

Stephen Joseph Tomanelli grew up in the Bronx, New York, and attended public schools in New York City. Economic challenges led him to leave Samuel Gompers Vocational High School after his sophomore year to support himself and his family. His technical skills and interests opened doors for employment in the emerging field of computers and technology. Facing the likelihood of being drafted during the Vietnam War, Stephen enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served from 1969 to 1973. His roles included serving as a ceremonial guardsman at Arlington National Cemetery and working as a fire control technician and ordnance mechanic aboard the USS *Massey*.

After his military service, Mr. Tomanelli earned his GED and pursued various professional opportunities, ultimately relocating to California. He utilized the GI Bill to develop his technical expertise in computers and to purchase a home in the Sunnymead area of Riverside County. His career in the technology sector has been marked by his contributions to providing early computer solutions to municipal and commercial clients in Riverside County. Since 1986, he has owned and operated a computer sales and service business. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Tomanelli has dedicated himself to public service. Since 2005, he joined the Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) as a Commissioner and has contributed to various non-profit organizations throughout the region. Mr. Tomanelli is a resident of the Poppet Flats area and remains active in his community, with one of his grandchildren attending public school in Riverside County.

On behalf of all Riverside County residents and a grateful Nation, I want to thank Mr. Tomanelli for his service to our country and congratulate him on being part of the Operation Recognition Class of 2024.

HONORING JAMES W. PUTNEY, JR.

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James W. Putney, Jr., who passed away this September at 70 years old.

A Georgia native, James was a born and raised Savannah and is widely remembered for his passion for service and dedication to his community.

For over two decades, James served in the military specializing in information technology, and once said his favorite place he was stationed in was Panama, as it reminded him of his beautiful home of Savannah.

After retiring from active duty, James began working with fellow veterans in the American Legion, and served as the Commander of Post 500, the first African American Legion in the state of Georgia.

James also served as the chaplain on the Chatham County Veterans Council, which was another reason he was chosen as the grand marshal for Savannah's 2023 Veteran's Day Parade.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Putney family and the Savannah area, as we

mourn the loss of a truly impactful member of our community.

HONORING SPECIALIST FIFTH
CLASS MICHAEL ANTHONY
DEBONIS

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United States Vietnam Veteran, Specialist Ffth Class, Michael Anthony DeBonis.

Michael was born on September 7, 1950, in Troy, New York, where he and his three siblings were raised by their parents, Michael and Josephine DeBonis. Michael attended St. Mary's Elementary School and later attended Troy High School.

Michael enlisted in the United States Army on February 24, 1970. Following basic training, Michael attended service school in Fort Eustis, Virginia, where he trained as an Airframe Repairman. He was later assigned to a year-long tour of duty in Vietnam, where he conducted maintenance and repairs on Army aircraft and equipment in challenging conditions, including jungle environments and remote locations.

On March 23, 1972, Michael was honorably discharged from the United States Army at Fort Meade, Maryland. For his honorable service, Michael was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, two Overseas Service Bars, the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar and M16 Bar, and the Expert Marksmanship Badge with Grenade Bar.

Upon returning to civilian life, Michael married Kathleen Agostine on May 4, 1973. Together, they had two children, Michael and Lindsay. Michael was incredibly talented, working in construction with Rocco Testa and as a carpenter at the Watervliet Arsenal to support his family.

In his spare time, Michael enjoyed hunting, playing darts, and excelled at a game of corks. He was an active member of the Disabled American Veterans, the North Greenbush American Legion Post 1489, and the Ciccarelli Rea Agar Bevevino Garrison Post 1954, where he cherished the camaraderie of his fellow members.

Michael passed away on March 22, 2005, but his legacy will always live on through the memories of those dearest to him. Michael DeBonis' dedication to service to the United States is truly remarkable. On behalf of New York's 21st district, I am honored to recognize his incredible life.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR TRACY BREW-
STER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Tracy Brewster of

Rowlett, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. MSgt Brewster honorably served in the United States Air Force.

MSgt Brewster joined the Air Force in June 1982. Over the next two decades, he served as an Air Cargo Specialist and Air Transportation Craftsman to ensure that our troops were safely and efficiently resupplied around the world. MSgt Brewster completed two tours in South Korea and deployed in support of Operation Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom. For his meritorious service, MSgt Brewster received the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and many more awards.

