

significant hearing loss, but Joe was willing to sacrifice his own health for those around him.

Joe was a well-known pillar of his community and was there to lend a hand to anyone who was in need. He would help people that did not have food and people who could not pay their bills. Joe never hesitated to support his community with time, money or labor. His loved ones say that he viewed his community as an extension of his family, fondly sharing stories about the time he helped deliver a baby at his grocery store. Joe wanted nothing more than to share love and family, and if we all cared about our communities the way that he did, the world would be a much brighter place.

On this day, I would like to celebrate Joe Stires as a veteran, a volunteer firefighter and as a pillar in our community who dedicated himself to a life of giving. His service has made his community and New Mexico a better place.

On behalf of the great people of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, I thank Joe Stires, for all he has done for us.

HONORING SUPERVISOR CINDY CHAVEZ

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, who has dedicated her career to serving the residents of District 2 in Santa Clara County.

Supervisor Cindy Chavez represents approximately 500,000 individuals in one of the most densely populated areas of our county. Sworn into office in August 2013 after a special election, Supervisor Chavez has been re-elected twice. She has been committed and effective in her leadership.

Supervisor Cindy Chavez was a leader in the establishment of the Children's Health Initiative and helped champion efforts that resulted in the County of Santa Clara to become the first county in the nation to assure health care for every child living in the County.

Supervisor Cindy Chavez has made significant strides in ensuring that Santa Clara County remains an affordable, safe, and engaging community for all. Her leadership on the CalTrain Board of Directors has been pivotal in advancing the electrification of CalTrain and planning for a highspeed rail. A commissioner on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and a board member of the Valley Transportation Authority, she actively addresses regional transportation needs.

In 2016, she led Measure A, a landmark \$950 million housing bond that has funded nearly 5,000 units of affordable housing, prioritizing vulnerable communities in Santa Clara County. Additionally, Chavez is a statewide leader, championing programs for survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking, securing a 400 percent increase in funding for essential services for survivors.

She has tirelessly worked to expand public services and create community partnerships, including the establishment of the Vietnamese American Service Center, the first of its kind in the Nation.

In closing, Supervisor Cindy Chavez exemplifies public service through her dedication to improving lives in Santa Clara County. Her innovative policies and advocacy have set a standard for community leadership, making her a vital asset to our community, addressing pressing social issues. It has been a privilege to work alongside her, and I am proud to call her my friend.

HONORING VERNON "LEON" DAVIS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Vernon "Leon" Davis.

Leon Davis was a firefighter for over 30 years in Blackshear, Georgia. Mr. Davis worked his way up to Assistant Fire Chief of Blackshear while serving part time over his expansive 30-year career.

Sadly, Davis passed in the line of duty while helping his Blackshear community during Hurricane Helene.

This Hurricane has hit Georgia and the Southeast region of United States hard. Without the tremendous efforts and service of people like Mr. Davis, our communities would not be able to recover.

Mr. Davis was known to be an exceptional man by his friends, family, and all the people he worked with throughout his career. He has deeply touched the Blackshear community and will be greatly missed by many.

Our community is forever indebted to Mr. Davis's service, and I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING JASON SODANO

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate Jason Sodano, who has been honored with the prestigious 2024 William M. Usdane Award that recognizes outstanding achievement and exceptional character by an employee with a disability.

SourceAmerica confers this award as part of its AbilityOne Program, which leverages federal procurement to create job opportunities for Americans with disabilities through the nonprofit organizations that employ them.

Jason overcame his developmental disability and earned both his high school diploma and an associate's degree in office technology.

His perseverance helped him land a job with New Leaf, a participating nonprofit in the AbilityOne Program that operates at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington.

For the past 13 years, Jason has worked on the naval base as a janitor.

Jason's supervisors, colleagues and family praise his commitment to excellence and his positive attitude that seems to brighten the workplace and inspire those around him.

Along the way, Jason has earned awards for perfect attendance and exceeding quality

standards by ensuring cleanliness for up to 1,700 military personnel at NAS Whidbey Island.

