

This emergency situation called for bravery and sacrifice. Deputy May answered that call in the face of this unprecedented hurricane, knowing full well that his life would be endangered.

Deputy May's outstanding service to the Craig County Sheriff's Office and the people of Craig County is commended by the Craig County Board of Supervisors, who value the "indispensable role of all law enforcement officers, firefighters, rescue squads, and medical responders" to protect their community.

Craig County first responders have a dedicated serviceman among their ranks. Deputy May's story is a model of sacrifice and service that inspires his colleagues and community.

As a locality of roughly 5,000 people in a mountainous area of Virginia, Craig County residents can be assured that their security and well-being are considered essential, thanks to first responders like Deputy May.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: LAYLA PECK

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 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 Layla Peck, 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. Layla has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

As a first grader at St. Andrews Catholic Elementary School, after listening to the Monsignor from her Parish discuss the importance and impact of doing good deeds for others, Layla embarked on a mission to find the perfect gesture to honor her friend, World War II Navy Veteran Joseph Gagliardi. Layla enlisted the help of her teacher and classmates to make 100 handmade birthday cards and coordinated with the Newtown Township Police Department, Newtown Fire and Rescue, and Newtown Ambulance Squad to celebrate Joe's 100th birthday with a surprise parade. Despite her young age, Layla's call to service has strengthened the fabric of our district and proves 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 Layla 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

Layla 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 Layla 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 THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRESNO INTERDENOMINATIONAL REFUGEE MINISTRIES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM) for its 30 years of impeccable service to the communities in search of safety and opportunity.

FIRM is a faith-based, nonprofit organization located in the Central Valley, dedicated to serving refugees and individuals seeking a fresh start and new opportunities.

Since its establishment in January 1994 through collaborations with various congregations, FIRM has assisted over 10,000 people from Southeast Asia, Africa, South America, and more than 22 other countries. Their involvement with Church World Service and commitment to refugee assistance began years before their official founding.

Today, FIRM supports over 60,000 residents in Fresno County, focusing on meeting their needs with a range of comprehensive programs in health, education, community building, and youth outreach. These initiatives provide essential resources and drive positive change, benefiting the community and future generations.

FIRM's exceptional service has been recognized with numerous awards, including the 'Outstanding Performance in Community Economic Development and Revitalization,' 'Outstanding Service and Leadership in the Community,' the 'Martin Luther King Community Service Award,' and the 'Vocational Excellence Award,' among other prestigious honors. Their impactful work continues to be supported and valued by the local community.

As we celebrate FIRM's 30th anniversary, I commend their leadership, dedication to the valley, and their role as a vital resource for those striving for a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries. Let us celebrate their legacy and their ongoing commitment to prioritizing the valley's refugees and providing them a safeguard in which they all call "home."

RECOGNIZING THE 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH REPUBLIC DAY AND THE TURKISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 101st Anniversary of Turkish Republic Day and the contributions of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan (TACAM) in strengthening the relationship between Türkiye and the United States. Their steadfast commitment to the improvement of the humanitarian and cultural welfare of the Turkish community both locally and internationally is worthy of commendation.

The founding of the Turkish Republic on October 29, 1923, symbolizes the immense resilience and determination of the Turkish people. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his beliefs in the importance of culture and humanity through the establishment of a progressive, democratic state are representative of the core values of modern-day Türkiye. On this 101st Anniversary of Türkiye Republic Day, we celebrate the continued peace and security of the region and the unified ties between Türkiye and the United States.

Since 1972, the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan has been dedicated to upholding the values of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in their work for Turkish-American communities. They have been a strong voice for the Turkish people, fostering and executing programs that have advanced economic, social, educational, and general welfare for Turkish communities. The leadership they have brought to the state of Michigan, especially its 6th Congressional District, has enriched our communities with Turkish culture, making Michigan a more inclusive and thriving state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the 101st Anniversary of Turkish Republic Day and the contributions of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan in Turkish-American communities. The strong ties between Türkiye and the United States are made possible by the remarkable work of Turkish-American organizations like TACAM and Michigan is proud to be a beneficiary of their efforts. I am excited to see the continued accomplishments of TACAM and Turkish-Americans in Michigan and abroad.

AUSTIN COLLINS' OUTSTANDING
HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, Colorado student Austin Collins from Wray, Colorado is a testament and great example of what driven, community focused students can offer this country. His achievement throughout his high school career in sports, academia, and extra-curricular activities have benefited not only him, but his entire community.

Austin has served in Wray High School's National Honor Society and Student Government, working alongside his peers to create a

strong community and experience for everyone. He has also excelled academically, holding a 4.0 GPA and impressive SAT score.

