

David was born in the Bronx to a family of strong Polish roots. Both parents were proud union members and like many Jews of the era, were supporters of progressive politics. David and his wife, Alice Audie-Figueroa, who is also a well-known activist, are longtime members of Shir Tikvah in Troy.

Aimed with a Masters degree from the University of Massachusetts and a PhD from University of Wisconsin, David began his work in labor when he joined Local 3220 in 1977, the union of graduate assistants at University of Wisconsin. After being elected president, David decided that building the labor movement would be his life's work. Subsequent experience with the Allied Industrial Workers, Michigan State AFL-CIO, and the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO led to David taking a position at AFT Michigan, where he was eventually elected president in 2001. Since 2004, he has also been the Vice President of the National AFT.

David spent his time as President of AFT Michigan aggressively promoting the ideal that "K-12 public education is the foundation of our democracy". During his tenure, AFT Michigan organized many new locals representing thousands of new members and built deep partnerships with community allies. Notably, David was one of the co-chairs of the Coalition for the Future of Detroit School Children. This Coalition's report and legislative work resulted in legislation that saved the future of the Detroit Public Schools. David is also a co-chair of the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, a group of leaders brought together from business, labor, and the government to the same table to respond to our region's challenges and opportunities. No matter where he is, David is always working to bring people of all perspectives together to reach common goals that improve our region for all who live here.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the lifetime of work David Hecker has contributed to the cause of public education. Within our state and around the country, children in our public schools have quality educators and better access to resources due in no small part to his tireless efforts. We are saddened to see him leave, but we know his activism will not stop in "retirement". I thank David for his significant contributions.

RECOGNIZING THE 112TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the 112th National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

I join all those celebrating this Day, memorializing the beginning of the Wuchang Uprising on October 10, 1911 that led to the collapse of the long-reigning imperial Qing Dynasty and foundation of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912.

Chinese Americans are a vital, valued, and vibrant community not only in my legislative district, but throughout our United States. I wish them and all observing this occasion, Godspeed, and a safe, happy, and momentous celebration.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District, I'm privileged, humbled, and honored to commemorate the 112th National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan). May the friendship between our two Free Nations remain robust.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S PRISONERS OF WAR AND THOSE WHO ARE MISSING IN ACTION

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our Nation's prisoners of war and those who are missing in action.

"Though not here, their sacrifice is not forgotten" is the official phrase for the 2023 POW-MIA day that this year falls on September 15.

These heartfelt words serve as a reminder that there still are families that hope for the safe return of their loved ones that are missing in action and the wellbeing of those who were prisoners of war. Among those whose sacrifice will not be forgotten are over 130 Missing in Action service members and almost half a dozen of former Prisoners of War from Puerto Rico.

For Puerto Rican families, these words are more significant when we remember that families extend beyond the immediate relations of the spouse and children of the service member. The pain of the loss and the hope that the loved one will return to the "familia" spreads from the immediate nucleus into endless tree branches of the extended family. Conscious of this feeling it is important that we remember that while the missing served the Nation, hundreds of families miss them and plead that the sacrifice of their loved ones is not forgotten.

Puerto Ricans who were called to serve in distant lands under the most difficult conditions sacrificed everything, convinced that by fighting for the freedom of others they were preserving and guaranteeing the freedom, prosperity and democracy of their loved ones and of our country. Inspired by these ideas they performed feats of courage that surprised their enemies and earned them the respect of their brothers in arms and the recognition of their superior commands, creating a legacy of service that is difficult to emulate.

As time passes and the memory of the POW and MIA begin to fade, we run the risk of forgetting the sacrifice of the Missing in Action and the scars of their time as Prisoners of War. I encourage my congressional colleagues to make a solemn pledge to continually strive to never forget the honorable legacy of our POW and MIA and ensure that future generations never forget their sacrifice.

HONORING THE 2023 FLORIDA INVESTORS HALL OF FAME

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the ten inventors who have

been selected as the 2023 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. To be named as an Inductee, these inventors were nominated by their peers nationwide and have undergone a thorough review by the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee. As a result, their innovations have been identified as significantly impacting the quality of life, economic development, and welfare of their communities, the residents of Florida, and the United States.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 at the University of South Florida. It was recognized by the Florida Senate with Senate Resolution 1756, adopted on April 30, 2014. Its mission is to encourage individuals of all backgrounds to strive toward the betterment of Florida and society through continuous, groundbreaking innovation by celebrating the incredible scientific work that has been, or is being, accomplished in Florida and by its citizens.

