

on October 12, 2024, at the age of 77. For over five decades, Coach Cavazos devoted his life to enriching the lives of Lansing's youth through his passion for sports, teaching not only the fundamentals of baseball and basketball but also the values of perseverance, respect, and determination. His impact stretched far beyond the playing field, and his legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched.

Born on December 24, 1946, in San Juan, Texas, Javier Cavazos later made Lansing, Michigan, his home. His love for sports and his passion for mentoring began early. His journey started in 1964 when, at just 18 years old, he volunteered to supervise his brother and their friends in an after-school program. That same year, he founded the Northside Athletic and Recreational Club, marking the beginning of an extraordinary coaching career.

By 1972, Cavazos had formed Lansing's original Little League, setting the stage for decades of success in youth baseball. Under his guidance, teams from the Northside Athletic and Recreational Club—later renamed the Capital Area Youth Sports Association in 1990—won numerous state and regional championships. In addition to his success in baseball, Coach Cavazos also coached basketball for nearly 40 years. Throughout his coaching career, he emphasized hard work, accountability, and teamwork, helping his players excel both on and off the field.

Coach Cavazos taught standout athletes such as Baseball Hall of Famer John Smoltz, Michigan State University and Los Angeles Lakers basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson, and many of the Lansing area's girls' basketball stars. His accomplishments earned him induction into both the Michigan Baseball Hall of Fame and the Greater Lansing Sports Hall of Fame, cementing his place as one of the state's most influential figures in sports and highlighting his remarkable impact on the local community.

Beyond his accolades, Javier Cavazos was a mentor and role model who believed in the transformative power of sports to uplift others. He was unwavering in his commitment to the youth under his care, driven not by personal recognition but by his love for the game, the children he coached, and life itself.

As we celebrate Javier Cavazos's life today, it is with great respect and appreciation that I recognize his extraordinary contributions here in the People's House. May his love for others, his dedication to youth sports, and his commitment to teaching some of life's most important lessons continue to inspire future generations.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDERICK BIERMANN

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Frederick Biermann, a man whose legacy of courage, service, and innovation spans continents and generations. Born in Vienna in 1930, Fred and his family fled Nazi-occupied Austria in 1938, eventually finding refuge in the British Mandate for Palestine. At the young age of 15, Fred joined the Haganah, defending his com-

munity from oppression and later serving with distinction in the Israeli Defense Forces during Israel's fight for independence. Fluent in five languages, Fred immigrated to the United States in 1952 and continued his service, eventually rising to the rank of Colonel in both the Israeli Defense Forces and United States Army. His leadership was mirrored by his innovative contributions in the fields of dentistry and medicine, where he pioneered advancements in bridges, implants, and even heart valve technology. A devoted husband to Rose and a loving father to Sharon, Hal, and Wendy, Fred's life was marked by resilience, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to improving and safeguarding the world around him.

It is my privilege to include in the RECORD his name in recognition of a life that truly exemplified service and excellence.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF PENNDEL BOROUGH

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary municipality within my district as it proudly marks the Quasiquicentennial of its inception.

Pennel Borough, nestled in the heart of Bucks County, boasts a rich and storied history that traces back to the early days of English colonization when settlers journeyed with the visionary William Penn to establish Pennsylvania as a beacon of freedom and opportunity. In 1684, a tract of several hundred acres lying east of the Neshaminy Creek was granted by William Penn to Thomas Langhorne, later passing to his son Jeremiah Langhorne. This pristine tract, renowned for its natural beauty and lush landscapes, was aptly named Eden, a testament to the idyllic setting that inspired those early settlers.

The landscape transformed significantly in 1876 with the establishment of the Reading Railroad station which ignited a wave of growth and prosperity, leading to the rapid development of homes and businesses that created a vibrant village atmosphere. In 1899, this community was incorporated as Attleborough, a name that reflected its burgeoning identity. Over the years, as the community evolved and grew, it became known as South Langhorne before officially adopting the name Pennel Borough in 1947—a name that resonates throughout Bucks County today with pride and heritage.

This year, Pennel Borough celebrates an incredible 125 years as a self-governing entity. Situated at a bustling crossroads of highways and rail, it is a vital hub of business and transportation and home to more than 2,500 residents, who embody the spirit of community and resilience. The Borough thrives with a diverse business community, churches, and local organizations that contribute to its rich tapestry of culture and support.

