

Paralympic Endowment and was also a member of the International Olympic Committee from 2000 through 2002. He was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2006. His dedication and commitment to the Olympic Movement has helped pave the way for Colorado Springs to be named Olympic City USA.

A native of Colorado, Hybl was raised in Pueblo, Colorado and attended Colorado College, where in 1964 he was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate of the ROTC program. He then went on to earn his Juris Doctor at the University of Colorado School of Law in 1967. After graduating from law school, Hybl served in the United States Army, serving as a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General Corps until 1978.

He was married to Kathleen Horrigan for 56 years, and they have two sons, B.J. and Kyle, and six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring William J. Hybl's life, which is a testament to his unwavering dedication to public service, leadership, and community engagement. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the Olympic movement, public diplomacy, and numerous organizations. His legacy of service and commitment continues to inspire and impact countless individuals and communities in the Pikes Peak region and throughout Colorado.

CELEBRATING LAURA WILSON AS
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
TONAWANDAS

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ms. Laura Wilson as the Citizen of the Year recognized by the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas. Laura has been an indispensable force behind the growth and revitalization of North Tonawanda, and her contributions are nothing short of remarkable.

Joining the Lumber City Development Corporation in 2014 and serving as Executive Director since 2021, Ms. Wilson exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated public servant and visionary leader, playing a vital part in the Riviera Theater and Entertainment Complex revitalization.

Ms. Wilson's vision extends beyond mere bricks and mortar. Her keen eye for art has transformed many public spaces within the City of North Tonawanda. These artistic touches not only help make the city beautiful but also foster a sense of pride and identity among fellow citizens.

Laura's commitment does not stop at her professional responsibilities. She is deeply involved in our community, serving as a Board Member of Leadership Niagara and previously on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas. Her volunteerism and guidance toward various organizations, further demonstrating her dedication to making North Tonawanda a better place for all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Ms. Laura Wilson as Citizen of the Year. We all should recognize her remarkable leadership and achievements but also her unwavering spirit of collaboration, innovation, and service.

Laura's leadership has left an indelible mark on our city, and we are all the better for it.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
JOHN RICH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of John Rich, longtime Managing Editor of the Fresno Bee.

John Rich has served the San Joaquin Valley as a dedicated Journalist for over 40 years. Rich, a native of Auburn, obtained his bachelor's degree in journalism from Fresno State University. He worked at the Modesto Bee beginning in 1980 but left in 1984 to join the sports department at The Fresno Bee. Over the years, John took on larger roles within The Fresno Bee, including as Sports Editor, Metro Editor and Assistant Managing Editor, before his promotion to Managing Editor in 2015.

Throughout his time at The Fresno Bee, John worked to the highest journalist standards for accuracy and fairness. Every day, he guided reporters and photographers to tell the stories of the Central Valley. As an editor, he was intricately involved in the production of the daily news, from assigning stories to reporters to editing copy, writing headlines and choosing the makeup of the printed paper and digital reports. During his career, he evolved with technological advances and changes to the newspaper environment, but he never lost sight that his job was to deliver the news that matters to the people of the Valley, whether the latest details of a Fresno State Football game or an in-depth expose on corruption at city hall.

Mr. Rich also leaves a legacy as a mentor and coach. He has been an inspiration for other journalists in the field. Jim Boren, former editor of the Bee, described it this way: "As we bid farewell to John Rich on his retirement, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on his illustrious career and thank him for his unwavering dedication to the pursuit of truth. John's true legacy lies in the countless aspiring journalists he has guided along the way. He has patiently nurtured their talent, instilled in them a profound respect for the power of words, and demonstrated the importance of journalistic integrity. He taught us kindness and humility and made everyone around him better." That sentiment is shared by the journalists he worked alongside.

John Ellis, former political reporter at The Bee, said: "In a world that often was frantic and chaotic, John was the calm at the storm's center. I don't think anyone worked harder and more coherently under pressure to ensure that, day after day, no matter how crazy the Fresno Bee newsroom got, no matter how many editors weighed in with suggestions, no matter how close to deadline stories kept evolving, the best, complete and most up-to-date news would publish—sans any leaps of logic, grammatical or punctuation errors. That takes true talent."

Bill McEwen, former reporter, columnist, and opinion page editor said: "John Rich is the hardest working editor that I've come across in my 45 years in journalism. His passion for

news, accuracy, and readers was unparalleled."

Barbara Anderson, award-winning health reporter for The Bee, said: "John Rich has been the steady, consistent and calm leader at The Fresno Bee for all the years I have known him as an editor. He has worked tirelessly behind the scenes—without a prominent byline—guiding the newsroom to deliver clear, complete, compelling and honest news. I can think of no one who has shown more dedication to the newspaper—to the communities of the San Joaquin Valley—and to the reporters, photographers and graphic artists who are honored to have called him a colleague. John's fingerprints are covered in news ink and readers in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley are far richer for the imprint he has made at The Fresno Bee."

