

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

has. On behalf of our entire community, I thank Joe for his lifetime of service.

RECOGNIZING POMONA DEPUTY
CHIEF OF POLICE CHRISTIAN HSU

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christian Hsu and his 30 years of public service and dedication to the City of Pomona. The calling to be a police officer is an incredibly selfless and important vocation of public service. Those who risk their lives for the good of the community are worthy of the highest respect and appreciation.

Deputy Chief Hsu joined the Pomona Police Department in 1994 after graduating from the University of California, Irvine, where he worked several years at its campus police department. He also interned at the Laguna Beach Police Department. Throughout his distinguished career, Chief Hsu served as Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain. He was appointed as Deputy Chief in May of 2020. In that role, he assisted the Chief of Police in the day-to-day operation of the department.

Additionally, Chief Hsu holds Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory and Management POST certificates. He has also attended many distinguished trainings including the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute, LAPD Leadership Program, California Police Chiefs' Executive Leadership Institute, POST Command College, and POST Executive Development.

This November, Chief Hsu is officially retiring. I hope that he gets to rest and enjoy time with his family. We are grateful for his service to our community.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Chief of Police Christian Hsu. His years of civic service and commitment to the city and the people of Pomona are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE CAREER OF KERRI
L. DONIS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Chief Kerri L. Donis for 27 years of her fearless leadership and courageous service to the Fresno Fire Department.

Born and raised in Moline, Illinois, Kerri First came to the Central Valley on a scholarship to play softball at Fresno State, where her leadership abilities were first realized. While pursuing her bachelor's degree in exercise science, Kerri also led the Bulldogs to three runner-up finishes in the Women's Softball College World Series from 1987 to 1990. For her efforts, Kerri was named a Top Dog Alumna by the Fresno State Alumni Association in 2008.

Following her collegiate success, Mrs. Donis became a fitness trainer where one of her clients happened to be the wife of the deputy

chief of the Fresno Fire Department at the time and first sparked the idea for her to become a firefighter, based on its similarities to sports. Not long after, Kerri answered the call to serve and was hired as a firefighter for the City of Fresno in 1996. She held this position for 4 years before swiftly being promoted up the ranks to Firefighter Specialist in 2000, Fire Captain in 2001, and Deputy Chief in 2004. Throughout these positions, Kerri served various divisions of the department, including Fire Prevention, Fire Investigations, and Operations.

It then wasn't until 2013 that the position of Interim Fire Chief presented itself to Mrs. Donis. Not long after, in January 2014, she accepted the permanent position of Fire Chief, making herself the first woman to hold the position in the department's 145-year history. Unprecedented, Kerri proved to be a leader of men and an inspiration to women in a profession where women make up only 4 percent of the nationwide force.

As acting Chief of the Fresno Fire Department, Kerri L. Donis proudly served the greater Fresno community and continues to support diversity and equal opportunity throughout the City of Fresno Fire Department. In effort to do so, she created the Girls Empowerment Camp (GEC), which introduces fire service careers to young women and provides them with hands-on training from local, active-duty firefighters. Additionally, Chief Donis has also worked tirelessly to fundraise for other Fresno Fire Chief Foundation programs that provide support for burn victims, promote safety for children, and provide education and resources for firefighters.

Throughout her career, Chief Donis has earned numerous distinctions such as holding a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and becoming a credentialed California State Fire Marshal Chief Officer, Chief Fire Officer (CFO), and Executive Fire Officer (EFO). Under her leadership, the Department has grown to 327 sworn firefighting personnel, 26 sworn nonsafety personnel, and 49 civilian positions for a total of 402 FFD members today. However, Chief Donis will be remembered most for her selfless acts and consistently putting the safety of her firefighters and community above all else.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Kerri Donis for her retirement. May we continue to be inspired by her service.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: HEERA KALIDINDI

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 Heera Kalidindi, 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 un-

wavering 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. Heera has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

A rising leader, Heera has devoted her time and talents to numerous initiatives, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to service and excellence. From serving as a leader for Youth 4 Unity to her service as a member of Girl Scout Troop 21638, President of the UNICEF Club, and Lead Volunteer for Central Bucks Cares Volunteer Teens, Heera's leadership shines across various platforms. While interning in my office, Heera immersed herself in the Service Academy Nominations process, which sparked her passion and led to my great honor of nominating her to both the United States Naval Academy and the United States Military Academy at West Point. This fall, she officially began her service as a Cadet at West Point, embarking on a journey to serve our Nation with distinction. Most recently, Heera premiered her powerful short documentary, "Veterans Voices: Female-Veterans Through History," a poignant tribute to the courageous women who have worn our Nation's uniform. Heera's journey is just beginning, and her impact already reverberates throughout our community. She is an inspiring example of leadership, dedication, and the power of service—setting a high standard for all who aspire to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Heera Kalidindi 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 Heera 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 FRED WALSH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Fred Walsh. Born on February 4, 1949, to parents Helen and John Walsh, Fred was raised in Arlington, Massachusetts, alongside his sisters, Susan and Judith, and his twin brother, John. After graduating from Arlington High School in 1967, Fred went on to receive his bachelor's degree in history from the University of New Hampshire and his master's degree in school counseling from Suffolk University. Following in his father's footsteps, Fred taught and coached