

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. Tyronn 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

man whose legacy will continue to inspire future generations. May we carry forward his example of integrity, service, and love for community. I thank Andy for everything. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR JACK ASHMORE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Jackie King "Jack" Ashmore of Reno, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Capt. Ashmore honorably served in the United States Navy during the Korean War and Vietnam War.

As a young man, Capt. Ashmore sought to follow in his family's footsteps and serve his country. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1947 after graduating from Paris High School and was determined to pursue a military career that included his longtime passion for aviation. In 1950, Capt. Ashmore completed aviation school and later participated in numerous combat flights over Korea while stationed in the Sea of Japan. During the Vietnam War, he took part in the 1968 Tet Offensive and flew 254 combat missions. For his outstanding service, Capt. Ashmore received numerous awards, including the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit, and many more. His final duties as a naval officer was with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he briefed senior elected officials on national security matters.

After retiring in 1973, Capt. Ashmore continued to fly planes as a community volunteer and even taught friends and family how to fly. He also serves as the treasurer for the Paris Junior College Friends and Alumni Board, a position he has held for over twenty years. In recognition of Capt. Ashmore's distinguished career and selfless service, he received the Distinguished Student Award from Paris High School and a position on Paris Junior College's Wall of Honor. He is a man of faith and serves as a lay reader at his episcopal church. Above all, Capt. Ashmore is a devoted husband of over 57 years and compassionate friend to all who know him.

I am honored to represent Capt. Ashmore 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present during November 12 to November 15, 2024, my votes for Roll Call Numbers 456, 457, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, and 465 would have been cast as such: YEA on Roll Call No. 456, Bill Number: H.R. 82; NAY on Roll Call No. 457, Bill Number: H.R. 5342; NAY on Roll Call No. 459, Bill Number:

H. Res. 1568 (PQ); NAY on Roll Call No. 460, Bill Number: H. Res. 1568 (Rule); YEA on Roll Call No. 461, Bill Number: H.R. 8446 (MTR); YEA on Roll Call No. 462, Bill Number: H.R. 8446; YEA on Roll Call No. 463, Bill Number: H.R. 7409 (MTR); YEA on Roll Call No. 465, Bill Number: H.R. 8932.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an important anniversary. This month, the Daughters of Penelope, an international woman's organization and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), celebrated its 95th anniversary on November 16. Founded in San Francisco, the Daughters of Penelope originally worked to improve the status and well-being of women and their families. They also sought to provide women with the opportunity to make significant contributions to their communities and country. After successfully achieving many of their early goals, the Daughters of Penelope now promote the ideals of ancient Greece: philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence, achieved through community service and volunteerism. I am a proud Greek-American. As a young boy, my grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles instilled in me an appreciation for our beautiful Greek culture, which focuses on family, community, and faith. As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, it is with great pride that I see these values shine through the Daughters of Penelope today, across all its 250 chapters worldwide. Through the exceptional Penelope House in Mobile, Alabama and Penelope's Place in Brockton, Massachusetts, the organization vigorously supports efforts to combat domestic violence in Greece, as well as the United States. The development of these shelters brought renewed hope to many areas with suffering families who previously did not have access to the same level of care. As a member on the Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I am impressed with the organization's efforts to provide financial support and raise awareness for medical research on treatments for breast cancer, Thalassemia (Cooley's anemia), muscular dystrophy, and Alzheimer's disease. The Daughters of Penelope are also a leading sponsor of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 202 Housing for the Elderly Program, which offers affordable housing to senior citizens in Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Texas. Recently, the Daughters of Penelope has also demonstrated support for senior nutrition and isolation with support for Meals on Wheels of America. In addition to helping the elderly, the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc., supports the educational objectives of the Daughters of Penelope by providing tens of thousands of dollars annually for scholarships, sponsoring educational seminars, and donating children's books to schools, shelters and churches through the

"Penelope's Books" program. After ninety five meaningful and productive years, it excites me to see what the Daughters of Penelope will accomplish and how they will help our country and our culture in the next century.

CONGRATULATING MR. FRANK QUIS ON HIS LONG CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Frank Quis on his retirement after 26 years as a civil servant for the people of Moore County. Frank comes from a long line of public servants with his mother and father both being involved in local governance. Frank Quis started his career in community service as a member of the Southern Pines Town Council before becoming mayor in 1997, a position he would hold for 10 years. In 2016, Frank was elected as Commissioner of Moore County and has a long list of accomplishments to reflect on with pride. One of his proudest achievements as Commissioner was the construction of four new elementary schools, he also confidently and successfully led Moore County through a hurricane and a global pandemic.

Along with serving as an elected official to the community, Frank has also served by lending his time and efforts to many organizations across the sandhills, to include the Moore Coalition for Human Care, Moore Free and Charitable Clinic, the Central Pines Regional Council, and the Boys & Girls Club of the Sandhills.

Frank credits all of his success to the support of his wife, Missy, who has been with him every step of the way since he decided to run for town council back in 1989. Together they owned and operated Quis Machinery, Inc. for more than 35 years. Once he retires, Mr. Quis plans to spend more time with his children and grandchildren and hopefully play some more golf.

While we will miss him dearly on the commission, I know we will be seeing him around. I wish Mr. Quis and his family all the best as he begins his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his commitment to the folks of Moore County.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Frank Quis on his retirement after a 26-year career in public service.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF FORT EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL

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 centennial anniversary of Fort Edward High School in Washington County, New York. This institution has stood as a beacon of learning, progress, and community spirit for 100 years and I look forward to seeing its continued success in its next century.