

LISC has helped thousands in our area find good-paying jobs, start businesses, and build brighter futures. When it comes to affordable housing, they haven't just built homes; they've built foundations—places where families feel rooted, children feel safe, and communities can grow and thrive. LISC stands alone in the Houston region as the organization that tackles every facet of affordable housing—from providing training and developing new housing to preserving existing homes, expanding access to homeownership, and leading post-disaster recovery efforts.

And LISC Houston's work is far from finished. As they look to the future, they're setting their sights on new challenges—focusing on digital literacy, place-based development, economic mobility, and climate resilience. They're supporting small businesses, including childcare providers, and empowering emerging housing developers. They're creating pathways to homeownership, lifting up families, and transforming communities with every project.

Mr. Speaker, LISC Houston's legacy reminds us that when we come together, we can build something lasting. It's a vision that speaks to the best of who we are—a belief in the power of community, in lifting each other up, and in making sure that everyone has a fair shot at a better future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating LISC's important milestone and their tremendous impact.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CLEMENTINE PUGH

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the life, legacy, and work of Clementine Pugh, a dear and distinguished friend of my predecessor, The Honorable Charles B. Rangel. As a strong believer in the power of knowledge, she demonstrated the importance of learning and expanding educational opportunities for women and African Americans throughout our great Nation.

On June 20, 2015, at Harlem's historic Riverside Church, family and community gathered to memorialize Clementine's life and contributions to opening our minds to the importance of culture, honesty, and knowledge. On April 11, 1925, Clementine was born to Alberta and Otho High in Raleigh, North Carolina. She attended Shaw University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She began her career as a psychiatric social worker, moving on to becoming a public school teacher and, eventually, a professor at Hunter and Lehman Colleges of the City University of New York.

After 20 years of service at Lehman College, she was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus of Education. She earned a Master of Social Work degree in 1949 from New York's Columbia University and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1982. For her teachings, she was awarded the prestigious title of Professor Emeritus of Education.

Clementine vividly strived for honesty and understanding. She made it her duty to present others with the awareness she ob-

tained. Her tireless effort to engage, enjoy, and educate people touched the hearts of every person she met. A woman ahead of her time, Clementine Pugh tackled the many realms of "isms" including racism, sexism and classism. Her life was devoted to acknowledging and improving how these systems affect African American people. With her remarkable resilience, my predecessor, The Honorable Charles B. Rangel, is proud to have called Clementine and her husband, G. Douglas Pugh, dear and very special friends.

I know that Clementine's legacy will live on for many years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me as we pay tribute to such a treasure to our community. I pledge to continue to carry out her tradition of provoking thought and feeling for all who have lost their way or simply need to be reminded of who we are, what we come from, and how we can overcome any obstacle.

HONORING THE CAREER OF OFFICER GRACIELA SANTILLANO JAMES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Graciela Santillano James for her service and dedication to the community's safety and prosperity.

Graciela graduated from Dos Palos High School in 1992 and earned her bachelor of arts degree from Saint Mary's College of California in 1996. She began her lifelong career after completing the California Highway Patrol Academy in September 2003. Initially serving in the San Jose area, she later transferred to Fresno. Her skills and teamwork were recognized, leading to her promotion to the Central Division Traffic Management Center in April 2009.

She quickly established herself as a respected member of our valley through her unwavering dedication and eagerness to grow. In May 2012, she was chosen for the Central Division El Protector Community Outreach Program, where she engages with the Hispanic community to share information about local events, such as townhall meetings, and to foster trust in law enforcement. She takes great pride in this initiative, describing it as a "service to California."

As a young girl, Graciela aspired to become a California Highway Patrol Officer. She remembers her parents consistently stressing the importance of education, and she was inspired by watching Spanish television with her father. From an early age, she resolutely decided that she wanted to be the "El Protector" of her community.

Her service extends beyond her job as she has demonstrated her involvement with numerous organizations such as El Concilio de Fresno—Cesar Chavez Concilio, who has built fundamental relationships for her programs, Mexican Consulate of both Fresno and Atlanta, Proteus, Inc., the Latino Rotary—Fresno, Holy Cross Center for Women, U.S. Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration and numerous schools in both Madera and Fresno Counties.

Officer Santillano James has been recognized for her extensive accomplishments

among which include holding office as vice-president and scholarship coordinator for the Latino Peace Officers Association—Fresno Chapter, where she is committed to their mission of "honoring family, education, and community through service and mentorship." Additionally, she was appointed vice-chair for Centro La Familia Advocacy Services and recognized as an Outstanding Board Member for her commitment.

Today, we bid farewell and thank Officer Graciela for her service and going above and beyond for her community. Despite her career coming to an end, she continues to represent the Hispanic community as a bilingual and bicultural officer and aims to motivate individuals. As we honor the career of Officer Graciela Santillano James, I commend her for her advocacy and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the career of Officer Graciela Santillano James. Let us celebrate her diligence and devotion to the safety of others and educating her community.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP POLICE CHIEF DAVID METTIN

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 that I recognize Chief David Mettin, 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. Chief Mettin has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In his role as Plumstead Township Police Chief, David Mettin has not only served our community but transformed the lives of those around him. Throughout his remarkable 37-year career, his efforts and contributions have played a pivotal role in safeguarding our community and nurturing the next generation of law enforcement professionals, in which he instills a commitment to upholding excellence. Constituents like Chief Mettin 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 Chief Mettin 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

Chief Mettin not just for their 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 Chief Mettin 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 Chief Mettin 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.

IN PRAISE OF THE IDF'S TRIUMPH OVER TERROR

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the majority of Americans who feel as I do, I commend the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) for ridding the world of one of its most wretched war criminals, Yahya Sinwar.

As the mastermind of October 7th, the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust, Sinwar orchestrated the murder, maiming, mutilation, rape, torture, and abduction of Israelis as well as Americans. The IDF's triumph over Sinwar's reign of terror sends a resounding message to the rest of the world. The fate of the Middle East no longer belongs to the antisemitic wars of the past. It belongs to the Abrahamic peace of the future, a peace forged in the crucible of Israel's formidable fighting force.

The heroes of the IDF have shown Israel to be one of the few liberal democracies willing to fight for liberal democracy and one of the few Western nations willing to fight for Western civilization. May God Bless the IDF. Am Yisrael Chai (The People of Israel Live).

CONGRATULATING THE LA DODGERS AND FREDDIE FREEMAN

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Los Angeles Dodgers for bringing home their eighth World Series title. I am especially proud of first baseman Freddie Freeman, a California-45 native from Fountain Valley, for representing Orange County so well on the national stage and bringing home the World Series MVP award.

Freddie has shown remarkable perseverance in overcoming personal and professional trials, and this tremendous accomplishment is a testament to his work ethic and drive to succeed.

A true Orange County hero, Freddie and this Dodgers team have excelled at the highest level and added to the rich baseball tradition of Southern California. I'm so proud of them for their accomplishments and can not wait to see more championships in the years to come.

HONORING GIUSEPPE ANOIA'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to recognize Mr. Giuseppe Anioa as he approaches his 90th birthday this November.

Born November 19, 1934, Mr. Anioa has been a constituent of Maryland's First Congressional District since he immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1961. He received a degree in civil engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 1970 and worked for Baltimore City for 17 years until his retirement in 2000. Mr. Anioa has been happily married to Phillis, nee D'Adamo, for over 32 years.

It is a distinct privilege to recognize Mr. Anioa on his upcoming 90th birthday and celebrate this wonderful milestone. On behalf of Maryland's First Congressional District, I wish Mr. Anioa a very happy birthday.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOAVES & FISHES COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of Loaves & Fishes Community Services, one of the largest food pantries in Illinois. Founded in 1984 by a group of compassionate members of St. Raphael Catholic Church, this organization began as a small food pantry in a church closet, serving just eight families. Today, 40 years later, Loaves & Fishes provides assistance to over 10,000 individuals each week, including residents of DuPage, Kane, Kendall, and Will Counties.

The success of Loaves & Fishes can be attributed to the collaboration of its dedicated staff and more than 1,000 volunteers, who range from teenagers to seniors nearing 90 years old. Their commitment has been instrumental in ensuring the prosperity of countless families. The extensive volunteer hours contributed over the years have allowed Loaves & Fishes to scale its operations, enabling efficient and cost-effective service at facilities such as the Frank J. Rus & Donald S. Toy Food Market & Resource Center.

Over the years, Loaves & Fishes has expanded its mission beyond addressing food insecurity to include programs that promote self-sufficiency. These initiatives include offering emergency assistance for rent and utilities, help with public benefits, vehicle donations, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), employment readiness support, and the Moving

Up program—a 20-session intensive course designed to help clients identify and overcome barriers to progress.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have Loaves & Fishes Community Services in my district, actively working to alleviate hunger and support our community. I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Mike Havala, the current President and CEO of Loaves & Fishes, along with all the dedicated members of this organization. May it continue to be a beacon of service for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING PA-1's HOMETOWN HERO: MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT LIEUTENANT KENNETH MELLUS

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 that I recognize Lt. Kenneth Mellus, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles of 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. Lt. Mellus has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

For the past thirty-eight years, Lt. Mellus has tirelessly served and protected our community here in Bucks County. Lt. Mellus began his career with the Middletown Township Police Department in 1985, first as a patrol officer before serving eight years as a K-9 handler alongside his faithful partner, K-9 Snowball. Following his promotion to Sergeant in 1995, he was instrumental in the development and implementation of several outstanding and successful community policing initiatives, including the Citizens Police Academy, Neshaminy School District's Adopt-a-Cop program, child fingerprinting/ID programs, K-9 demonstrations, and a series of Crime Prevention seminars. In 2011, he was promoted to Lieutenant and continued to be a driving force of innovation and positive change within the department. His efforts and contributions towards enhancing and improving the department's IT infrastructure resulted in nearly all the technology MTPD utilizes today. From dash cameras and departmental training to a records management and scheduling system, Lt. Mellus's vision and leadership were pivotal in revolutionizing the department's technological landscape and ensuring MTPD had the necessary tools to serve and protect our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Lt. Mellus that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. His actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand