

Backcountry Horsemen of California, where she has served as president.

Through her many years of work and service, Mrs. Chavez's impact has been immense. Since 1962, the Kern County Cattlewomen's Association has named a Cattlewoman of the Year, celebrating the hard work, sacrifice, and dedication that an individual has made for the success of the Kern County cattle industry. As this year's recipient, Mrs. Chavez is recognized for her tremendous impact on the Kern County community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Sylvia Chavez for being named the 2024 Kern County Cattlewoman of the Year, and thank her for her contributions to the Kern County community and cattle industry.

HONORING ADITI MUTHUKUMAR

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aditi Muthukumar of Westminster, Colorado for earning the Rookie of the Year Award in the 2024 Congressional App Challenge.

Aditi built an interactive app called SafeSpace, which provides young people with mental and behavioral health resources and uses a trained machine learning model to help give advice on symptoms and share resources.

Aditi spent countless hours and used many tools to develop her app and advance her STEM education.

I congratulate Aditi Muthukumar for her success in the Congressional App Challenge. I am certain she will exhibit the same dedication and character in her future accomplishments. I am excited to see all she will accomplish.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRY GORINO

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Henry Gorino, who left a profound impact on Western New York's restaurant industry and the region as a whole. Mr. Gorino, a legendary restaurateur and a beloved figure, was a visionary behind some of Western New York's most iconic and flavorful establishments.

As the force behind restaurants such as Oliver's, Siena, 800 Maple, Rocco's Pizza, and JT's, Mr. Gorino had been in the restaurant industry for nearly thirty years. Throughout his tenure, he mentored some of the region's most well-known chefs and provided a space for friends and family to gather for great food and conversation. Henry's ability to lovingly push aspiring chefs and owners to the next level was an example of why his legacy will live on in the hospitality industry of our region.

Henry Gorino's legacy is not just in his culinary achievements but in the countless lives

he touched with his kindness, generosity, and unwavering support. He truly embodied the spirit of community, showing us all what it means to give oneself toward the betterment and nourishment of others. His love and dedication to service will forever be an inspiration to us all.

Today, as we commemorate the life and legacy of Henry Gorino, let us remember him not only for his outstanding service and compassion but also for his dedication to continuously uplifting others. While he may no longer be with us in body, his spirit lives on in the community he cherished so deeply.

HONORING VINELAND FIRE CHIEF LOU A. TRAMONTANA, JR.

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor retiring Vineland Fire Chief Lou A. Tramontana, Jr. Lou is a city official, local businessman, and dedicated volunteer who has served as the Chief of the Vineland Fire Department since 2017. He has had a passion for firefighting for many years, beginning his service 37 years ago when he joined the New Jersey State Forest Fire Service, where he is still the District Warden. In 1992, Lou joined the City of Vineland Fire Department, becoming a career firefighter two years later and achieving the rank of Captain in 2006. He earned countless New Jersey fire certifications, including Fire Official, Officer, and Investigator, as well as becoming a Level 2 Instructor with an FAA Drone Pilot License. Lou was also recognized as Fireman of the Year, served as president of the Vineland Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association, and raised over \$200,000 for burn victims. In addition to his firefighting duties, Lou serves as the president of the board of the Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA, a position he has held for 11 years. Lou credits his wife, Lisa, and his two stepchildren, D.J. and Carli, along with his longtime friend Brandon, as the people who have made his life complete. I thank Lou for his many years of dedicated service to Vineland. God bless Lou, and God bless our United States of America.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NEIL MIDDLETON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Neil Middleton for his distinguished and award-winning career in journalism, as a long-time trusted news broadcaster and Vice President of WYMT-TV, a CBS affiliate in Hazard, Kentucky.