Jason exemplifies the American spirit in overcoming adversity. His journey from struggling with standardized tests to becoming a valued employee at New Leaf is a testament to his resilience and determination.

He has shown that regardless of the challenges one faces, it is possible to achieve great success through hard work and a positive attitude.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending heartfelt congratulations to Jason Sodano for his well-deserved recognition with the 2024 William M. Usdane Award.

Jason's dedication and achievements are an inspiration to us all. May he continue to excel and make profound impacts in his workplace and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL GALLO BAKERY

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate El Gallo Bakery on their 75th anniversary of doing business in California's 34th Congressional District.

El Gallo Bakery is an outstanding small business in East Los Angeles that exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses. Founded by Magdalena Martinez de Huerta on February 2, 1949, 5 years after immigrating to East Los Angeles from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

El Gallo Bakery was passed down to Mr. Jesus Huerta, the son of Magdalena Martinez de Huerta. Mr. Huerta became the owner at 18 years old in 1984 and has transformed El Gallo Bakery into a staple of the East Los Angeles community.

Mr. Huerta has also provided numerous contributions to the East Los Angeles community through his exceptional civic and business leadership and has brought the vibrant flavors of Mexico to East Los Angeles, enriching the cultural tapestry and creating a legacy of delicious memories and culinary excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating El Gallo Bakery on its 75th anniversary. Congratulations again on reaching this impressive milestone. I wish them continued success and here's to the next 75 years.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT FRENCH, JR.

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. Aderholt. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the incredible life and legacy of an 8th-generation Alabamian who exemplifies the notion of a life lived in service to his community and his country.

Mr. Robert B. French, Jr., known as Bob to those who are fortunate enough to know him, hails from a family of American patriots who

served in the American Revolutionary War. Upon completion of their service, Mr. French's descendants settled in Madison County, Alabama.

Growing up in Decatur, Alabama, Bob graduated from Decatur High School in 1952 before attending the University of North Alabama. Bob knew service to his country was important to him, leading him to attend the United States Military Academy Preparatory School in Newburg, New York. From there, he attended the University of Alabama where he earned his bachelor's degree and went on to receive his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law.

Bob went on to serve in the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict as a communications operator in the intelligence field. For his efforts, he received three medals and an Honorable Discharge after completing his service.

Bob, using his law degree, has published a multitude of papers in addition to his outstanding accomplishments as a trial lawyer. He has tried some of the most famous cases in Alabama history. Before 2001, Bob maintained a caseload that included more than 100 cases a year.

Perhaps his biggest accomplishment was marrying his late wife, Celeste. Together, Bob and Celeste raised three wonderful children: daughters Michelle and Tammy, and son Tommy. Tommy and his wife Sandra Kay are the parents of two grandchildren, Trevor French and Victoria French Ignacio. Tammy is the mother of Bob's third grandchild, Katie Prewitt. Bob and Celeste were dedicated members of the First Baptist Church of Fort Payne. For 36 years, Bob taught a bible class at the church that consistently saw more than 100 members attend.

Bob's call to be a spiritual guide to others was realized when he began teaching a college-level class on spiritual development. Guiding those who took his class by proclaiming the teachings of Jesus Christ led Bob to complete a six-volume work expanding on the Gospels found in the Bible.

As counsel to the DeKalb County Board of Education, Bob was lead counsel in America's foremost school prayer case. The United States Supreme Court decided this case, which allowed student-initiated prayer in public schools.

Bob has received numerous awards through his church, civic organizations, his profession, and other organizations.

I am honored, not only to represent, but to also recognize such an incredible individual and great American. He is a shining example of the accomplishments that can be realized when life is built on hard work and great faith.

This Nation is blessed by men such as Robert B. French, Jr. and we as a Nation are thankful for his dedication to making Alabama and the United States a better place to live. We wish him many, many years of success and congratulate him on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING BETTY STOUT'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable constituent, Betty

Stout of Pennswood Village in Newtown. Betty was born on September 30, 1923, in Trenton, N.J., and is now turning 101.

