

doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Joe has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

For over five decades, Joe has been a cornerstone of our community. As a respected funeral director and a relentless advocate for local veterans, he has been a beacon of light, a guardian of dignity, and a true pillar of support for those who have served our Nation. Joe's commitment to our community began when he and his wife, Christine, opened the Joseph A. Fluehr III Funeral Home in Richboro in 1976. From the outset, their funeral home was more than a place of professional care; it became a sanctuary where families found genuine compassion and solace during their most challenging times.

Joe's impact on our community extends far beyond his professional life, and his leadership has had a transformative impact on several community institutions and organizations. For over a decade, Joe served on the Board of Trustees for St. Mary Medical Center, leading as Chairman for nine of those years. Under his stewardship, St. Mary's grew into a regional hub of care, expanding its footprint, staffing, and services to become a Level II Trauma Center. In addition, Joe serves our community as a member of the Northampton Township Volunteer Fire Department, Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad Advisory Board, the Council Rock Kiwanis Invitational, Northampton Township Historical Society, and Northampton Township Business and Professional Association, where he received the recognition of "Businessman of the Year"—a truly fitting honor for someone who has done so much for our community.

Yet, perhaps Joe's most profound impact has been his unwavering advocacy for our community's veterans. From his pivotal role in establishing the Washington Crossing National Cemetery to his quiet acts of generosity personally providing urns, nameplates, and even services for our unclaimed veterans, Joe's profound contributions have ensured that the service and sacrifices of our hero veterans are honored, celebrated, and remembered for generations to come.

Joe's life is a shining example of what it means to serve others with humility and grace, consistently putting others before himself. Through kindness, compassion, and unwavering commitment to serving others, Joe has shown us all what it means to live a life of purpose, to give without expecting anything in return, and to leave the world better than we found it. Today, we honor Joseph A. Fluehr, III not just for his remarkable deeds but for who he is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

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

HONORING WILLIAM ROBERTSON WAINWRIGHT'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor and celebrate Mr. William Robertson Wainwright of Salisbury, Maryland as he approaches his 100th birthday on November 21st.

Born in 1924, Mr. Wainwright honorably served in the United States Army during World War II from 1943 until 1946.

It is a distinct privilege to recognize Mr. Wainwright on his upcoming 100th birthday and celebrate this wonderful milestone. On behalf of Maryland's First Congressional District, I wish Mr. Wainwright a very happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING OHIO NATIONAL GUARD COMPANY B, 3RD BATTALION, 238TH AVIATION REGIMENT BEING NAMED OHIO'S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Ohio National Guard Company B, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment from Green as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Hurricane Helene caused serious flooding and damage across Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia, which left roads underwater, basements flooded, wires down, people trapped in their cars in flooded areas, and people stranded in their homes.

Ohio National Guard Company B, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment answered the call to assist. These brave men and women navigated through flooded North Carolina streets to assist people stranded in their homes and cars.

Ohio's 13th Congressional District is made up of champions who work hard and don't hesitate to lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need. The unwavering and selfless work of these service members in the wake of Hurricane Helene is a shining example of why our district is known as the "Birthplace of Champions."

I thank the members of the Ohio National Guard Company B, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment for their collaboration, bravery, and service in the aftermath of this hurricane, and for dedicating their lives each and every day to protect our community and country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA ANN "PATTY" SIMONIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Patricia Ann "Patty"

Simonian, who passed away at age 80 on March 11, 2023. Patty was mother, friend, and member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Patty was a godmother to me. She was known for the many contributions she made in the community throughout her life.

Patty was born on May 4, 1942, to John and Mary Costa in Merced, California. She went to Central Union High School and met the love of her life, Pete Simonian. Ten years later, they married on August 26, 1961. They started a farm of vegetables. Their children Talbert, Nanette, and Peter J. would help on the farm planting prunes that they grew organically until 2011 when Patty decided to sell the farm to family members.

During her life, Patty was very involved in the community and with her family. She was a FFA Mom, CUHS Band Mom, president of the POMS for 2 years, 4H leader in different capacities, Fresno County President for 7 years, and more. She was an active member for her church, St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Patty and Pete decided to renew their vows on their 40th Anniversary at the church.

Patty enjoyed being with her husband, and they both participated in the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California. Patty would participate in different groups for her children. She joined the Blue Star Moms because of her son, Peter's service in the United States Navy, and would support her daughter Nanette with the Central Valley CWA.

Her love for family was evident. Patty enjoyed being around her grandchildren and never denied babysitting them. The time she spent with family and friends was something to cherish every chance she had.

During her time at Paintbrush Assisted Living and Memory Care, her joy radiated as the greeter, and she spent her time in the community garden. Patty was precise on the crops she planted and would make sure to inform the residents it was time to pick them.

Patty was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary Costa, and her husband, Pete Simonian.