Broadcasting from the heart of Kentucky's Appalachian region, the station's call letters stand for, "We're Your Mountain Television." It's much more than an acronym. It's the station's mission. WYMT-TV has become synonymous with the very region it serves, thanks in large part to the leadership and journalistic

integrity of Neil Middleton, and those who blazed a trail for news coverage and weather alerts in one of the most rural areas of the United States. In an expansive region, separated by mountainous terrain, national media outlets have only made their way to Appalachia after major disasters, while others have blistered our communities by dredging up negative stereotypes that have misrepresented our beloved hometowns that are filled with hard-working, innovative and extremely talented people. As both well-known and unknown reporters from the around the country have breezed in and out of our region for 15-seconds of fame, it is WYMT that has earned the trust of southern and eastern Kentuckians since the station first signed on the air in 1985. They have not only provided life-saving weather alerts during catastrophic floods and tornado outbreaks, but they have followed their news coverage with fundraising telethons, using the power of the airwaves to collect vital donations to help our communities recover in the wake of disaster. WYMT has also built a reputation for holding local, state and federal leaders accountable in the public eye, while not only providing critical news to the region in every newscast, but also celebrating our victories in regional development and success. Thanks to their central location in the region, mountain student athletes have had an exclusive highlight reel on the station's Sports Overtime program, swelling up pride through every rural county for student athletes who get little notoriety elsewhere. In fact, that's where Neil Middleton started his broadcast television news career in 1987, driving across the mountains from Harlan County every day to cover news and sports in southeastern Kentucky for WYMT and WKYT-TV in Lexington, Kentucky.

Starting out as a radio DJ in high school, Neil worked his way up the ranks as a broadcaster, eventually taking over the helm of WYMT as Vice President and General Manager. Under his leadership, WYMT achieved record-breaking growth in advertising sales, expanded newscasts for news, sports and weather, developed new digital media assets, and earned countless accolades, including regional Emmy awards. The Associated Press has also recognized Neil's personal excellence in journalism with numerous awards throughout his career. His same passion and work for the region has also been recognized by the Kentucky National Guard, local Chambers of Commerce and many others.

Over the last four decades, Neil's passion to serve Kentucky's Appalachian region has reached far beyond the news desk. He has served as a board member for several organizations in the region, including the Center for Rural Development, One East Kentucky, Alice Lloyd College, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, East Kentucky Leadership Foundation, the Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky and the Kentucky Associated Press, among others.

As Neil closes this chapter of his career at WYMT, I want to express my deepest gratitude for his unwavering commitment and loyalty to Kentucky's Appalachian region. With every breath, he has advocated for growth and development in the mountains, understanding the value of every investment here, and likewise, the pain of every opportunity sent away from Central Appalachia. It has been an honor to work in tandem with Neil on many projects, including a hard-fought battle to add WYMT to satellite broadcasts in select

areas to ensure local people have access to news and weather alerts close to home. Neil should take great pride in his efforts to make southern and eastern Kentucky a better place to live.

CONGRATULATING STEVEN R.
SCHNEIDER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steven R. Schneider, who is retiring after 30 years of dedicated service as Village President of Almont, Michigan. His unwavering dedication and exceptional leadership have profoundly impacted our community.

Born in Detroit in 1943, Steve's roots are firmly planted in the rich history of this vibrant city. As a first-generation American, he embodies the spirit of resilience, having been raised by parents who were Austrian immigrants fleeing the horrors of World War II in search of a better life.

Steve married the love of his life, Sylvia, in 1985, and together they shared nearly three decades of love, joy, and partnership. Their bond was one of mutual respect and admiration, and they raised a beautiful family in the process. Steve is a proud father to his son, Steven C. Schneider, and a loving grandfather to his two cherished grandchildren, Theodore and Alexander. His role as a father and grandfather is a source of immense pride and joy, and he has always been there with sage advice, quiet support, and endless love.

Steve graduated from Henry Ford High School and pursued higher education at Wayne State University, where he studied history and psychology. His commitment to learning culminated in a Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School in 1967. Steve then began his legal career, notably participating in the landmark *Algiers Motel* case. He defended clients, including Reverend C.L. Franklin, and served on the Macomb County Law Enforcement Commission, impacting justice in our community. His legal acumen and dedication to justice extended beyond the courtroom. Whether representing the Lapeer County Sheriff's Department in legal matters, educating law enforcement officers through his service on the Macomb County Law Enforcement Commission, or serving as a founding board member of the Lapeer County Community Foundation, his contributions have left a lasting mark on the community.

Steve's passion for nurturing future generations led him to teach moot court at Almont High School, where he inspired and helped young people explore their own potential in the field of law. Today, he continues to be an active member of the community, always staying connected and involved in the betterment of the Village he loves.

Steve was first appointed to the Village Council on April 4, 1995, and was elected President on March 17, 1998. During his tenure, he played a pivotal role in critical initiatives, including resolving issues at the Almont Wastewater Treatment Plant, ensuring compliance with sanitary overflow regulations for the well-being of our citizens and environment.