Outside of journalism, John also gave back to the community as a volunteer, most prominently a coach and supporter of youth sports alongside Dennise, and children, Andrew and Tori. His dedication to his family and to his community are equally impressive.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Rich for his dedication and commitment to preserving community journalism. May we never forget his contributions and continue to be inspired by his legacy.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: ED PRESTON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Ed Preston, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Ed has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

Ed has not only served our community but also transformed the lives of those around him. Ed was pivotal in raising \$220,000 to construct a memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War at the Middletown Veterans Memorial Park. Through these efforts, Ed strengthens the fabric of our district and proves that when driven by purpose, compassion, and an unwavering sense of duty, one individual can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Ed that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Their service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of

many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Ed not just for his remarkable deeds, but for who he is—a true hero, in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Ed that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Their actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. They embody the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively, and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Ed for his extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May their example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

REMEMBERING MARTIN NAGELKIRK

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Martin Nagelkirk, a dedicated educator and influential figure in agriculture, who passed away at the age of 70 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born on October 8, 1953, to Preston and Shirley Nagelkirk, Martin graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in agronomy and later earned a master's degree from Cornell University. He began his career as an agricultural extension agent in Onondaga County, New York, where he served for eight years before moving to Sanilac County, Michigan, in 1987. At Michigan State University, Martin became a prominent wheat educator and director of the local MSU Extension office, retiring in 2019.

For over 30 years, Martin made significant contributions to the wheat industry, especially in addressing the challenges of Fusarium head blight. Martin also had a pivotal role in helping farmers navigate these challenges, enabling them to increase yields and profitability. Martin co-founded the Great Lakes Wheat Watchers, promoting collaboration among researchers and extension professionals in the region.

Known for his humor, broad knowledge, and commitment to serving as a reliable resource for producers, Martin was deeply respected by all who worked with him. He and his wife Joan, married for 45 years, fostered a family built on love and shared experiences, including a passion for the outdoors.

He is survived by their children—Paul, Ryan, and Grant—along with their families, and many siblings, in-laws, and nieces and nephews. Martin's legacy will endure through the countless lives he touched in the agricultural community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember Martin Nagelkirk today, let us honor his remarkable contributions and the values he embodied—dedication, innovation, and a deep love for his family and community. His commitment to im-

proving the lives of others will be profoundly missed.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Center. For five decades, the Women's Center has provided mental health counseling, support, and education to the metropolitan area to help people live healthy, stable, and productive lives.

Since its founding in 1974, the Women's Center has grown to include services to all gender identities, families, young adults, and children. They have strived to fulfill their mission to significantly improve the mental health and well-being of all members of our community. The Women's Center offers a range of services, like individual, couples, and family counseling, group therapy, education workshops and training, and domestic violence and sexual assault services.

In 2023 alone, they were able to reach over 3,500 people with 33,668 hours of service. Sixty-seven percent of those clients received services at a reduced fee or no cost. All 487 domestic violence survivor clients received free domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy services, with 96 percent reporting enhanced safety and 93 percent reporting improved mental health.

Over the past year, 1,459 community members received 20,772 hours of individual, couples, and family mental health counseling. The Women's Center also provided 7,887 callers with important information, including vital information about programs for children and teens, suicide prevention, behavioral and mental health, career programs, and more.

In addition to the mental health and counseling work the Women's Center does for their clients, they also host an annual Leadership Conference filled with speakers, breakout sessions, and opportunities to build strategic connections. This event is part of the education and career enrichment services that help people gain confidence in their skills to find paid work, achieve financial stability, navigate complicated legal processes, and improve work-life balance.

All of this incredible work is made possible by the staff, volunteers, and Board of the Women's Center. Over the past five decades, the Women's Center has expanded their programming, opened new locations, and updated their services as the needs of the community changed. This adaptability has been a strength for the organization throughout its history, and especially during the pandemic. The needs of their clients changed, as well as the vehicle to receive services, and the Women's Center was able to take that in stride and continue serving our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Center. The Women's Center has remained an incredible resource for our community because they are focused on providing trauma informed, caring, and compassionate care that is accessible to those who need it.

I thank them for all that they do for Northern Virginia and cheers to another 50 years.

NORTHWEST DOUGLAS COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—"WOMEN WHO SOAR"

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of three outstanding women. Kara Baker, Donna Miller, and Karen Leigh will be honored by the Northwest Douglas County Chamber & Economic Development Corporation as "Women Who Soar."

Kara Baker is a registered nurse in the cardiac catheterization lab at AdventHealth Littleton. Inspired by her father's heart surgery during her childhood, she pursued nursing, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2007 and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2009. Following her father's death from cardiac arrest in 2018, Kara became an advocate for heart health, organizing community screenings and donating Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) to local schools. In 2023, she was nominated for a Nightingale Luminary Award and received a DAISY Award with her team for excellence in patient care.

Donna Miller is a Captain for American Airlines, flying Airbus A319, A320, and A321 aircraft. Notable experiences include serving as First Officer on an Honor Flight to Pearl Harbor for WWII survivors in 2016 and accompanying D-Day veterans to Normandy in 2019. She began her aviation career in South Korea, earning her private license while working for the Air Force, and has since flown various missions globally. In 2003, she represented Colorado at Kitty Hawk, where she flew Neil Armstrong during the Centennial of Flight celebration. Active in general aviation, she has flown WWII bombers for the Collings Foundation and served over 20 years as secretary of the Mile High Wing of the OX-5 Aviation Pioneers. Donna is passionate about aviation history and has collaborated with notable figures like Elrey Jeppesen and Louis Zamperini. Outside of flying, she uses her flight benefits to run marathons on every continent, including Antarctica.

Karen Leigh is an evening news anchor at a major CBS station in Denver, Colorado, serving over 1.8 million households since 2008. With over 25 years of experience in television, she has expertise in various areas of communications, conducting interviews with a wide range of figures from presidents to celebrities. Known for her calm demeanor, she excels at diffusing tense situations and has covered significant events, including natural disasters and mass shootings. She has won four Emmy Awards for her journalistic work, including coverage on child abuse and the 2008 Recession.

In addition to her broadcasting career, Karen has been active in supporting non-profits, helping them raise funds and engage with communities. She is involved with several charities, including the American Heart Association and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver.