

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF PAMELA ROSS**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 25, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the legacy of a Livingston County, Michigan woman whose life, though cut tragically short, was a testament to kindness, inclusivity, and tolerance. Pamela Ann Ross of Brighton never sought attention, never wanted credit for the light she spread so generously everywhere she went. But as those who love her grapple with her loss, we must lift up her life as an example of what it really means to live in community.

Pam loved her state and the people in it. A proud graduate of Milford High School, she traveled right down the road to attend Michigan State University, leaving the state only briefly to pursue a Master's degree in teaching from Arizona State University. Pam brought those skills and talents back home, seeking to help set students up for success as citizens of the world and inspire in them a drive to do well and succeed in life. To this day, she is remembered as a beloved and inspirational second grade teacher who wanted nothing more than to see her students reach their full potential.

As she built her family, first with husband Stan and later with their 2 sons, Jackson and Nicholas, and 2 canine "children," Luna and Bella, Pam made the decision to devote herself fully to the homefront. But she never stepped back from her mission to be of service to others, nor did she ever stop seeing the very best in people. Pam was a steadfast volunteer in her children's classrooms, with Boy Scouts, and with numerous community organizations, including Habitat for Humanity where she served on the board of directors for many years.

Pam was also a fierce advocate for equality, and a firm believer that every child and every person in the community deserves love, acceptance, and respect just as they are. She was particularly passionate about vulnerable populations, speaking out in her firm but loving way at school board meetings and organizing events in support of LGBTQ+ and minority students, as well as those with disabilities.

But it was Pam's quiet life of service that her friends and family remember most: the way holiday and birthday gifts would appear on the porches of neighborhood children whose parents were going through tough times, or the gift cards those same parents would find under their doormats, the backpacks she stuffed full of school supplies for kids who might otherwise go without, the meal deliveries that just showed up for families in need. Pam never attached her name to those gifts. But everyone knew where they came from—and the love behind them.

Mr. Speaker, in this world there are those who dream of a better world and those who actively work to make it so, and Pam was the rare blend of both. In Pam's world, neighbors looked after each other no matter what, and strangers were merely friends she had yet to meet. Her unexpected passing leaves a deep void in the hearts and lives of so many, and I send my deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her. May

her memory live on in every step we actively take toward a kinder, more inclusive community. Everyone was welcome in Pam's heart and in her home, so it is fitting that her legacy will forever be remembered.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE  
VERNON SMITH**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 25, 2023*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Judge Vernon Smith, who passed away at the age of 79 on July 29, 2023. Vernon served as a respected jurist and community leader throughout his professional career.

Vernon was born on December 7, 1943 in San Francisco, and moved to Sleepy Hollow in Marin County as a teenager. He attended Sir Francis Drake High School in San Anselmo, and then completed both undergraduate studies and law school at the University of San Francisco, finishing his studies in 1968. With a focus on public service, Vernon began his law career at the Marin County District Attorney's Office in 1969.

Vernon served as a prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office for five years before joining the Novato law firm Trumbull, Rush & Smith, where he would gain experience with both criminal and civil cases. During his tenure with private practice, he continued to build his reputation as a caring and competent member of the legal profession. Vernon returned to public service in 1982, when he was selected as a Marin County court commissioner.

After 5 years as commissioner, Vernon was elected to the Municipal Court as a judge. He was instrumental in the court consolidation process, and Vernon went on to serve as the first presiding judge of the newly consolidated Marin County Superior Court. As he rose in seniority, Vernon would serve as supervising judge for the civil, probate, juvenile, family law, and criminal divisions. His impeccable standing with the community led him to continued electoral success. He retired in 2007 after serving 25 years on the bench.

Vernon enjoyed more time with his family after retiring, but he also stayed engaged in his professional community. He served as a mediator with Resolution Remedies, a Sausalito-based legal dispute mediation service, and taught legal courses at the College of Marin and Dominican University of California in San Rafael.

Vernon is survived by his wife of 52 years, Linda, his sons Brent and Ryan, daughter Claire, and 4 grandchildren. While he will be greatly missed, Vernon's legacy will live on through the positive impact he had on his community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Vernon's family and friends, and in expressing my appreciation for his decades of work for the public good and for sharing his life experiences with us.