He contributed to the establishment of the Drakeshire Estates subdivision, fostering com-

munity growth. In 2007, he championed the replacement of the 93-year-old water tower, ensuring reliable water service. His leadership led to the reconstruction of the Cherry Street Bridge, enhancing community accessibility. In 2012, Steve implemented new administrative programs that improved operational efficiency and transparency. He advocated for a new water pumping station in 2016, prioritizing safety for essential services. His commitment to infrastructure was evident in the East Saint Clair lift station project and the authorization of a new police department building in 2018.

Steve's dedication to employee safety included advocating for essential equipment, such as the DPW leaf machine. He supported the transition to remote water meter readings, enhancing productivity. As an ex-officio member of the DDA Board and Planning Commission, he guided his town's growth.

Steve's conviction that public service can make a meaningful difference has greatly influenced both his career and personal life. For Steve, politics is not just about governance; it's about people—understanding their needs, advocating for fairness, and enacting meaningful change. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Steven Schneider on his retirement. His career in public service is one that we should all be grateful for.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
SUELLEN FRIED

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of SuEllen Fried. A shining example of a public servant, SuEllen made the lives of everyone around her brighter, particularly those who often went unseen.

SuEllen began dancing in the St. Louis Muny Opera when she was 17. Later, she received her master's degree in dance therapy and creative arts from Park University. While she had not planned a career in dance therapy, her desire to spread joy to others naturally led her to that vocation. One day she was asked if she would come to Osawatimie State Hospital to give cha-cha lessons to psychiatric patients there. At the time of the initial request, she didn't know how to cha-cha, but she ensured she led a class that was joyful and treated each participant with dignity. The class turned out to be a polestar moment in SuEllen's life, and she spent the following 17 years working at the hospital as a dance therapist and became the 100th person registered to do so nationwide.

SuEllen was also passionate about protecting children. She wrote or co-authored seven books on bullying and spoke at schools in 37 states to raise awareness at a time when bullying was an issue that received little attention. She also started the first state chapter of the organization that would later become Prevent Child Abuse America and served on the organization's board.

It was through her work with children that SuEllen became involved with the justice system. In 1978, she received a newsletter that said that 80 percent of individuals who were incarcerated for lifetime sentences at the Lan-

sing Correctional Facility in Lansing, Kansas, had been abused as children. As a result, she had a series of conversations with the authors of the newsletter, which ultimately led to the 400-page Blue Book on the causes and results of violence. In 1982, that book became the centerpiece of the organization she co-founded. Reaching Out From Within, a program led by justice-involved individuals to empower and heal each other. That program has now been adopted into every state prison in Kansas.

The last time SuEllen left her home before her death, it was to say farewell to her friends in the Lansing Correctional Facility.

SuEllen received a variety of honors throughout her life, including serving on President Richard Nixon's task force on mental health, being named as one of President George H. W. Bush's 1000 Points of Light, and receiving the American Red Cross Humanitarian Award.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of SuEllen Fried. She was a tireless advocate for the voiceless, a star whose light will forever be shining.

CONGRATULATING MR. CLIFTON
MCNEILL, JR. ON BEING IN-
DUCTED INTO THE NORTH CARO-
LINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
HALL OF FAME

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Clifton McNeill, Jr. on being inducted into the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Hall of Fame. This is a momentous achievement that highlights a lifetime pursuit of agricultural excellence.

Our state has a long and proud farming tradition. I know I speak for our region and entire state when I say thank you to our hard-working farmers, specifically Mr. McNeill, for his dedication to putting food on the table in North Carolina and around our country. From peanuts to sweet potatoes, and in Mr. McNeill's case, strawberries, tomatoes, potatoes and more. North Carolina farmers generate some of the highest quality produce in the world, and we are thrilled to recognize Mr. McNeill for his continuation of that tradition.

This achievement comes alongside many others for Mr. McNeill. He served as chairman of the Cumberland County Soil and Water Board of Supervisors, chairman of Area VII, on the Joint Planning Board and the South River Electric Membership Board of Directors. These are just a few of the many things I am proud of him for, and grateful we have dedicated leaders and farmers in our state.

Again, congratulations to Mr. McNeill on this incredible achievement. He should feel immense pride in all that he has accomplished, and we look forward to celebrating his continued success.