After he retired from the Air Force in 2003, MSgt Brewster has continued to serve our community in numerous ways. For many years, he worked in supervisory positions at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and concluded his public service career as an Immigration Services Analyst. In this role, MSgt Brewster led efforts to investigate and prevent immigration fraud. He is also a longtime contributor to charitable initiatives to support disabled veterans, churches, museums, and youth athletic programs across North Texas. Most importantly, MSgt Brewster is a devoted husband and father to two children and two grandchildren. I commend him for his selfless service and dedication to serving our great Nation.

I am honored to represent MSgt Brewster in Texas' 4th Congressional district. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

CELEBRATING MRS. CLAIRE
SEIFFER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Claire Seiffer, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on November 21st of this year. Mrs. Seiffer has spent her entire life in the State of New Jersey, where she was a longtime public-school PE teacher. Her service to the state and nation was complemented by that of her husband, a World War II veteran. Mrs. Seiffer met her husband at the school that they worked at together after he returned from his military service. Mrs. Seiffer has fond memories of iceboating on their hand-built boat with her husband on New Jersey's famous Lake Hopatcong. Going into her 100th birthday, she continues to maintain an active lifestyle, and her friends and family enjoy her vivacious spirit and sharp mind.

It is my distinct pleasure to celebrate Mrs. Seiffer today, as she continues to be the embodiment of American and New Jerseyan commitment to public service, health, and prosperity.

HONORING MIAMI NORLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Miami Norland Senior High School Boys Basketball Team for their remarkable achievement in winning the 2024 Florida High School Athletic Association 5A Boys Basketball State Championship. This victory marks the seventh championship in the school's history, a testament to the enduring legacy of excellence at Miami Norland Senior High School.

It is my distinct privilege to recognize the dedication, perseverance, and excellence demonstrated by these young athletes. Under the exemplary leadership of Head Coach Lawton Williams, III and his outstanding coaching staff, the team has achieved the highest honor in Florida high school basketball. The Vikings completed the season with an impressive record of 21–10. Their dedication and hard work culminated in a thrilling championship game at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland, Florida, where they faced Blake High School. The Vikings showcased their skill and determination, defeating Blake with a decisive score of 61–48.

This championship victory is a testament to the hard work, discipline, and teamwork exhibited by each member of the team. The Miami Norland Vikings have not only brought pride to their school but have also inspired the local community through their commitment to achievement on and off the court.

I acknowledge the individual contributions of the 2024 Viking Championship team: Caleb Clarke, Isaiah St. Preux, Triston Wilson, Marcus Allen, Jamal Ware, Lorenzo Major Jr., Kalanji Taylor, Racari Garland, Marquis Siggers, Kendrick Preston, Karon Hill, Emerson Felicien, Chad McDonald, O'Neal Norleus, and Saige Alcin.

Additionally, I commend the invaluable support provided by the team's trainers, whose dedication behind the scenes ensured the athletes were in peak condition: Yahlonnie Church, Ariyel Haynes, Ti'ira Hill, Ro'niyah Mathis, Tatiana Macklin, and Chamia Brown.

I also recognize the essential contributions of the assistant coaches, who played a crucial role in guiding the team to victory: Anthony Johnson, Kelvin Farrington, Brandon Williams, and Cleveland Roberts.

The unwavering support from Principal Mrs. Rhonda Gaines-Miller and Athletic Director Mr. Tyrone Johnson has also been instrumental in the team's success. Their leadership and commitment to fostering a thriving athletic program have provided the foundation for these young athletes to excel.

The Vikings' victory in the state championship is more than a reflection of their athletic prowess; it is a celebration of the values of hard work, perseverance, and unity. These young men have set a high standard for future generations and have brought great honor to Miami Norland Senior High School and the wider community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Miami Norland High School Boys Basketball Team. May their success in sports continue to inspire greatness in all their future endeavors.

HONORING CORPORAL KENNETH M. WILSON

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life and service of U.S. Army Veteran Corporal Kenneth M. Wilson.