RECOGNIZING THE WEST SUBURBAN  
LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL  
TEAM**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 25, 2023*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the incredible victory of the West Suburban Little League Softball Team on winning their second straight state championship this season.

Under the leadership of team manager Dave Lynch this incredible team comprised of members from schools such as Westmont, Bishop McCort, and Richland have worked together achieve an incredible level of success.

As our students continue to participate in organized sports they learn valuable skills including teamwork, dedication, and good sportsmanship.

Even in the face of adversity, the Red Rage players came together and found a way to win time after time.

Congratulations to the entire West Suburban Softball Team including Addy Dunbar, Kylie Durst, Bella Kist, Sienna Kubic, Alea Ladika, Elleigh Ladika, Cali Lynch, Kelsie Muto, Audra Rudolph, LaMya Stephens, Kristin Stiles and Elizabeth Veranese on their hard work and dedication.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the West Suburban Little League Softball Team on their victory, and wish them every continued success.

HONORING SERGEANT PAUL R.  
DAW**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 25, 2023*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Sergeant Paul R. Daw, a Vietnam War veteran and upstanding constituent of New York's 21st District.

Paul was raised in Long Island, New York. After graduating high school, he joined the United States Army, serving for 2 years in the Vietnam War from July 1969 to May 1971. Sergeant Daw was stationed in Vietnam as an Eleven-Bravo infantryman alongside his fellow men with the 1st Cavalry Division, Ranger Company A.

For his service, Sergeant Daw was highly decorated. Upon his honorable discharge in 1971, Sergeant Daw earned a Bronze Star with 2 oak leaf clusters, a Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Army Accommodation Medal for Valor, and the Good Conduct Medal.

After returning home to Long Island from Vietnam, Sergeant Daw joined the New York Police Department, where he served for 21 and a half years as an officer of the law. Off the force, Sergeant Daw also supported his community as a volunteer firefighter until his retirement from the NYPD in 2003, at which time he moved upstate to the North Country.

In his retirement, Sergeant Daw has taken time to focus on his family life. He and his wife

Jean have been happily married for 16 years, in the company of his children Jason and Kelly and stepdaughter Katie.

Sergeant Paul R. Daw's life of service and bravery is truly admirable. On behalf of New York's 21st District, it is my honor to recognize the remarkable life of Sergeant Paul R. Daw.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN  
HERO JEFF WILLIAMS

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 25, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Jeff Williams. In 2012, Jeff founded Taste Project, an organization that provides meals in Fort Worth to those in need. Jeff knew what food scarcity felt like growing up in a family of 4 where both of his parents worked hard to keep food on the table even though money was tight. When he was younger, his parents would sometimes skip meals to make sure him and his sister had dinner. Jeff's upbringing gave him the idea to create a place where members of the community could go to always get an affordable meal. In 2017, the Taste Project opened a pay-what-you-can community restaurant in Fort Worth, the Taste Community Restaurant, where diners can pay as little as a penny for a meal. Beyond the restaurant, the Taste Project empowers and provides hope to North Texans through culinary classes, job training programs, and even a community garden that helps teach people gardening skills. In the last 6 years, Jeff and Taste Community Restaurant have helped more than 150,000 people and are currently serving more than 1,000 people a week. Jeff and his team work hard every day to make sure they help as many people as possible. I'd like to thank Jeff for his dedication to serving the people and families of North Texas.

HONORING WILLIS JAMES ROCKWOOD ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 25, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a local hero who bravely served and defended our Nation overseas, then returned home to build a thriving life and business back in Michigan. As Willis James Rockwood celebrates his 100th birthday, I pay tribute to his extraordinary life of service and dedication to his country, his family, and his community.

Willis Rockwood was born on August 26, 1923 in Long Rapids, Michigan. He enlisted in the United States Army where he proudly served as an infantryman and squad leader during World War II. His service took him across the world and back, fighting with and for our allies in the European and Pacific theaters. Willis' exemplary service earned him multiple awards and commendations, including a Good Conduct Medal and a letter of recognition from President Harry S. Truman.

