

saw these 2 institutions, Kevin's Guest House and Roswell Park, as inherently intertwined and was one of the earliest to recognize Roswell Park's leading role in the fight against cancer. Carl's passion for Roswell's success earned him the position as Chief Organizational and Community Liaison. In essence, he has worked as an ambassador for Roswell with community organizations, government officials, churches, and block clubs in Western New York.

As an African American executive, Carl Thomas has often cited his responsibility to lead a new generation of achievers. Those who know Carl understand retirement will not result in the end of his mentorship; as a resident of the University District, he has already expressed an interest in maintaining his position as a role model within the community. Nonetheless, retirement will allow Carl some much-deserved time with his wife of over 4 decades. Betty, along with their children, Mario, Samantha, and Phylcia. Buffalonians and Roswell Park patients, alike, owe Carl an incredible debt of gratitude, and it is my pleasure to recognize his career as a capable worker and generous man.

RECOGNIZING MR. BENJAMIN ZELENGO

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Benjamin Zelenko, a distinguished constituent and exemplary citizen who helped shape the revival of our national commitment to equality through the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Mr. Zelenko has accomplished a lifetime of excellent service to this great Nation and this body, making vital contributions to our journey towards a more perfect union.

Mr. Zelenko served as a top aide to Representative Emanuel Celler, the legendary Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee during the apex of the Civil Rights Movement. Mr. Zelenko played a critical role in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, and the Gun Control Act of 1968. Mr. Zelenko helped Representative Celler shepherd these bills through fraught Committee debates, floor debates and final passage.

Later in his career, Mr. Zelenko represented Japanese Americans in their fight for reparations and redress for their unlawful and outrageous internment by the U.S. Government during World War II. He argued their case in *United States v. William Hohri, et al.* before the U.S. Supreme Court. This case helped pave the way for the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which awarded \$20,000 in reparations and an official apology from the U.S. Government to tens of thousands of Japanese Americans.

Throughout his career in several of our Nation's leading law firms, Mr. Zelenko championed human rights, workers' rights, and intellectual property rights. Mr. Zelenko documented his experiences helping to pass monumental legislation for an oral history project conducted by this body's Office of the Historian for the public record. His encyclopedic recollection of the minutiae of the events of

1964 reminds us that landmark civil rights protections were not inevitable but rather were won through grueling and sustained efforts spanning decades of social struggle. A Princeton University and Harvard Law graduate, Mr. Zelenko contributed his great knowledge and gifts to the unending quest for a more perfect union. We are fortunate as a Nation that he chose to use his immense talents to serve the causes of social justice and equality.

Mr. Zelenko is a beloved husband, father and grandfather. He married Barbara (Saltz) Zelenko in 1961. In 1964, the Zelenkos moved to Maryland's beautiful Eighth District where they raised their 3 children, Brian, Laura and Carin. Ben and Barbara Zelenko still live in the same house they first occupied. This year, Mr. Zelenko celebrated his 90th birthday surrounded by his loving children and 6 grandchildren, Leslie, Jennifer, Sasha, Katya, Lia and Kayla. Mr. Zelenko is known by his family for being a gracious and captivating host, performing magic shows at all 6 of his grandchildren's birthday parties and seizing any opportunity to tell a great story. I am proud to salute Mr. Zelenko for his lifetime of service and extraordinary character.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 2023, I was unable to be present for the recorded suspension votes on Roll Call No. 383, 384, and 385. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yes on Roll Call No. 383, H.R. 3152, Fight CRIME Act, as amended; Yes on Roll Call No. 384, H.R. 589, MAHSA Act; and Yes on Roll Call No. 385, H. Res. 492, Condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

On September 14, 2023, my vote was recorded as YES on Roll Call No. 391 for H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act. I intended to vote No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to technical issues with my member voting card, my vote was unable to be recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 384/H.R. 589.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF SUSAN GRELICK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the first

woman elected Town Supervisor and Town Clerk of Amherst, Susan Grelick. She embodies the very best of our community, and has shaped Amherst, NY into one of the best rated and safest places to live in the entire country.

A graduate of Union College, Susan would later earn her MBA, JD, and master's degrees in Information Science and American Economic History. She utilized her extensive education to the town's benefit—always in search of ways to improve its financial stand, promote local businesses, and preserve neighborhoods and green space. Indeed, during her 9 years as Supervisor, Amherst had the highest bond rating of any municipality in Western New York. Susan also initiated the Town's first Vision Summits, a tool she used to develop a comprehensive plan for her future agenda. Once her time had finished as a town official, Susan became the legislative director and counsel to New York Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. This is in addition to involvement in countless local organizations, including as a Trustee Emeritus of the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village, as a Board member of the Amherst Youth Foundation, and as Vice President of the Chautauqua Institution Women's Club Board of Directors. She previously worked as President of the Amherst Youth Foundation, President of the Buffalo Amherst Business and Professional Women's Association, and sat on the Board of Directors for YMCA of Greater Buffalo, the UB Alumni Association, and the Erie County Industrial Development Agency. Her commitment to public service goes beyond the listed organizations. She is unquestionably sincere in her desire to help others, and she has gone above and beyond to deliver for her neighbors and community.

Many groups have recognized Susan over the years, so it is only fitting that the Amherst Democratic Committee recognizes her efforts over the last 25 years as a member. Susan Grelick has been a steadfast friend to so many in the Western New York area, and all its citizens (particularly those in Amherst), owe her a debt of gratitude. She has been an asset to the growth of our region, and I am thrilled that she is being honored for her inspiring achievements. I wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR INTERIM APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND RELATED AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO ANY FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH APPROPRIATIONS ARE NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR SUCH COURTS AND AGENCIES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would exempt from federal government shutdowns the federal and independent agencies that are exclusively or primarily federally funded but have jurisdiction over local District of Columbia civil and criminal justice matters. This bill is modeled on a provision I have gotten enacted each year

since the 2013 federal government shutdown to exempt the D.C. government from federal government shutdowns.

This bill would exempt the following agencies from federal government shutdowns: Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for D.C., D.C. Courts, D.C. Public Defender Service, D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure, D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and D.C. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. With one exception, these agencies are not under the District's control and are funded exclusively by the federal government. These agencies provide critical local services to the District, including law enforcement, and should continue to function during a federal government shutdown.

Each of these agencies has been adversely affected by federal government shutdowns, including canceled services and furloughed employees. My bill would allow these agencies to continue to function during a federal government shutdown, in much the same way that the D.C. government itself is now exempt from shutting down during a federal government shutdown.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN ANDRIY "JUICE" PILSCHCHIKOV

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Ukrainian fighter pilot Captain Andriy Pilshchikov, better known by his call sign "Juice," who tragically lost his life at the age of 30 while fighting for Ukraine's freedom on Friday, August 25, 2023.

Born in February 1993, Andriy was a Captain in Ukraine's Air Force 40th Tactical Aviation Brigade and leader of the "Ghost of Kyiv" unit. He flew MiG-29 fighter jets, protecting the central and northern Ukrainian air space from Russian attacks. Andriy earned the call sign "Juice" during his time in California performing training exercises with the U.S. Air National Guard because he preferred juice over alcoholic beverages.

Juice boldly resisted the Russian air offensive despite using aging Soviet-era technology. With destroyed ground-based navigation, Juice flew missions using simple Garmin GPS units.

Juice was one of the lead advocates for the delivery of F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine from allied countries. His efforts included contacting American government officials to encourage support for this cause. Many of us became familiar with Juice from his numerous interviews with prominent Western news outlets. Luckily, allied countries, including the United States, agreed to send F-16s. Juice was among the initial group of Ukrainian pilots slated for F-16 training due to his fluency in English.

Juice and 2 other pilots, Major Vyacheslav Minka and Major Serhiy Prokazin, tragically lost their lives on August 25 when a pair of L-39 Combat Trainer jets collided during a training accident near Zhytomyr.

In June 2022, I was introduced to Juice by actor and filmmaker Sean Penn. Over dinner in Washington D.C., Juice shared his passion for Ukraine's freedom and the need for the United States to provide fighter jets to his

country. I promised Juice I would seek that. And I plan to follow through on that promise.

