

projects. and at the Gaffney hospital. He served at the Peach Festival and played a large role in ensuring that the great city of Gaffney was celebrated each year.

BooBoo coached football at Gaffney High School for over 20 years. He was referred to as the "Get Back Coach" and was beloved by coaches and players alike. He also volunteered for the Blacksburg Middle School girl's basketball team and sponsored a wrestling event for the middle school.

BooBoo wore many different hats. He was a God-fearing man, a leader, friend, son, and coach. He served in each of these roles with kindness and joy. He will be deeply missed. Please join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to BooBoo.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: CHRISTINE ELBERSON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 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 I recognize Christine Elbersen, 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. Christine Elbersen has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

For the past seventeen years, Christine has taught tenth-grade social studies at Bensalem High School and has made it her mission to enrich her students' lives beyond the classroom. Known for her uncanny ability to develop meaningful relationships, Chrissy has mastered the balance of truly caring for her students while letting them know the importance of accountability. In her classroom, she instills confidence, inspires curiosity, provides enriching guidance, and challenges her students to seize every opportunity with a positive and joyful attitude. As her colleague Elena Toselli put it, "Christine is the teacher kids come back and visit time after time—she's one of those teachers who students will remember years from now because she made them feel valued and shaped who they were." Christine's efforts earned her the prestigious title of Bensalem's 2024 Teacher of the Year, a meaningful distinction voted upon by her peers, staff, and students. Christine demonstrates that it is teachers who are the architects of dreams, propelling our next generation of leaders toward success and greatness.

It is the work of individuals like Christine Elbersen that reminds us of the power of the human spirit. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual dedication can

ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Christine Elbersen 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 Christine Elbersen 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.

FLORIDA'S 16TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a group of veterans for their military and community service.

Our veterans have sacrificed much in the defense of our Nation. Many of them retired their uniforms but continue their service by helping others in their community.

Three years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Veteran Commendation to recognize the heroic wartime sacrifices and admirable peacetime community involvement of my constituents. These are exceptional Americans. I appreciate the opportunity to honor them for their service to the Nation and community.

An independent panel reviewed several nominations and chose the following thirty veterans for their wartime and post-military service:

Angel Alvarez of Riverview who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam and Gulf Wars

Angelo Barnello Sr. of Riverview who served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II

Stephen Browning of Apollo Beach who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War

Delford Connell of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II

Geoffrey Cordes of Bradenton who served in the U.S. Army during the Gulf War

Angel Davila Lopez of Lithia who served in the U.S. Army during the Gulf War

Harry Demeza of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during World War II

Jerry Estes of Wimauma who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War

Brenda Gaines of Bradenton who served in the U.S. Army outside of war times

Jeffrey Gaines of Bradenton who served in the U.S. Army during the Gulf War

Lloyd Grable of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during World War II

Dwain Hannah of Brandon who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War

William Hodges of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Air Force outside of war times

Carl Hunsinger of Palmetto who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Gulf War

Bruce Johnson of Valrico who served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War

William Kirkpatrick of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam and Gulf Wars

Jim Klocke of Bradenton who served in the U.S. Coast Guard during the Vietnam War

Maurice Lanouette of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during World War II

Robert Marasco of Valrico who served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Gulf War

Thomas Moncrief of Apollo Beach who served in the U.S. Air Force outside of war times

Joseph Muhlberger of Valrico who served in the U.S. Air Force outside of war times

Jerry Neff of Bradenton who served in the U.S. Army outside of war times

Sean Powers of Bradenton who served in the U.S. Marine Corps outside of war times

Robert Putnam of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War

Thomas Reichard of Valrico who served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Gulf War and outside of war times

Gill Ruderman of Bradenton who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War

Milton Shattuck of Bradenton who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars

Vincent Spanicciati of Lakewood Ranch who served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War

George Tamburello of Wimauma who served in the U.S. Army during World War II

Lonnie Vona of Valrico who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam and Gulf Wars and outside of war times

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY
KATHRYN PITMAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Mary Kathryn Pitman, a pioneering figure in the agricultural industry and a woman whose contributions have left an indelible mark on her community and beyond. With heavy hearts, we mourn the loss of Mary Pitman, who passed away on April 5, 2023, at the age of 72, leaving behind a profound impact on the world of organic poultry farming.

Mary Kathryn (Abbott) Pitman was born on February 16, 1951, in Hanford, California, to James Edward Abbott and Mary Imogene Staires. Her early years were shaped by a nurturing family environment, which instilled in her the values of hard work, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. After graduating from Hanford High School in 1969, Mary pursued her passion for education at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in early childhood education.

In 1973, she began her journey as the devoted wife of Richard Pitman, the son of Don Pitman, the founder of Pitman Family Farms. Their love story and shared vision for the future of the family business led to a union that would span nearly 50 years, as well as an extraordinary partnership in transforming the poultry industry.

