

and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY
JORDAN-CHURCH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, we gather today to honor the illustrious career of Mary Jordan Church, who will retire after an extraordinary 41 years of unwavering service at the Veterans' Administration.

Mary's remarkable journey began on October 13, 1981, when she stepped into the role of Office Manager and Secretary at the Vet Center. Over the years, her commitment and dedication propelled her through a series of roles that reflected her unyielding dedication to our nation's veterans.

After a decade of efficiently triaging clients at the Office Manager position, Mary was elevated to the position of Counseling Assistant for her dedication and aptitude. In this expanded role, Mary's responsibilities included oversight over the organization's Community Outreach, where she represented the Vet Center at vital mental health meetings and became a steadfast voice for the veteran community.

Driven by a undying commitment to better serve veterans and manage crises effectively, Mary then embarked on a journey of education. Her pursuit for knowledge led her to Fresno City College, where she earned an associate degree in Alcohol Counseling, equipping her with critical skills to support those battling addiction. Inspired to make a lasting impact Mary continued her studies at California State University, Fresno where she earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree of Social Work in 2003.

During these years of academic pursuit, Mary navigated the delicate balance of raising her children with the support of her family. Her determination and dedication were further exemplified through intensive internships at esteemed organizations such as the Salvation Army, Avanti (a group home for boys), and the Mobile Crisis for Fresno County. Notably, her final internship took place at VACCHCS Mental Health, working alongside Drs. Nile and Howsepian.

These profound studies and experiences paved the path to Mary's appointment as a Readjustment Counselor in 2002. Soon after, Mary's continuous pursuit of excellence and knowledge culminated as she achieved the rank of Social Worker, coinciding with the completion of her studies in 2003.

Mary's dedication extended far beyond the confines of her professional responsibilities. She exemplified her commitment by participating in an impressive 35 Veterans' Day parades as a representative of the Vet Center. One such memorable parade took place in Sacramento, where she stood proudly, pushing a stroller carrying her youngest son, while waving the United States flag alongside her mother. Their presence was a testament to their unwavering support for veterans and their resolute belief in the values the flag represents.

As Mary embarks on a well-deserved retirement, her legacy of dedication, compassion, and unwavering support for veterans and their respective stories stands as a beacon of inspiration. Her journey, marked by perseverance and continuous growth, has left an indelible mark on the lives she has touched. As we bid farewell to a remarkable career, let us remember the profound impact that one individual can have on the lives of many, and let us honor Mary Jordan Church's legacy by continuing to uplift and support our veteran community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in extending our deepest gratitude and best wishes to Mary as she embarks on this new chapter of her life. Her contributions will forever resonate within the halls of the Veterans' Administration and in the hearts of those who have had the privilege of working alongside her.

HONORING LIEUTENANT WESLEY
W. WILLIAMS AND PRIVATE JOSEPH
PESIN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to solemnly honor two gallant Veterans, Lieutenant Wesley W. Williams and Private Joseph Pesin. Lt. Williams and Pvt. Pesin are to be recognized for their acts of gallantry during World War II at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Veterans Day ceremony on November 13, 2024.

On the day after the December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor attack, 56 members of the UCLA Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity met and voted unanimously to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Among those 56 men who enlisted, seven men including Lt. Williams, never returned home. Lt. Williams was listed as Missing In Action.

On April 5, 1945, a French Prisoner of War (POW), Pvt. Joseph Pesin wrote to the International Red Cross about a highly decorated, badly wounded American soldier who died in captivity in a German Prison Camp—Stalag IX. Pvt. Pesin described how this American soldier spoke about his college sweetheart, Patricia Lampton, a member of the UCLA Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, and the unborn child the couple were expecting. Pvt. Pesin stated that Lt. Williams' remains were buried in an unmarked grave outside the prison camp.

Before Lt. Williams lost his life, he exhibited bravery and fearless leadership during combat. While his platoon was under attack, Lt. Williams left his covered position to aid in the evacuation of the wounded and directed the withdrawal of his platoon. The soldiers that Lt. Williams saved in his platoon later liberated Dora-Nordhausen Concentration Camp.

At the UCLA Veterans Day ceremony, Lt. Williams' daughter, Diana Joyce (Williams) Klopfenstein, will receive the Flag of our grateful Country and her father's missing declassified Silver Star Commendation for Valor in Combat. Appearing with Diana is the only child of Pvt. Pesin, Madame Thérèse Mauclair. Pvt. Pesin's compassionate act brought comfort to the lives of 21 families of

Allied soldiers buried in unmarked graves outside the prison camp.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in remembering these two brave men, Lt. Wesley W. Williams and French Private Joseph Pesin, for their heroic actions during World War II.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO KATHLEEN TRAPENASSO

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 Kathleen Trapenasso, 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. Kathleen has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In her actions to raise awareness and funds to defeat ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Kathleen has not only served our community, but also transformed the lives of those around her. Kathleen unbelievably lost her husband, son, and two daughters to ALS in the span of just 30 months. Yet despite her heartbreaking personal losses, Kathleen has chosen to use her formidable strength to champion the cause of ALS research. She has worked to spread awareness and raise funds to defeat ALS through her team, Pat's Posse, named in memory of her husband and son who shared the name. It is constituents like Kathleen that strengthen the fabric of our district and prove that when driven by purpose, compassion, and a resolute 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 Kathleen that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Her 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 Kathleen not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Kathleen for her 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 her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

RECOGNIZING ALLYSON RENEAU

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Allyson Reneau, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Allyson Reneau is an international space consultant, successful business owner, coach of Olympic hopefuls in the sport of gymnastics, and the mother of 11 biological children. Allyson graduated *summa cum laude* from Harvard with her master's degree in international relations with a focus on NASA and the U.S. Space Program. She was nominated in 2019 by her professor as Harvard's Emerging Leader of the Year.

Allyson attended the NASA-sponsored International Space University and was asked to teach space entrepreneurship for ISU for several years. She has held internships at NASA Headquarters in Washington D.C., the FAA Commercial Spaceflight Office, and the U.S. Naval War College. Her award-winning Harvard thesis was published as a book and became the No. 1 new release on Amazon. It has been referred to as a framework for current U.S. Space Policy on NASA's return to the moon.

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Allyson is in high demand internationally to advise space-emerging nations on the importance of a national space program, speaking with country presidents, as well as members of their cabinets. She has been featured on radio programs and television networks, including NBC's Today Show, ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX, and in countless magazines and newspapers around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS WITH
GEORGE MARK CHILDREN'S HOUSE**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I recognize George Mark Children's House, which will soon celebrate 20 years of supporting families and providing exceptional care for thousands of children with severe medical conditions.

George Mark Children's House (George Mark) was established in 1995 in San Leandro, California, as the country's first free-standing respite home for children. It was founded by Dr. Kathleen Nicholson Hull, who was inspired by the profound personal loss of her two brothers, George and Mark, to create a place where children and their families could receive comprehensive, compassionate care in a home-like environment.

George Mark is a model of compassionate care for children and young adults, provided in a fully furnished and comfortable facility. As the pioneer in the United States for providing

pediatric palliative care in a residential locale, George Mark has led the way for additional homes to adopt their comprehensive approach to caring for children with serious medical concerns.

In 1999, the George Mark team broke ground, and with the support of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the late Wilma Chan, the county secured and leased the land for \$1.00 a year. For two decades George Mark has helped to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and their families. George Mark's dedicated interdisciplinary team provides around-the-clock critical care and create an environment where their patients can still experience much of their childhood and make lasting memories with their families. George Mark prioritizes enrichment and finds ways to spark fun and joy for the families in their care.

For the past 20 years, George Mark and Dr. Hull have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence in providing children with exceptional, loving, palliative care. I join the past and present teams of George Mark in celebrating the legacy they've created and wish them many more productive years to come.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
AND YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE OF PARKLAND COMMIS-
SIONERS BOB MAYERSOHN AND
KEN CUTLER**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the distinguished careers and retirements of two exceptional public servants from Parkland, Florida: Commissioner Bob Mayersohn and Commissioner Ken Cutler. Together, they have dedicated years of service to improving the lives of Parkland's residents and have left an indelible mark on the community.

Commissioner Bob Mayersohn was elected to the Parkland City Commission in 2016. Before being elected to office, he served as the Parkland Education Advisory Board Chair and a Planning and Zoning Advisory Board member. He also served as the President and has continued to be a board member since the inception in 2002 of the beloved Parkland Buddy Sports program. Bob played an instrumental role in the start of this successful program that continued to focus on children and young adults with special needs and volunteer opportunities for teens in the city. In addition to a list of his involvement in community services, he was the President of the Broward League of Cities, working with 31 cities and municipalities throughout the county to resolve problems affecting day-to-day municipal operations, including county, state, and federal legislation. Commissioner Mayersohn's vision and compassion will be felt in Parkland for generations, and his retirement marks the conclusion of a career defined by integrity and service.

Commissioner Ken Cutler was elected to the Parkland Commission in 2016. Years prior, he began his activism by joining the Parkland Friends of the Library and encouraged the Commission to build a new library in the city.

His devotion to the Library Building Committee was instrumental in moving to the new library building and expanding through the "Pave the Way to Reading" program, which led to the beautiful library we have today. Ken also led diverse community partnership programs with the Parkland Historical Society, which later brought the history of Parkland to light. His research discovered more about "Holmberg" of Parkland's Holmberg Road and recovered artifacts taken from Parkland's Margate Blount Archaeological Site, which brought the city's history back to the community. He distinguishably served Parkland, consistently demonstrating a commitment to transparency, fairness, and civic engagement. Commissioner Cutler's leadership will be greatly missed, but his legacy of thoughtful governance will always endure.

Together, Commissioners Mayersohn and Cutler have been dedicated leaders committed to enhancing the quality of life in Parkland through their tireless work on public safety, education, and community well-being. Their leadership was especially critical in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy, where they worked diligently to support the community and advocate for more robust safety measures and mental health awareness. Both Commissioners have dedicated countless hours to making Parkland a safer and more vibrant community. Their retirements mark the end of two illustrious careers in public service, and their contributions will continue to inspire future generations of civic leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Commissioners Bob Mayersohn and Ken Cutler on their well-deserved retirements and expressing our deepest gratitude for their many years of exemplary service. We wish them and their families all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 FAIRFAX'S
FINEST VALOR AWARDS RECIPI-
ENTS**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Fairfax. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe.

This year's ceremony will present awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Unit Citation Award, Individual Lifesaving Award, Unit Lifesaving Award, Silver Citizen Award, and Gold Citizen Award.

It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

Unit Citation Award: Swiftwater 433; Captain John Jeniec, Lieutenant Scott Trotman, Master Technician Chris Cubbage, and Master Firefighter Derek Slusher.