Juice was a true Air Force leader, possessing tactical skills, confidence, and a calm demeanor under the immense pressure that war brings. His bravery and courage went above and beyond, flying over 500 combat hours, never once backing away from a fight. He is survived by his devoted girlfriend, Melaniya, and mother, Lillia. May we never forget his service and the ultimate sacrifice he made for the freedom of Ukraine.

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF LITTLE UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Little Union Baptist Church in Dumfries, Virginia on their 120th anniversary.

For 120 years, Little Union Baptist Church has served as a space for the community to gather, connect, and worship. Little Union Baptist Church has deep roots in Dumfries, Virginia that can be traced back to Mary Bates—fondly referred to by many as "Granny Mary." Mary was born into slavery, but she had the determination to learn to read and write. After the Emancipation Proclamation, Mary settled in the area with her husband where she proved to be a pillar in the community. She served as a midwife, wrote letters on behalf of those who could not, and helped administer medications. In 1901, Mary convinced her husband John to donate land to build a local church, so people would not have to travel to neighboring communities to attend services. The church built on that land flourished and eventually came to be known to the community as Little Union Baptist Church.

Today, Pastor Michael L. Sessoms continues Little Union Baptist Church's longstanding tradition of building community. Under his guidance, the church continues to grow and provides families in the Dumfries area with a space to gather and celebrate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 120th anniversary of Little Union Baptist Church.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF RONALD GILSON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the longtime treasurer of the Amherst Democratic Committee. Ronald Gilson. A resident of Amherst since 1962. Ron has been an indispensable member of the Committee since 1994.

He jumped in head-first, ensuring that technical operations like utilities, internal telephone banks, and essential supplies were always cared for at headquarters. His willingness to volunteer in this capacity was also incredibly valuable to Chairman Jeremy Zellner when the Erie County Democratic Committee moves its

headquarters to Larkinville. Ron was there to ensure a seamless transition with the proper technology setup. Naturally, he also became familiar with the Committee's practice of posting signs, gathering signatures, and distributing campaign literature. Just 5 years into his involvement with ADC, the Amherst Democratic Chairman approached Ron to become a temporary treasurer. Temporary, of course, is not an accurate description of Ron's time as treasurer—as he just handed the reins over after 22 years.

Ron also volunteers his time at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval Park as a docent and technical advisor. He volunteers his knowledge and time to countless citizens and visitors, alike, so they can appreciate the fearless bravery of our veterans and the richness of our local history. On the tours that he provides, Ron has the ability to capture the imagination of young Americans, so they understand the sacrifices that were made to ensure our collective freedom. The staff at the Naval Park is undoubtedly grateful for his continued dedication to their endeavors.

Lastly, I would be remiss not to mention Ron's consistent involvement at the Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service for the blind with his wife, Corine. Throughout the week, this organization reads newspapers, magazines, and books for the visually impaired. Ron's involvement with Niagara Frontier Radio Service, Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, and the Amherst Democratic Committee prove him to be a worthy candidate of recognition. I am excited to honor Ron for his selfless efforts that have such a tangible impact on our community.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE DON SUNDQUIST

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the memory of my good friend, former Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist, who also served alongside us, in this House chamber for 12 years, as the U.S. Representative for the 7th District of Tennessee. He was a trusted leader and treasured friend who will be deeply missed.

He accomplished a rare feat that every elected leader aspires to, winning every election in his path of public service, including 6 terms in Congress and 2 terms as the 47th Governor of Tennessee. Don was an original "Reaganaut," first elected to Congress in 1982 during President Ronald Reagan's Administration. As a successful business owner and entrepreneur, his expertise and personal insight were invaluable in his leadership on the Ways and Means Committee, where he stood firm on conservative American values.

His love and compassion for the people of Tennessee led him from Capitol Hill to the Governor's Mansion in 1994. Unwavering in his convictions, Gov. Sundquist took on monumental issues, including welfare reform that lifted 40,000 families out of poverty, a comprehensive crime bill focused on victim's rights, expanding broadband to every public school and library in Tennessee, and earning National accolades for the state's economic success on his watch.