Pitman Family Farms, established in 1954 by her father-in-law, Don Pitman, started as a

free-range chicken and turkey operation. Mary's husband, Richard Pitman, continued the family legacy, but the business faced challenges in finding markets outside the holiday seasons when turkeys were in high demand. In the late 1990s, Mary's son, David, attending her alma mater, proposed expanding the product line to include chickens alongside turkeys. Mary embraced the idea wholeheartedly and collaborated with her family to establish the organic label, "Mary's Chickens" and "Mary's Turkeys."

Mary was not only instrumental in expanding the family business but also played an essential role in shaping its core values. With a deep understanding of nutrition and a commitment to healthy living, she influenced the creation of the organic label, ensuring that the poultry products met stringent nutrition guidelines. Her passion for health and wellness stemmed from her own experiences and led her to advocate for avoiding sugars, preservatives, and food additives.

Under her guidance, Pitman Family Farms thrived and garnered recognition for its premium quality, free-range and organic poultry products. The family's dedication and Mary's innovative vision led to successful partnerships with renowned brands like Whole Foods, further expanding the reach and impact of their business.

Beyond her invaluable contributions to the poultry industry, Mary was an active member of her community and a devout follower of her faith. Her generosity and compassion touched the lives of many, as she selflessly supported various charitable causes and extended her kindness to those in need.

Mary is survived by her loving husband, Richard, and their three sons, David, Mark, and Benjamin, along with their wives. She cherished her role as a grandmother, leaving behind a legacy of ten adoring grandchildren who were the joy of her life.

As we honor the memory of Mary Kathryn Pitman, we reflect on the profound impact she had on the agricultural industry and her community. Her spirit of innovation, dedication to healthy living, and unwavering commitment to family and faith will continue to inspire generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mary Kathryn Pitman. May her memory be a beacon of hope and inspiration, guiding us to uphold the values she so passionately embraced.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I was present on the House floor during this vote series, but I was focused on discussing policy with leadership staff and unfortunately missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 433 (H.R. 3724).

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: JANET BRENNAN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 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 Janet Brennan, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolade 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. Janet Brennan has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

Over the past decade, Janet has made it her mission to better the lives of our local veteran community through her non-profit organization, Shamrock Reins, based in Pipersville. From a young age, Janet quickly discovered the unique ability of horses to connect with humans and their capacity to provide healing and comfort to those in need. Following a long career as an Emergency Department Trauma/Clinical Nurse, Janet sought a way to give back to those who sacrificed so much by stepping up to serve our community and country. And so, in 2014, she combined her love for horses and her desire to give back and founded Shamrock Reins. Today, Shamrock Reins helps our veterans, active duty and reserve service members, first responders, and the families of our fallen heroes take back the reins against PTSD and more. Through innovative equine therapy, our heroes and their families learn vital skills needed to assimilate back into civilian life, how to manage post-traumatic stress disorders, and receive therapy that heals both mental and physical injuries, at entirely no cost to them. Thanks to Janet, Shamrock Reins has become a beacon of hope that offers life-changing experiences for the heroes in our community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Janet Brennan 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 Janet Brennan not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Janet that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Her actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures, but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. She embodies 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 Janet Brennan 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.

HONORING MR. JOSEPH SCIAME ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the dedicated service of Joseph Sciamé, who retired in January after an extraordinary 61-year career at St. John's University in Queens, New York. Beginning as an undergraduate student in 1958, then as an employee in 1962, Joe devoted his life in service of the St. John's community. He leaves behind a legacy that will endure many lifetimes over.

Over the course of his six-decade career, Joe held numerous leadership positions in the university administration, including as the Vice President for the Office of Community Relations and, most notably, as the inaugural Vice President for Financial Aid. He has also previously served as the Chairman of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. In these roles, Joe has expanded opportunities for students of all socioeconomic backgrounds to receive a world-class education. Having personally awarded millions of dollars in financial aid to thousands of students, many of whom would otherwise not have access to a college education, Joe's impact has been nothing short of life changing for so many.

In addition to his lifelong devotion to the St. John's community, Joe served our country in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1967, and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. I speak for a grateful Nation in thanking him for his courageous service.

As the Advisory Board Chair of the Italian Cultural Center and a National/State President Emeritus of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, Joe has been a proud champion for the Italian-American community and a devoted leader in the Catholic community for his entire life.

Joe's remarkable leadership and boundless empathy will continue to inspire all those who were lucky enough to call him a mentor. He is the type of once-in-a-lifetime academic administrator that a student dreams of meeting, that a parent wishes for their child to encounter, and that a colleague strives to emulate. Thanks to his lifetime of work, Joe has left the Queens community, our country, and the world a better place than he found it.

Earlier this year, Joe was awarded the St. John's University Medal of Honor, which is the highest honor the university can bestow upon an alumnus—a fitting and well-earned accomplishment.

"I hope it's been a life well lived," he remarked earlier this year. Well, Joe, it certainly