

children. We must keep this program strong and ensure that it is working for all Americans. I stand with America's public employees in their mission to change this program for the better.

CELEBRATING WARREN B. GELMAN'S INDUCTION INTO THE GREATER BUFFALO SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Warren B. Gelman's induction into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame—a fitting tribute to his lifetime of service, leadership, and dedication to the athletic community of Western New York. Mr. Gelman's life is a testament to the power of passion, hard work, and a commitment to others.

As one of the founding members of the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame, Warren has been integral to the organization's growth and success since its inception in 1991. As chair of the Nominating Committee for the Hall of Fame, Warren helped shape its structure, bringing together a group of passionate volunteers who sought to honor the legion's greatest athletes and sports figures. His tireless work over the years has contributed to the Hall of Fame's enduring legacy.

Mr. Gelman's contributions to Buffalo extend far beyond his work with the Hall of Fame. A former three-sport athlete, Warren excelled in soccer, hockey, and baseball before continuing his athletic journey at Yale University. There, he captained both the undefeated 1963–1964 freshman hockey team and the 1966–1967 varsity hockey team, which earned a ranking as the 5th best team in the East.

Mr. Gelman is also a trailblazer for girls' sports in our community. In 1986, recognizing a void in opportunities for female athletes, he founded the Bison Girls Hockey Program, the first of its kind in Western New York. His efforts opened doors for countless young women to compete in hockey at the highest levels.

Today, we celebrate Warren B. Gelman, and his induction to the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame. His contributions to Western New York's sports community, particularly his efforts to elevate the visibility and opportunities for women in athletics, have had a lasting and profound impact on the region. Mr. Gelman's legacy of service, leadership, and dedication will continue to inspire generations of athletes, coaches, and community leaders for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN ATTILIO ERRANTE

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John Errante of Springfield, Missouri, who recently passed away after a three-year battle with cancer. He was 41 years old.

John was an amazing individual. He was self-taught and a member of Mensa. As his long-time friend, Beau, said of him, "He was routinely the smartest man in the room, in a room filled with smart people. He had a way of seeing to the core of a problem, and embracing and implementing solutions no one else would have considered, much less tried."

John loved the arts and was a composer and a concert pianist. As a teenager, he became involved in politics and attended the Leadership Institute here in Washington, DC. While there, our homeland was attacked on September 11th, which had a profound effect on John. This led him to join the U.S. Army where he served in Army Psychological Operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

After leaving the military, John moved to Springfield where he graduated from Missouri State University on the President's List, the university's highest honor reserved for those who receive a 4.0 grade point average or higher. He again became involved in politics, serving as the communications director for his friend Bill's gubernatorial campaign. Ultimately, he became employed as a marketing specialist with MediaCom.

John's life was defined by service . . . to his country, to his neighbors, to his family and friends. He was taken from us too soon and will be greatly missed by his father, Steven Errante, his mother, Arla Collins and a host of friends who loved him. It is my great honor to recognize this remarkable individual, and I am praying for peace, comfort and good memories for his family.

HONORING PHILIP CHRISTOPHER FOR HIS ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF CYPRUS AND HELLENIC ISSUES

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Philip Christopher, a leader and steadfast advocate for freedom and justice for the Cypriot people. For over 50 years, Mr. Christopher has championed the cause of Cyprus, dedicating his life to the struggle for the reunification of Cyprus, the rights of the Cypriot people, and the broader Hellenic community.

Mr. Christopher is the founder and President of the Pancyprian Association of America and the International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus" (PSEKA). Through these organizations, he has tirelessly promoted Cypriot sovereignty and human rights, advocating on behalf of Cyprus and Hellenic issues with passion and dedication. As a refugee, who was forced to flee his beautiful homeland of Kyrenia, Cyprus following the illegal occupation of the island nation by the Turkish military in 1974, no one is more passionate and dedicated to these issues than he is. His efforts have left a lasting impact, as he has worked to ensure that the voice of the Greek Cypriot community is heard in the halls of Congress and across the United States.

Philip Christopher's contributions have not gone unrecognized. He has received numerous honors, including the Republic of Cyprus Medal of Honor, the title of Honorary Mayor of

Kyrenia, and honorary citizenships from multiple Cypriot communities. He was also the first Greek Cypriot to receive the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor in the United States. In 2024, he served as Parade General Chairman of the NYC Greek Independence Day Parade. These awards and recognition are a testament to his exemplary commitment to his community and his invaluable role as a bridge between Cypriot and American interests.