Patty is survived by her son Talbert, her daughter Nanette, her son Peter J. and wife Toni, grandchildren: Matthew, Kylie, Jerad, Cassidy, and Caydin. She is survived by her brother Kenneth Costa and brother-in-law Scott, sister Johnell Costa Wilt, and brother-in-law Dennis. Patty is also survived by neighboring cousins Bette O'Sullivan and Jim Costa, along with her nieces, nephews, and many cousins.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Patricia Ann "Patty" Simonian. May she be remembered as the pure joy of her life for all who knew her.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: JOSEPH D'EMIDIO

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 Joseph

D'Emidio, 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. Joseph D'Emidio has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

Over the last century, Joe has demonstrated the selfless service, dedication, integrity, and patriotism that have defined the greatest generation. As the world plunged into war, at just nineteen years old, Joe answered the call of duty, enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and soon found himself on the shores of England, preparing for one of the most pivotal moments in history: the D-Day invasion. His role aboard an LST, landing on the shores of Normandy, helped turn the tide in favor of the Allied forces and secure the freedom we cherish today. But his extraordinary service did not stop there; Joe went on to play a critical role in supporting the Allied forces during the Battle of the Bulge, standing firm in the face of overwhelming adversity.

Following the war, Joe returned home to his beloved Bristol Borough community, where he continued to seek ways to serve and make a difference. As a founding member of the Third District Volunteer Fire Company (and their very first Captain), Joe helped establish a legacy of protection and care that still serves Bristol today. He also founded Cameo Kitchens, a successful family-run business on Mill Street for decades, thereby shaping the future of Bristol's thriving small business community. In addition, Joe has been an integral member of the Bristol Borough Lions Club for over fifty years, where he has served his community with the same passion and spirit with which he defended our Nation and freedom.

At 100 years old, Joe continues to serve as an inspiration to us all. Whether woodworking at the Bristol Borough Senior Citizen Center or serving as a communicant at St. Ann's Catholic Church, he is a reminder that true greatness lies in selflessness, service, and love for family, faith, community, and country. Today, we honor Joseph D'Emidio not just for his remarkable deeds, but for who he is—a true hero, in every sense of the word.

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

THANKING ERNEST WADE BALLOU
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ernest Wade

Ballou on his retirement as House Legislative Counsel, after over forty years of service to the House of Representatives.

Wade joined the Office of Legislative Counsel after earning his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1983. Throughout his tenure Wade has provided nonpartisan, expert support to members of Congress, committees, and staff on matters related to foreign affairs, Native American issues, federal land, intelligence, veterans' affairs, federal tax law, public debt, health care, Social Security, and more. I am pleased to have worked with Wade in his capacity supporting the Committee on House Administration.

Since 2016, Wade has served as the House Legislative Counsel, leading the office and managing a committed team of legislative experts to provide the House with impartial and confidential drafting and counseling services for bills, amendments, resolutions, and laws. Wade has also been a key partner on the Congressional Data Task Force, a group united in their efforts to modernize and improve data accessibility for the public. He played a critical role in developing the Comparative Print Suite tool for Members and staff and has worked closely with the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, as well as the Subcommittee on Modernization, to implement innovative ideas and recommendations that will help Congress work better for the American people. Wade's many accomplishments were recently recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation's Democracy Award for Lifetime Achievement. Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that before going to law school and joining the Office of Legislative Counsel, Wade was a fire fighter, an experience that likely prepared him well for a career in the House.

Wade began his career serving under the fourth House Legislative Counsel and now he leaves as the eighth House Legislative Counsel. His expertise and dedication to helping us turn our policy ideas into concise legislative text will be sorely missed. On behalf of my colleagues and the entire House community, I thank him for his leadership and longstanding commitment to serving the People's House.

RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF
NYPENN PATHWAYS ON THE
12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF THE GIRL

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aarohi Rastogi, Mia Enders, and Rayna Reed, three Girl Scouts from Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, for demonstrating extraordinary leadership at the 11th Annual Girls Speak Out in commemoration of International Day of the Girl on October 11, 2024, at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York, NY.

International Day of the Girl is an annual and internationally recognized observance on October 11 which acknowledges the importance, power, and potential of adolescent girls. This year's theme, 'Girls' vision for the future', conveys the need for urgent action and persistent hope, driven by the power of girls'

voices and vision for the future. With the right support, resources and opportunities, the potential of the world's more than 1.1 billion girls is limitless. And when girls lead, the impact is immediate and wide reaching: families and communities are all stronger, our future brighter.

Co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Canada, Peru, and Turkey, UN Women, UNICEF, and UNFPA, the 11th Annual Girls Speak Out for International Day of the Girl Child called for a push for accountability for girls' rights and investment in girls' leadership and vision for their futures. This year's Girls' Speak Out at UNHQ provided an opportunity for girls to hold direct dialogue with Member States and UN Agencies through a girl-led town hall discussion, followed by a Girls' Action conference, hosted by girls, for girls.

Aarohi, Mia, and Rayna were selected to not only participate as Girl Activists but also as moderators for the town hall to engage with policymakers and emphasize the importance of girls in bringing change to their peers and communities, and facilitators for the Girls' Action conference learning labs.

In their roles as Girl Activists, Aarohi and Rayna shared the work they have done in pursuit of the prestigious Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

For Aarohi, the Gold Award is an opportunity to create and deliver a comprehensive mental health education program for 7th–12th grade students in India. Inspired by her family members and peers in India, Aarohi collaborated with NGOs and mental health experts from around the world to create a curriculum covering topics such as stigma, stress and anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention.

For Rayna, the Gold Award is an opportunity to establish a peer mentoring program with three of her friends, including Mia, and her school's Assistant Principal to mitigate learning loss and the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. With the launch of the Middle School Mentor Program, Rayna and her peers seek to build community and increase access to free tutoring and mentorship programs at their school.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of New York's 22nd Congressional District, I thank these three outstanding young women for their leadership and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: BILL RIDLER

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 Bill Ridler as 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