Upon his honorable discharge, Willis returned to Michigan where he and his best

friend from the Army set out to use their skills and talents to build a life not just for themselves but for others, a plan that came together as Flositz and Rockwood Quality Home Builders. This successful construction company flourished for decades, and in 1949, the foundation of Willis' own family was installed when he married Marion Elizabeth Storing. They spent 65 wonderful years together until her passing in 2015, and their love expanded many times over with the additions of 3 children, 3 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

Willis Rockwood built his post-Army life in the Lansing, Michigan, area, where he has devoted himself to many organizations and community groups, including the American Legion Post No. 238, the Church of the Nazarene where he taught Sunday School, and his neighborhood watch, where he is known for generously shoveling driveways and sidewalks throughout the community. He is a man of many hobbies and talents, including wood carving, flying his plane, and bowling. And in the large and loving family he established, Willis is beloved as the historical archivist and storyteller, with a zest for life and a laugh that echoes across multiple generations.

Mr. Speaker, Willis Rockwood is a man who has spent his long and fruitful life deeply devoted to his family, his friends, his country, and his faith. Those who know and love him fondly refer to him as their "National Treasure," and I assert that he is just that. On the occasion of his 100th birthday, I salute his life of service, and want to reflect our community, our state, and our Nation's gratitude for all he has contributed and constructed.

RECOGNIZING TRENTON BRAZIE

**HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 25, 2023*

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Trenton Brazie, an Army veteran who continues to answer the call of service everyday as a firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician, and CPR public education instructor here in our South Sound community.

During his decade-long career in the Army, Trenton was deployed 3 times, completing a combat tour in Afghanistan and peace tours in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates. He also served with the 17th Field Artillery Brigade at Joint Base Lewis McChord, and served in roles that, in 10 years' time, increased in leadership responsibility, including team leader, squad leader, and platoon sergeant.

After the Army, Trenton reentered the civilian workforce with an eye towards community-centered service—he soon found himself with the Tumwater Fire Department, where he continues to work as a firefighter. And his service doesn't stop with fighting fires—he works to prepare and protect the community by teaching CPR and serving as an Emergency Medical Technician. Trenton is also pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Service Administration at Eastern Oregon University, demonstrating his dedication to his own self-development as a public servant and emergency service professional.

As Washington continues to face a fierce fire season, I thank Trenton for his selfless service to our community and our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CRAIG  
ALLEN KEITH

**HON. JIM BANKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 25, 2023*

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Craig Allen Keith, who passed away at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on August 14, 2023.

Craig was born in Van Wert, Ohio on May 31, 1976. He was a 1994 graduate of Crestview High School in Convoy, Ohio, and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2003. A consummate professional in domestic and international travel for 20 years, Craig served as Senior Commercial Account Project Manager at SIRVA BGRS Worldwide, Inc.

Craig attended Abundant Life Church for 30 years and held several leadership positions. He loved his church unconditionally and served the Lord with gladness all his days.

Craig loved entertaining and spending time with his friends and family. While grilling and smoking meats or baking his (in)famous chocolate chip cookies, he would tell jokes and fill the air with his full, boisterous laughter. Craig was an avid traveler who loved learning the history of the many destinations he visited. He sang loudly, off key, and with all his heart, in church and to the gospel music he loved so much.

Craig will be immensely missed and forever loved by all. He was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents. He is survived by his children, Gentry and Pierson Keith; mother, Sheila (Vince) Stone of Columbia City, IN; father, Leroy (Karen) Keith of St. Marys, OH; brother, Adam (Azeesat) Keith of Boston, MA; a stepsister, Tonya Kessler; a godson, Ethan Brownlee of Noblesville, IN; and a host of other relatives and close friends.

In the wake of his passing, I wish Craig's family peace, comfort, and joy in knowing he lived a happy and fulfilled life. Though he is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in the minds and souls of those whom he knew and loved most.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
MAJOR LATERRIOUS "TONY"  
STARKS

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 25, 2023*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of Major Laterrious "Tony" Starks, who served as a legislative liaison for the U.S. House of Representatives with profound duty, leadership, and commitment from January 2021 to August 2023. Major Starks served as a defense fellow for my office, and, as a legislative liaison, his interpersonal skills built countless relationships throughout Headquarters, Department of the Army, and Capitol Hill. These relationships enabled him to communicate the Army's narrative and facilitate senior leader engagements. In addition to the duties as a legislative