Kenneth was born on October 8, 1921, in Dobbs Ferry, New York. He was the son of Harold and Frances Eschbach Wilson and grew up in Upstate New York with six siblings: Miriam, Dorothy, Gertrude, Harriet, Peggy, and Harold. Kenneth graduated from Van Rensselaer High School in 1941 and enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduation on February 6, 1942.

Kenneth's service took him to Europe and Africa at the onset of the Second World War. Earning the rank of Corporal, he heroically fought in the Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, and Rhineland campaigns, serving as a light machine gunner in the 143rd Infantry Regiment, Company D. For his bravery and sacrifices, Corporal Wilson was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged on June 12, 1945.

After returning to civilian life, Kenneth married Mary Cornell on October 8, 1949, in Rensselaer, New York. Together, they had three children: Karen, Keith, and Diane. Kenneth's professional career began with Norman's Kill Dairy in 1955, and he remained with the Farm until 1962. He then entered public service that same year, working diligently for the U.S. Post Office until his retirement on July 3, 1984.

Kenneth was an active and lifelong member of his community. He coached for the East Greenbush Little League, the Girls Softball League, and the Babe Ruth League. He was also a proud member of the Elks Lodge 2073 and Melvin Roads American Legion Post 1231, where he cherished the camaraderie and fellowship of his fellow veterans. In his spare time, Kenneth enjoyed camping, gardening, and reading.

Corporal Kenneth M. Wilson's stalwart commitment to service was a testament to his character and dedication to his family, country, and community. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize his extraordinary life and legacy.

HONORING FORMER FLORIDA CONGRESSMAN ANDY IRELAND

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the remarkable life and legacy of Andrew Poyzell Ireland, known to many as Andy—a distinguished former Member of Congress from Central Florida. He was a banking executive, beloved community leader, and someone I had the privilege of calling a mentor and friend. Andy passed away peacefully in Sara-

sota, Florida, at the age of 94, leaving behind a legacy of service, leadership, and a profound commitment to others.

Born on August 23, 1930, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Andy Ireland's journey was marked by distinction from the very beginning. His early years at Cincinnati Country Day School revealed his spirited nature, and his education at Phillips Academy and Yale University solidified his reputation as a man of intelligence, curiosity, and drive. Andy's career began in banking, where his innovative approach and leadership quickly earned him success. Rising through the ranks, he eventually became Chair and CEO of American National Bank in Winter Haven, Florida. He not only transformed the banking industry but also helped shape the community he loved, bringing the Boston Red Sox to Winter Haven for their winter home and later contributing to the creation of the Center for Elephant Conservation in Polk County.

Andy's professional success was rivaled only by his commitment to public service. He entered politics as a Winter Haven City Commissioner before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976. During his 16 years in Congress, Andy served with distinction on the Foreign Affairs, Small Business, Armed Services, and Intelligence Committees, a tireless advocate for national security, small businesses, and fiscal responsibility. He was one of the rare individuals appointed by President Ronald Reagan to represent Congress at the United Nations General Session—a testament to his deep understanding of global issues and his unwavering dedication to his country.

Perhaps one of the most defining moments of Andy's political career came in 1984 when he made the principled decision to switch from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party. It was a move that exemplified his integrity and courage—qualities that endeared him to colleagues on both sides of the aisle and to the constituents he faithfully served.

Beyond politics, Andy was a passionate conservationist, serving as a Trustee of Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium and as President of the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association. He cherished his retirement years in Boca Grande, where he found joy in his family, friends, and the beauty of Florida's natural landscapes.

On a personal note, Andy played a pivotal role in my life. He nominated me to three service academies, ultimately leading to my acceptance at the United States Naval Academy. That nomination set me on a path of service and leadership, culminating in the honor of representing the very district Andy once served in this esteemed body. Andy and I also shared the same birthday, a connection that further deepened the bond I felt with him—a bond rooted in gratitude, respect, and admiration.

Andy Ireland's life was one of purpose and impact. He was a devoted husband to his beloved Nancy, a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and a cherished friend to many. His warm smile, gentle heart, and welcoming spirit left an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember Andy Ireland, let us celebrate a life well-lived and honor a