This milestone is more than a celebration of history—it represents the hard work, dedication, and vision of the men and women who have come together over the decades to build and nurture this remarkable community.

As we gather to commemorate this remarkable anniversary, let us not only celebrate the

rich tapestry of Pennel Borough's history but also honor the indomitable spirit of its people. Pennel Borough is a shining example of all that can be achieved when citizens unite with purpose and passion. The next 125 years hold tremendous potential, and I am confident this community will continue to thrive, innovate, and inspire as a cornerstone of our district.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON—CLEAR LAKE

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Houston—Clear Lake in celebration of its 50th anniversary.

The University of Houston—Clear Lake, also known as UHCL, opened in 1974 to support the aerospace industry near NASA's Johnson Space Center. Five decades later, it has become a vital part of the Southeast Houston community, offering more than ninety undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degree programs in science, business, education, and the arts. UHCL's physical growth during this time has included the addition of a second campus in Pearland in 2010 and its expansion into a four-year university in 2014, a move that significantly increased the student population. The university's founding emphasis on science and technology has also gone beyond its original purpose to embrace other scientific areas, highlighted by a partnership with the Texas Medical Center that began in 2004.

Over 80,000 alumni have emerged from UHCL, many of whom are leaders in industries critical to our state and nation, including aerospace, healthcare, and education. However, the national recognition UHCL has received has never eclipsed the university's regional focus or its commitment to public service and empowerment of students to give back to their communities.

Throughout its history, UHCL's leadership has worked diligently and harnessed every tool available to support and keep a center for higher education in the Clear Lake area. These leaders have included past presidents Alfred R. Neumann, Tom Stauffer, Glenn Goerke, Bill Staples, and Ira Blake. Since 2021, Dr. Richard Walker has admirably served as the university's sixth president.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent this esteemed institution that has contributed much to the Clear Lake area. Congratulations again to the University of Houston—Clear Lake on half a century of success. God Bless and Go Hawks.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WEINFURTER

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Weinfurter and his two decades of service to the House, as well as his continued commitment to this body in his longtime service as president of the House Chiefs of Staff Alumni Association.

John came to D.C. just over 50 years ago from Wisconsin, where he grew up in a suburb of Milwaukee, the oldest of nine kids. Shortly after earning his undergraduate degree at Marquette University, he moved to Washington and started work at the Democratic National Committee and graduate school at Georgetown University. In January of 1977, he joined then-Congressman Joe Moakley's office as press secretary, but very shortly, at the age of 28, he became Mr. Moakley's chief of staff in what was his third term in the House.

John went on to dedicate 20 years of his career to working for Congressman Moakley and the people of Massachusetts. Over the course of those two decades, John guided Mr. Moakley's office as Moakley took on growing responsibility, serving as a whip for Speaker Tip O'Neill, as chair of the Democratic Personnel Committee, as a member of the Steering and Policy Committee, and eventually, Chairman of the House Rules Committee. Through all these experiences, John got an inside view of the close bonds that Rep. Moakley built with his fellow House members, on both sides of the aisle, and the way that the House worked in a different era.

Later, John served as the President and CEO of the Congressional Economic Leadership Institute (CELI). CELI was a bipartisan educational foundation designed to acquaint Members of Congress, their staff, and corporate executives with emerging economic issues. During his tenure at CELI, John coordinated more than 200 sessions in the U.S. Senate and House, and brought CEOs, foreign heads of state, parliamentary delegations, authors, economists, cabinet secretaries, and regulatory agency leadership together in forums on economic growth and productivity.

He later worked in government relations, joining Capstone National Partners in 2016, a government affairs and public policy firm with offices in Milwaukee and Washington, D.C.—a move that has now allowed him to take his journey full circle, home to Wisconsin to live near his sisters in Milwaukee.

Working in this body for decades, one comes to understand the importance of building strong relationships with those who have the privilege of serving in it alongside you—and that goes for staff as well as Members. We all serve for the good of the American people, but also for the good of this institution. John understood that during his time here. I know that is why when he left, he chose to continue that effort through his work with the House Chiefs of Staff Alumni Association—an Alumni-driven educational and professional organization that brings together former and current House Chiefs of Staff for mentorship, networking events and presentations on current events and an annual reception in honor of the current House Chiefs who serve our offices.