Betty was known during her childhood in Trenton as the "The Little Mother of Rutherford Avenue," because of the long hours she spent caring for her younger brother, Gary. Her father worked even longer hours, leading a band, playing the organ in local movie theaters, and delivering newspapers before the crack of dawn.

After graduating from Trenton High, Betty worked for the Trenton Banking Company. She married Ralph Stout, who also worked there, in 1947. Ralph had a liberating effect on her life, mainly by encouraging her to do many of the things she had not been able to do as a child. They were wonderful dancers and excelled at bridge. Betty learned to swim and play golf, a sport that gave her great pleasure until she was 90. She was an active member of the Hopewell Valley Golf Club for 50 years. One of her grandchildren jokes she even looked down on the 9-holers.

Betty was a member of Ewing Presbyterian Church for many years before joining Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church. She now attends services at Pennswood. She volunteered with the Children's Committee of Mercer Hospital. Betty is adored by her three children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. At her 100th birthday party, one of the grandchildren described her as the hub of the family's wheel. At the age of 94, she served as the celebrant at another grandchild's wedding.

At Pennswood, Betty is surrounded by loving friends and staff. To be her friend or a spoke on her family's wheel is a rare, and always rewarding privilege. To be on the Pennswood staff is often to become her friend. Her capacity for friendship is matched by her passion for setting wrongs right. Happy Birthday, Betty.

RECOGNIZING ROSEMOUNT POLICE SERGEANT SHAWN MCMENOMY

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor Rosemount Police Sergeant Shawn McMenemy for his courageous service during the tragic February 18th incident in Burnsville, MN which lost officers Matthew Ruge and Paul Elmstrand and firefighter/paramedic Adam Finseth.

Sergeant McMenemy provided mutual aid support to Burnsville and was in the Bearcat and helped extract the mortally wounded officers and the rest of the Burnsville staff that were on scene. Sergeant McMenemy joined the South Metro SWAT team in 2018 and is currently serving as a Team Leader for the team that handles critical incidents across Dakota and Rice County.

A Hastings native, Sergeant McMenemy began his service with the Rosemount Police Department in 2011 and was previously a park ranger and correctional officer for Dakota County. He has served as a patrol officer, on the department's crime scene team, as an advisor for the police Explorer program and was promoted to Sergeant in 2015 assigned as a detective.

I'm grateful for Sergeant McMenemy's service to Rosemount, Burnsville and Minnesota. He represents the best of law enforcement and it is a privilege to represent him in Congress.

RECOGNIZING MECHANICSBURG LIONS CLUB

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the Mechanicsburg Lions Club on their 75th Anniversary.

Chartered in 1949, the Mechanicsburg Lions Club has provided continuous service to our local community and the Lions International organization—fostering a spirit of understanding among people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation. In some of their recent work, the Mechanicsburg Lions Club supported the Operation Wildcat Project Clothing initiative, volunteered at One80 Ministries preparing their new transitional living space, and volunteered for Pink Hands of Hope during a last-minute emergency cleanup. The organization also supports Boys Little League Baseball and Girls Softball leagues, Red Cross Blood Drives, Meals on Wheels, subsidizes eyeglasses and hearing aids for needy adults and children, supported the Silver Spring Township Veterans Memorial, and myriad other worthy causes.

In recent years, with more than 50 members, the Mechanicsburg Lions Club has raised and distributed approximately \$40,000 to help local and worldwide charities—proving an indispensable Godsend to our community. Every penny the Club collects is distributed to those in need, and the administration of the Club and international organization is provided for through modest annual dues, which provides maximum charitable impact. Their work focuses on alleviating humanitarian crises, hunger, childhood cancer, and support of many other critical needs truly makes our communities, Commonwealth, the United States, and the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I'm privileged to recognize the Mechanicsburg Lions Club on their 75th Anniversary. Their work is the standard by which we should all be judged, and I wish their organization and selfless members Godspeed on their future missions.

CONGRATULATING OAK KNOLL SCHOOL OF THE HOLY CHILD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to the Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child on their 100th anniversary. I am truly grateful to be celebrating this monumental milestone with you all. The Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child was founded by the Society of the Holy