guest at both inaugurations of President Obama and fre-

quently attended marches and protests on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. She opposed the war in Iraq, supported a woman's right to choose, and defended LGBTQ+ rights. She supported community farms and was a member of a CSA (community supported agriculture) where she enjoyed volunteering.

Cynthia was born into a Democratic family in Philadelphia in 1951, where she developed her progressive principles and a deep commitment to public service. Cynthia went to public school, co-chaired the racial justice committee at her college, and led several college groups to Washington to protest the Vietnam War. Her parents were active in politics—her father, Ethan Allen Doty, served as a judge for over 40 years and was a leading figure in the Democratic reform movement. Her mother, Beatrice Graham Doty, was a Democratic State Committeewoman. Her brothers, Ed Doty and Warren Doty, both served in elected positions in Pelham, New York and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts respectively.

Cynthia was not only into politics. She spent 20 years as a theatrical costume designer in major productions that appeared on Broadway, at Lincoln Center, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She worked in film on *The Wiz* with Michael Jackson and Diana Ross, in opera with the 3 tenors—Jose Carreras, Luciano Pavarotti, and Placido Domingo, and on Broadway in the production of *On Your Toes*. After many of her friends passed away due to the AIDS epidemic, Cynthia was moved to return to community service and work for social justice.

It was her passion for justice and her willingness to fight for what she believed in that helped her inspire others to participate in the political process and be motivated to go out and vote.

It is entirely fitting that she ended her political career as the Manhattan Deputy Chief Clerk at the New York City Board of Elections. In that role, she oversaw a vast operation of election officials responsible for processing ballots during several tumultuous changes in New York State election law. She oversaw “early voting” efforts that allow people to vote before election day and efforts to ensure absentee or vote by mail ballots were processed properly during the COVID-19 epidemic. She helped ensure polling places were open and accessible and people knew where and how to vote.

In, perhaps, her last major election, she was involved in processing my own re-election in a contested primary in Manhattan. She was the consummate professional and made sure the election was carried out without controversy. Too often we take for granted the work people like Cynthia do to help our communities, but we would be remiss if we did not honor and thank her and her team for a job well done.

I enjoyed working with Cynthia over the past 30 to 40 years. Her contributions to her community knew no end. The people of Manhattan's Upper West Side will miss her deeply but know that we will continue to carry out the work that she cared about so deeply. We will continue to work for social justice, environmental justice, women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and health care for all. I thank her for her years of service. May she rest in peace. And may her memory be a blessing to us all.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 4, 2023*

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, on June 22, 2023, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “NAY” on rollcall No. 285.

I strongly oppose H. Res. 529, a resolution to refer H. Res. 503 from the House floor to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary. That resolution impeaches President Joe Biden for high crimes and misdemeanors relating to actions taken that involve immigration and the southern border. President Biden continues to lead with integrity and has done more than any other President to combat substance use disorder and address the mental health crisis. In the absence of Congressional action, I have been heartened to work with the Biden Administration to make significant and meaningful reforms to address the immigration challenges facing our Nation. Rather than consider legislation that is purely politically driven, it is my hope that we get back to the serious work of legislating on the real issues our country faces, for the People.

I also would have voted “NAY” on rollcall No. 286. I strongly oppose H. Res. 461, condemning the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for aliens who are not admitted to the United States. Migrants deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and I commend anyone who follows the Golden Rule and finds shelter for those most in need.

#### HONORING MS. JACQUELINE SAUNDERS

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 4, 2023*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding musician, dedicated educator, committed community servant, and dear friend of longstanding, Ms. Jacqueline Saunders. She will be honored at the Chancel Choir's 60th Anniversary Gospel Concert at First Missionary Baptist Church of Thomasville, Georgia on Sunday, August 6, 2023.

Jacqueline Saunders has used her life's work to help others to reach their full potential through music, theatre, and education. It has been said that “Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth.” Ms. Saunders has paid her rent, and she has paid it well. Ms. Saunders graduated from Morris Brown College in 1973 with a B.A. Degree in English. During her matriculation at Morris Brown, she was initiated into the sisterhood of Alpha Kappa Kappa Sorority Inc., which makes her a Golden Soror. She was also a member of the Morris Brown College Wolverine Marching Band.

Her love of knowledge and learning took her academic pursuits to the University of Georgia, Valdosta State College (Now University), Walden University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she received her M.S. in Counseling Education in 1988.