Beyond his advocacy, Mr. Christopher has demonstrated significant achievements as an executive in the telecommunications industry and as a board member of various respected organizations. His dedication to excellence in both his professional and community endeavors is an inspiration.

Today, I commend Philip Christopher for his enduring dedication to Cyprus and the Hellenic community and express gratitude for his tireless efforts to further the cause of justice and freedom. His legacy stands as a beacon of leadership and commitment that strengthens the bonds between Cyprus and the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to vote on November 14, 2024 as I was attending to the medical emergency of a member of my staff.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 461; YEA on Roll Call No. 462; NAY on Roll Call No. 463; and YEA on Roll Call No. 464.

HONORING MARIE FLICKINGER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a long-time pillar of the Southeast Houston community, Marie Flickinger, who passed away on November 11, 2024.

After becoming the first woman elected to the San Jacinto College District Board of Trustees in 1995, Marie served as Chair from 2007 to 2013 and again from 2017 until her retirement on November 4, 2024. She spent these nearly 30 years devoted to ensuring the institution's success, achieving numerous awards along the way.

Many have referred to Marie as the honorary "Mayor of South Belt" due to her involvement in practically every aspect of the community, an extensive list that included the founding of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, the local newspaper, and St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, as well as the organization of countless community events.

As a co-founder and publisher of the South Belt-Ellington Leader, Marie became known for her work shedding light on the impact of the Brio Superfund site in the 1980s, which eventually led to its remediation. Marie also

delved into the political arena, serving on two Mayoral Transition Committees for the City of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt Marie's legacy will be remembered, and my prayers are with her family, her San Jacinto College family, and the South Belt community during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I could not be physically present in the House to vote on Thursday, November 14, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 461; NAY on Roll Call No. 462; YEA on Roll Call No. 463; and NAY on Roll Call No. 464.

COMMEMORATING WORLD DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD
TRAFFIC VICTIMS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sunday, November 17th as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Each year, the third Sunday in November, the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is a chance to commemorate the millions of lives lost or injured due to road accidents. On this day we also

pay tribute to emergency responders and medical professionals who answer the calls and face the trauma of road death and injury daily.

According to the Association for Safe International Road Travel, an estimated 1.35 million people around the world die in road crashes each year. This is a crisis that continues day in and day out in all countries of the world. Affecting primarily our most vulnerable communities and our youth. Therefore, during the new Decade of Action 2021–2030 the World Day will have the important role of helping to achieve the 50 percent road casualty reduction target.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today as we remember the victims of road traffic collisions and their families. In honoring the lives ended too soon, we face the profound losses of the communities they left behind and a responsibility to do everything in our power to ensure these tragedies become rarities. We must protect the lives of all road users, and I hope to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do that.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE AT ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL
CENTER'S CENTER FOR OCCUPA-
TIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
MEDICINE

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the Erie County Medical Center's Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine as they commemorate a decade of service to the public. Established in

2014, the Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine was created as a state-of-the-art medical resource dedicated to the occupational and environmental health field.

Over the past decade, the Center has steadfastly fulfilled its mission to provide high-quality healthcare services for all in the Western New York legion. With a commitment to preventing work-related illnesses and injuries, the Center has become an invaluable asset to our community, ensuring that workers receive the comprehensive care they deserve.

The Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine team has diligently served thousands of patients, addressing a wide range of health issues related to the workplace. The Center offers an array of clinical services tailored to meet the needs of our dynamic Western New York workforce. The inclusion of social work and wellness programs is often reflected in their holistic approach to health, recognizing that well-being extends beyond mere medical treatment.

The impact of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine reaches far beyond individual patients. By managing the broad spectrum of diseases associated with workplace exposures, they contribute to a healthier workforce and a stronger community. Each patient treated, each injury prevented, and each illness managed helps to uphold the fabric of our community and ensures that all who contribute to our local economy can do so with the assurance of care and support.

Today, as we look back on the past ten years, let us also look forward with hope and determination. The need for occupational and environmental health services is as critical as ever. Congratulations to the Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine as they continue to innovate, adapt, and expand our services to meet the ever-evolving needs of our community.