Nomination to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame is open to all Florida inventors (living or deceased) who are or have been residents of Florida. The nominee must be a named inventor on a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The impact of the inventor and his or her invention should be significant to society, and the invention should have been commercialized, utilized, or led to important innovations.

The 2023 Inductees constitute the ninth class to be inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. Their groundbreaking discoveries have transformed medicine and health care, computer technology and semiconductors, optics and photonics, communications, nuclear energy, and modern color technology. They collectively hold more than 1,100 U.S. patents and come from across industry, academia, and government. Since its founding, the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame has inducted 68 inventors, who collectively hold over 5,100 U.S. patents.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the residents of Florida, I am proud to honor the 2023 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame on this outstanding achievement. We are incredibly grateful to these innovators for their contributions to society and its constant revolutionization through their inventions. As the following ten inventors are inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame's growing community, I hope this may encourage future generations to strive toward this achievement and to continue the spirit of discovery and innovation.

The 2023 Inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame are:

James L. Cairns: Founder and Executive Director of the Cairns Foundation, and CEO of Abyssal Systems, Inc., who is recognized for pioneering underwater electrical, fiber-optic connector technologies that allowed circuits to be successfully and seamlessly mated and demated reliably within the harsh environment of the deep ocean thereby revolutionizing subsea surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, and ocean energy production.

Jason Eichenholz: Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Luminar Technologies, who is recognized for trailblazing innovations in laser and optics-enabled technologies, especially in lidar (light detection and ranging) applications advancing the self-driving vehicle industry; as well as fundamental product development and commercialization for early

cancer detection, environmental studies, and military explosives detection, among others.

David Flinchbaugh: CEO of Technology Applications International, and CTO of Advanced Medical Innovations, who is recognized for breakthrough technologies reducing fatalities from catheter-associated urinary tract infections affecting millions worldwide; developing the world's first Nuclear Service Robot to help maintain, decontaminate, and refuel nuclear reactors; and devising the first imaging laser radar system.

Ophir Frieder: Professor at Georgetown University Medical Center's Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics & Biomathematics and the Department of Computer Science; Lead Science and Technology Advisor for Aurora Forge; and Chief Scientific Officer of Invariant, Inc. He is recognized for sustained and extensive innovations in scalable information processing systems, especially for developing behavioral health monitoring used to prevent self-harm/suicide, and predictive medical and well-being treatment methods to optimize treatment effectiveness while reducing negative side effects.

William Hauswirth: University of Florida Professor and the Maida and Morris Rybaczk Eminent Scholar Chair in Ophthalmic Sciences at the University of Florida's College of Medicine, who is recognized for groundbreaking advancements in gene therapy to prevent blindness, especially through pioneering the first gene therapy drug, Luxturna, to treat both adults and children with inherited retinal disease; as well as his work restoring vision to the functionally blind.

Daniel Joseph: Principal Illusion Integrator at Walt Disney Imagineering, who is recognized for landmark innovations in industrial design, special effects, and the integration of three-dimensional illusions, creating immersive and interactive experiences for museums and theme parks, especially at Disney theme parks around the world.

Jonathan Rothberg: Founder and Chair, 4 Catalyzer Corporation, who is recognized for pioneering next-generation human DNA sequencing that enables low-cost decoding of the human genome, which transformed life science research, healthcare, agriculture, and the development of biofuels; and for the revolutionary Swoop Portable Magnetic Resonance Imaging System making MRI accessible to every patient, regardless of income or resources.

Deepika Singh: CEO of R&D Investment Holdings and former CEO of Sinmat, Inc., who is recognized for seminal discoveries in chemical/mechanical polishing of a class of superhard semiconductors, significantly enabling the advancement of 5G communications infrastructure and defense electronics, as well as the manufacture of smartwatches, smartphones, and components for electric vehicles.

Krishna "Kris" Singh: Founder, President and CEO of Holtec International, who is recognized for extensive transformational innovations that provide the foundational structure for modern nuclear power energy, including systems and equipment, safe storage, transportation of spent fuel; as well as improved operations, safety and efficiency of nuclear power plants.

Gary K. Starkweather (Deceased): An American engineer who is recognized for inventing the world's first laser printer and lead-

ing the frontier of the field of color management technology, including Apple's ColorSync technology; as well as advancements in imaging for Microsoft and the film industry, especially as part of the digital effects team for the original Star Wars.

Innovation and invention are the building blocks of our Nation. I applaud these highly accomplished individuals and the organizations that support them in their quest to change the world in ways that truly benefit humanity. It is because of the perseverance of these inventors that future generations are encouraged to reach beyond their limits and push the boundaries of innovation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEAN EK

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Genevieve Ek, known as "Jean" by her beloved friends and family. Jean passed away last month after a life full of love, friendship, and kindness.

She was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin in December of 1941, growing up in Racine before moving to Two Harbors, Minnesota. She opted to stay in Two Harbors even after her family moved to Oregon because of the strong and lasting relationships she had built with her friends and the love of her life, Harold. Jean and Harold would go on to marry in 1963 and have 3 children—Adele, Lura, and John.

Jean was well known during her career in medical administration, helping mentor dozens during her tenure as she worked diligently to advance from receptionist to Executive Director of Crossroads Medical Center.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Harold, their 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

While Jean will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her, her legacy of leadership, kindness, and compassion remains.

I am honored to commemorate the life of Jean Ek and wish her family and friends strength and peace in their grief.

CELEBRATING HOBSON ELLIS RODENBAUGH ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my warmest wishes to Hobson Ellis Rodenbaugh in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Hobson or Hobby as he is more affectionately known, was born in Hunterdon County on August 11, 1923. At 19, Hobby enlisted in the Army Signal Corps, serving in the Marshall Islands, Japan, and the Philippines during World War II. After being discharged, he came home to New Jersey where he married the Love of his life Virginia Mae Wands.

Hobby continued to express his passion for service by serving on the Clinton Town Council and as Police Commissioner. In his retire-

ment, Hobby joined the Union Township Senior Club of Hunterdon County and has served as both the Vice President and President of the organization. During his tenure Hobby has shared his passion for travel by arranging for the group to visit many locations around the country and the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is individuals like Hobby who should inspire us all. I wish to convey our appreciation for his years of service to our country and community. May he continue to touch the lives of many for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL C. HAYES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Michael C. Hayes.

Born on August 23, 1950, Michael was raised in Scituate, Massachusetts by his parents, Miriam and Robert Hayes. He attended Thayer Academy in Braintree and graduated from Boston College and Suffolk Law School. Infected with polio in 1955, Michael lived the remainder of his life in leg braces, serving as an inspiration to all and guiding his lifelong commitment to working for tolerance and acceptance of all people.

After graduating from law school in 1975, Michael, a third-generation lawyer, practiced law alongside his brother, Joe, and his cousin, John, and later went on to serve as an Assistant District Attorney for Plymouth County. After a short time in California, Michael returned to his hometown to practice law on Front Street in Scituate Harbor. Throughout his legal career, he always sought to help those in need. Not only did Michael establish himself as a pillar of the community through his work as an attorney, but he was also a devoted public servant.

First elected to the Scituate School Committee in 1988 in the wake of Proposition 2½ budget cuts, Michael proudly served Scituate's students until choosing not to run for re-election in 1994. He was recognized by the Scituate Town Meeting in 1995 for his "his untiring and diligent efforts to secure the funding necessary to support and maintain excellence in public education despite pressing economic constraints." Michael returned to the school committee in 1998 and oversaw the construction of the new Jenkins School and an extensive renovation of Scituate High School and championed the funding for programs dear to him, including the arts and the METCO program. In 2014, Michael chose not to seek re-election and took a step back to concentrate on his health. Ever committed to Scituate's schools, Michael returned once more, beginning his third tenure on the School Committee in 2016, which saw the opening of the new Gates School in 2017. Michael won his tenth and final term on the School Committee in 2019.

Sadly, Michael left us too soon on August 21, 2023, leaving behind his children Patrick, Lucy, and Fred, and his five granddaughters, Chelsea, Lena, June, Iris, and Willow. Michael was predeceased by his daughter Heidi Rose.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Michael Hayes, and I ask that my colleagues