

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.

HONORING JOHN PATRICK
MCGAHAN

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my dear friend, John Patrick McGahan, in recognition of his retirement as the leader, CEO and guiding light of Gavin Foundation. Gavin Foundation has been a sanctuary and source of refuge, comfort and rebirth for so many individuals in Massachusetts suffering from the disease of addiction.

And it is my honor to bring to the floor this evening the gratitude of thousands of families from my District and beyond who are grateful beyond words for John McGahan's service to the Massachusetts recovery community over the past 31 years.

John McGahan was born in Concord, New Hampshire on April 3, 1961, to Thomas and Viola McGahan but it was not until 1991, in what can now be seen as divine providence, that John traveled from New Hampshire to South Boston in search of sobriety. And like many before him seeking that help, he found his way to the doors of the Gavin House.

John was a resident of Gavin House for 6 months and it was here that many believe John found his calling and placed him on a path that not only changed his life, but one day at a time helped change the lives of thousands.

Understanding the change sobriety had made in his own life, John McGahan developed a relentless passion for helping others to obtain sobriety. John volunteered and then took a job at Gavin House in 1992. In 1999, in the midst of a teen suicide cluster, John helped to establish and operate the Cushing House for boys—the state's first residential recovery home for adolescent boys. John was a driving force behind the Total Immersion Program (TIP), an alternative to incarceration for those struggling with addiction. Building on the success of the Cushing House for boys, in 2006 John helped create the Cushing House for girls, the only female adolescent recovery home in the state.

In 2007, John was appointed CEO of the Gavin Foundation. John committed himself completely to the mission of the foundation—"the restoration of dignity" for those suffering from addiction. He ensured that every individual could receive the care they needed and had access to sobriety tools and support. John learned and utilized all the elements of funding, education, and advocacy, and combined these key concepts to create the thriving Gavin Foundation recovery network we know today.

Under John's leadership, the Gavin Foundation grew from an initial 25 employees with a \$2 million dollar budget to over 240 employees and a \$27 million dollar budget—serving over 10,000 individuals each year. Throughout his tenure, John had a unique ability to foresee changes and prepare the organization for the future. It was John who made the decision to utilize electronic medical records systems in the houses, an innovative and rare initiative for recovery homes. John always had his eye on the ever-changing recovery landscape and prepared the organization for anticipated challenges and growth. In 2008, the Charlestown

Recovery Home became a part of the Gavin Foundation. In 2015, the Hamilton House recovery home joined the Gavin family and with the courageous assistance of Mayor Tom Koch, Gavin Quincy was established the same year, offering a 64-bed intensive detox and clinical stabilization program.

Most recently, in response to a longtime goal of the Gavin Foundation board, and with the generous support of Jack and Eileen Connors and others, John launched a capital campaign to fund and then open Eileen's House, the organization's first recovery home for adult women.

In addition to his work with Gavin, John has been a trusted advisor to leadership at every level of government. His excellent judgment, advice and counsel has been instrumental in advancing addiction recovery policies at the federal, state and local levels. He has given his time and talent to numerous boards, committees and commissions across the state.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a person in this chamber who hasn't suffered in some way the incredible loss and grief associated with addiction. The heartbreak has been shared across our Nation. John McGahan is one of those rare individuals who has walked in a dark place but has used that experience to shine a light for others to follow. He has dedicated his life to help others lift themselves out of the clutch of addiction and share in the blessings of sobriety and recovery. His life has been an extraordinary example. He is a humble leader who is admired, respected and indeed loved.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss indeed if I failed to acknowledge that John Patrick McGahan has the great good fortune to have the unconditional love and support of his wife Anne and his sons Will and Sean. He has had their love at every step of his life journey.

John Patrick McGahan's legacy is one of relentless compassion in service to the Massachusetts recovery community, the cities of Boston and Quincy and to his family. It is my distinct privilege to take the floor of the House today to join the Gavin Foundation, Mr. McGahan's family and his many friends in recognizing his retirement, and to thank him for his incredible service on behalf of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

I thank John McGahan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANNETTE
PERKINS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Annette Perkins, who passed away on July 26, 2024.

Raised in Portsmouth, Virginia, Ms. Perkins determined her life's work should be focused on education. She worked as a teacher and administrator for Montgomery County Public Schools for many years.

At various points, Ms. Perkins was principal of Christiansburg Middle School, assistant principal of Christiansburg High School, and a history and government teacher at Christiansburg and Blacksburg High Schools.

Her interest in advancing the goals of Montgomery County Public Schools went beyond her service as a teacher.

Starting in 1991, Ms. Perkins was appointed to the Montgomery County School Board. As a member of the school board, she continued to monitor and assess the educational growth of children and teenagers in the county.

Following her tenure with the Montgomery County School Board, county residents elected Ms. Perkins to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors in 1997. She served in her supervisor role for nearly twenty years.

Important projects came together under Ms. Perkins' watch, including the construction of the new Auburn High School and Blacksburg High School. Montgomery County recognizes her instrumental role in having a 9.25-acre portion of undeveloped property donated to the Town of Blacksburg for a public park known as the Meadow.

During her service in both bodies, she served as chairwoman.

A woman of strong faith, Ms. Perkins contributed time as a Sunday school teacher to Blacksburg Christian Church, where she also served on various committees.

Ms. Perkins was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby H. Perkins.

Montgomery County parents placed enormous trust in Ms. Perkins to be a voice for their kids and their education.

I worked with Ms. Perkins during my years representing Montgomery County in the Virginia House of Delegates, and she was a fierce advocate for the programs that she believed in.

Ms. Perkins will be remembered by her colleagues and students as a dedicated educator who enhanced educational experiences and cared deeply for her community.

RECOGNIZING TOM TROXLER FOR
HIS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
RANKIN COUNTY

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Tom Troxler for his 32 years of service to Rankin First Economic Development Authority and congratulate him on his retirement. Tom has put decades of his time, energy, and resources into Rankin First, making it a key component for economic development across the region and state. Tom has identified and capitalized on many economic development opportunities over the years that have improved Rankin County and the entire state of Mississippi.

Tom's legacy of promoting economic development and improving the lives of his fellow Mississippians will benefit us for decades to come. I am thankful for the opportunity to recognize Tom and his work for our community.

CONGRATULATING VINELAND
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB ON
THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland County on 20 years of outstanding