Athletically, Austin Collins has performed just as exceptionally, placing in national championships year after year in wrestling and earning Football First team All-Conference and All-State Honorable Mention.

In addition to all of this, Austin finds the time to be a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and his local church. He also volunteers as a coach in the Wray youth flag football and wrestling programs and the Wray Library Book Buddies program.

It is my distinct privilege as the United States Representative of the 4th District of Colorado to commend Austin for his hard work and dedication to excellence in every facet of his life. His service to the community of Wray, Colorado is an inspiration of what it means to be leader, and I encourage him to continue pursuing excellence in his future endeavors.

HONORING TAWNY TESCONI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tawny Tesconi, an esteemed member of our farming community, who has been named the 2024 Friend of Agriculture by the Napa County Farm Bureau. This recognition highlights her outstanding service in support of the Napa County agricultural community.

Ms. Tesconi was born in Santa Rosa, California, in 1961. Growing up on a small family farm in West Sonoma County, she expressed her love for agriculture through her involvement in Future Farmers of America and the 4-H Youth Development Program. Ms. Tesconi earned a degree in Agricultural Economics and Management from the University of California, Davis in 1983. She graduated from the Western Fairs Association Graduate Training Program in 1987. Ms. Tesconi spent the next three decades in fair management in Sonoma County. She continues to live on her family property in Western Sonoma County with her husband.

Throughout her career in Napa and Sonoma Counties, Ms. Tesconi committed herself to serving the community. She has served as a president and a board member of the Petaluma Rotary Club. Ms. Tesconi has also served on the board of the Friends of the Sonoma-Marin Fair. Since her retirement as a fair manager, Ms. Tesconi returned to leadership in her role as Interim Executive Director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau from 2017 to 2022. Most recently, she has played an important role in the Napa County farming community as Interim CEO of the Napa County Farm Bureau.

Her collaboration with others and passionate commitment to farming served the Napa County agricultural community well. Her contributions and dedication to agricultural causes has helped our farming communities to prosper.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Tesconi for her service to the Napa County Farm Bureau and her dedication to the farming community

throughout California. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO MATT DECESARE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 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 Matt DeCesare, 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. Matt DeCesare has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In a remarkable display of heroism, what began as an ordinary day for Matt, turned into a miraculous and life-saving rescue mission, when a fellow Hatfield community member collapsed to the ground. Although some may have continued driving past, without hesitation, Matt knew he would do everything in his power to help his fellow community member. Matt pulled over to the side of the road, quickly called 911, and performed CPR until paramedics arrived, serving a vital role in saving a life. Constituents like Matt 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 Matt DeCesare 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 Matt DeCesare 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 Matt DeCesare that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. His actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures, but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. He 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 Matt DeCesare 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 THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORRIS COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

HON. MIKE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 200th Anniversary of The Morris County Prosecutor's Office, an agency in New Jersey's Eleventh Congressional District, and its outstanding commitment to serving Morris County and improving the quality of life within the community. The Morris County Prosecutor's Office works to protect and uphold the laws of the State of New Jersey and keep our residents safe.

On December 20, 1824, George K. Drake was appointed the first Prosecutor of the Pleas for Morris County, making Morris County one of the first Prosecutor's offices to be established in New Jersey. Since its founding, The Morris County Prosecutor's Office has been dedicated to keeping Morris County safe and a great place to live, work, and raise a family. The Morris County Prosecutor's Office has been able to achieve their mission for two centuries by working with members of the Morris County community and law enforcement agencies.

The Morris County Prosecutor's Office is committed to justice, fairness, crime reduction, working with law enforcement, and attending to the needs of the public. The office leads and supervises chiefs of police and municipal prosecutors, ensuring that their mission is fulfilled throughout the county on a local level.

This year marks the bicentennial anniversary of The Morris County Prosecutor's Office, and I admire their dedication to protecting and serving Morris County. I am grateful for all of their effort and accomplishments that have kept Morris County residents safe and look forward to seeing their continued work.

RECOGNIZING PRIVATE ELIJAH STITES' COMMENDATION BY THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the important work of the Lima Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. On November 6, the chapter will rededicate a historical marker in honor of Private Elijah Stites, Lima's sole veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Elijah Stites was born in Essex, New Jersey, in 1758. During the American Revolution, he fought for the Essex County Militia, serving as color bearer at the Battle of Yorktown. In 1788, he and two of his brothers took part in an expedition along the Ohio River, helping to found the settlement of Columbia (modern-day Cincinnati). Later, he settled in Warren County with his wife, Rhoda, and their fourteen children.