It is no surprise that John provided dynamic leadership for the group. As president, he took the lead in securing speakers for joint lunches held with members of the current House Chiefs of Staff Association. These included Supreme Court justices such as Elena Kagan, Antonin Scalia and Stephen Breyer, leading media figures, journalists, and former Members of Congress. In addition, he specialized in making receptions and dinners come together for current and former House chiefs at embassies across D.C., including the Canadian, German, French, Irish, Belgian, Finnish and Thai embassies, among others.

Last year, the House Chiefs of Staff Alumni Association celebrated its 35th anniversary, and acknowledged John for being the longest-serving president of the organization—having served for nearly half of those 35 years. In doing so, John took on the title “president emeritus,” having carried the organization through COVID shutdowns, and handing it over to the next leaders to keep its long tradition alive.

Mr. Speaker, John is a great man, but he is also a fundamentally good guy who I and so many others are privileged to call a friend and mentor. I want to thank him for his incredible service to this institution, for his work to strengthen our country and strengthen our community here on the Hill, and for his years of friendship and leadership through the House Chiefs of Staff Alumni Association.

HONORING BARBARA SCHAFFER
FOR HER INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ELM
SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, tonight, members of New Haven's vibrant arts community have gathered for the Elm Shakespeare Company's annual gala—an event which both celebrates the past success of the organization and looks ahead as they announce plans for their next season. As part of this year's gala, Elm Shakespeare will also honor the invaluable contributions of the remarkable Barbara Schaffer, who recently stepped down from her 25-year role as Development Director for the organization. Throughout her time with Elm Shakespeare, Barbara's passion for the arts, tenacity, and dedication enabled the Company to thrive, cementing its place as one of our community's most beloved cultural institutions.

Barbara began her professional career with Chase Bank, working in offices in both New York and London. When she left the finance industry, it was to pursue a path in the non-profit sector, becoming the Executive Director of High Hopes, a therapeutic riding program serving individuals with emotional health challenges, learning or developmental disabilities, and other neurodivergent challenges. While Barbara was proud of the work she was doing with High Hopes, in March of 1998, she found her true calling when she accepted a role at Elm Shakespeare Company.

Elm Shakespeare was only in its third season of Shakespeare in the Park when Barbara joined the organization. Over the course of the following 25 years, Barbara's incredible talent, commitment, and leadership were instrumental in growing the organization into the beloved and respected arts program it is today. Barbara spearheaded fundraising campaigns, cultivated community and corporate sponsorships, and forged key partnerships with the National Endowment of the Arts as well as Connecticut Humanities. Barbara developed Elm Shakespeare's partnership with Southern Connecticut State University, a relationship which has led to the Company becoming the University's Theater in Residence. In fact, it was Barbara who launched Elm Shakespeare's annual gala and auction which has

not only become a successful fundraiser but a cherished event for New Haven's arts community.

I, like so many others gathered this evening, count myself fortunate to be able to call Barbara my friend. She has an extraordinary depth of energy, passion, and commitment. “Tapestry” is the theme of tonight's event, and it could not be a more fitting tribute to the woman whose passion and dedication has enabled the Elm Shakespeare Company to weave the magic of live theater throughout our community. She has helped shape Elm Shakespeare Company into the wonderful organization it is today, leaving an indelible mark not only on Elm Shakespeare but on the New Haven arts community as well.

I am honored to stand today and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to my good friend, Barbara Schaffer, for her good work and invaluable contributions to the Elm Shakespeare Company. All the better for her remarkable effort, we are so fortunate that she continues to be such a strong supporter of the New Haven arts community. While her retirement marks the end of an era, I wish Barbara and her husband, Michael, the very best as they enjoy this new life chapter.

HONORING SUE HARRISON

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Sue Harrison, the former President of the Pebble Creek Republican Club.

Sue has distinguished herself by providing exceptional service to the residents of the Pebble Creek area of Goodyear, Arizona. Sue has worked tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement.

The efforts of Sue and the Pebble Creek Republican Club have been pivotal to the success of elected officials and candidates in the Phoenix West Valley.

I am thankful for Sue's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to the 8th Congressional District and the State of Arizona.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF WILLIAM “BILL” TEAGUE

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a remarkable individual whose dedication and service to our communities has spanned nearly seven decades—Mr. William “Bill” Teague. As he embarks on his well-deserved retirement, I want to express my deepest gratitude for his unwavering commitment to the residents of Indio, California and the Coachella Valley.

Bill's journey with the Valley Sanitary District began in 1951 when he was hired as a Plant Operator. Over the next 34 years, he rose