

brought a thoughtful, pragmatic, and compassionate approach to governance. During his tenure, he served as a strong advocate for Rio Vista, representing our city on numerous regional boards and agencies, including the Solano County Water Agency, Solano Transportation Authority, and Local Agency Formation Commission, where he also served as Chair. Appointed Vice Mayor in 2016 and Mayor in 2017, Mayor Kott provided steadfast leadership during some of the most challenging times in Rio Vista's recent history.

Under Mayor Kott's leadership, Rio Vista navigated significant trials, including the global COVID-19 pandemic. Amid the pandemic, Mayor Kott spearheaded the county's first pilot program to administer lifesaving vaccinations, ensuring the health and safety of his constituents. His collaboration with North Bay Health also paved the way for the future opening of a much-needed urgent care facility in the city. Additionally, through his strategic partnership with CalTrans, Mayor Kott secured millions of dollars in funding to improve Highway 12, a vital transportation artery for Rio Vista.

Beyond his official duties, Mayor Kott remains deeply engaged with the Rio Vista community. A long-time volunteer for the IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, he has provided free tax preparation services to low- and middle-income families.

Known for his quick wit, warm demeanor, and genuine care for others, Mayor Kott has left an indelible impact on his family, friends, and neighbors. A proud husband, father of three, and grandfather of six, Mayor Kott has always balanced his public service with his love for his family. Whether playing golf, gardening, sailing, or attending local music events, he embodies the vibrant and community-focused spirit of Rio Vista.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that we recognize Mayor Kott for his dedication, leadership, and enduring contributions to our City of Rio Vista. His tireless service and unwavering commitment to his constituents have left a lasting legacy. Today, we honor Mayor Kott and thank him for his efforts to make Rio Vista a better place for all.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN
SPRATT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go to the family of former Congressman John Spratt. Representing South Carolina's Fifth District for nearly 30 years, Congressman Spratt was already the Dean of the South Carolina Delegation in the House when I assumed office. I had the privilege of serving with him on the Armed Services Committee, where he was a respected leader and very knowledgeable on a wide range of national security issues.

Include in the RECORD the obituary of former Congressman John Spratt.

John Spratt, a longtime member of the U.S. Congress from South Carolina, died Saturday night, his daughter said.

"I am heartbroken to announce that my father passed away last night," Catherine

Spratt said on Facebook. He "passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family . . . due to complications from Parkinson's disease."

Spratt, 82, a Democrat who represented South Carolina's 5th District from 1983-2011, was mourned by President Joe Biden, former President Bill Clinton and Current U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Santee, among others.

"Guided by his wit, wisdom, decency, and grace, John deeply understood the promise of America, and he fought tirelessly to bring people together to help us live up to that promise," Biden wrote in a condolence letter to the family, according to Catherine.

The 5th District includes all of Cherokee, Chester, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Union and York counties, in addition to parts of Newberry, Spartanburg and Sumter counties.

"Today, the South Carolina Democratic Party joins countless South Carolinians and Americans in mourning the loss of a true statesman, former Congressman John Spratt. His passing leaves a profound void in the hearts of those who knew him, worked alongside him, and benefited from his tireless advocacy for our state and nation," S.C. Democratic Party Chair Christale Spain said Sunday. "Congressman Spratt represented South Carolina's 5th Congressional District with unmatched dedication and grace for nearly three decades."

Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1942; Spratt grew up in York, South Carolina, and graduated from both York High School and Davidson College. He was awarded a Marshall Scholarship to Oxford, where he studied economics, and earned a Law degree from Yale.

Spratt also served in the U.S. Army from 1969-71, rising to the rank of captain, and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, his daughter said.

After being elected to Congress, Spratt was the second-highest ranking Democrat on the Armed Services Committee. He served as chairman of the House budget committee; among his accomplishments was the passage of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Although Spratt was known for his intellect and thoughtful decisions, he was not averse to going to the ends of the earth—literally—to seek to understand complicated areas of the federal budget over which his committee assignments gave him jurisdiction.

In 1991, for example, Spratt spent 18 hours aboard a nuclear-powered submarine as it cruised beneath the North Pole.

"It was a very valuable experience," said, Spratt, chairman of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Panel at the time. "I certainly have a new appreciation for the very capable men and women who staff these subs and the incredibly difficult task they perform."

Camden Mayor Vincent Sheheen, a former state senator from Kershaw County, said on Monday, "I was a page in his office in the summer of 1991, and he was so kind and inclusive to a college student who didn't know anything. He was really a teacher of all things to all people, from a lowly college page to a corporate CEO, and he treated everyone the same."

Clinton said Spratt "was a skilled and deeply principled lawmaker," his daughter said. Clinton continued, saying Spratt "was masterful in his knowledge of policy and was willing to work with anyone to pass legislation that would make a difference in people's lives. He had a unique ability of knowing when to hold the line and when to compromise, and it earned him the respect of all in Washington. I'll always be grateful for the chance to work with him, especially on the Balanced Budget of 1997 which he co-authored and helped produce record surpluses.

John was a true public servant and a really good man."

Closer to home in South Carolina, Spratt worked to settle the Catawba Indian land claim that cleared the title to 225 square miles of land in York and Lancaster and paved the way for development in the area to thrive, the Rock Hill Herald previously reported. Spratt also was instrumental in securing more than \$120 million in building projects for Shaw Air Force Base.

"Serving in Congress with John Spratt was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," Clyburn said on social media. "He was a friend and confidant, a colleague and counselor, and a mentor and partner. His love of country and respect for humanity were always on display. He was an inconspicuous genius and the most ordinary, extraordinary person I have ever known. I have been missing him for a long time and will always remember his wise counsel." Spratt was well respected by members of both sides of the aisle in Congress.

"Above all else, John Spratt was an incredibly smart and decent man. He dedicated his life to serving the people of South Carolina," Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-Seneca, said Monday. "While we were on opposite sides of the aisle, I appreciated how John was always trying to find common ground for the greater good. In my view, his disposition and approach to the job represented the best of public service."

John was a good friend, and he will be missed. May he rest in peace."

Spratt is survived by wife, Jane Stacy Spratt; daughters Susan Elizabeth Spratt (David Tendler), Sarah Stacy Spratt (Brian Brennan), and Catherine Bratton Spratt, among other family members. No funeral arrangements have been announced.

Mandy Powers Norell, Trav Robertson and Jaime Harrison were among many involved in Palmetto State politics who shared memorials about Spratt. "Congressman John Spratt was my friend, mentor, and one of the greatest statesmen in Congress—and his passing breaks my heart. He was respected by Democrats and Republicans alike in our beloved home state of South Carolina as well as on Capitol Hill," Harrison said.

"Congressman Spratt was a miracle worker. As chairman of the House Budget Committee, he would find common ground to get things done for the people—often engaging in shuttle diplomacy to garner the support of a range of groups, from Blue Dogs to Progressives. I often teased that Mr. Spratt had probably forgotten more about the federal budget than the majority of members had ever known."

"Congressman Spratt was brilliant, kind, and beloved by many. I will miss him, but his work and his legacy will live on with all of us."

RECOGNIZING THE TRAIL-BLAZING,
PROLIFIC SWIMMING CAREER OF
NANCY HUNT WEIMAN

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the trail-blazing, prolific swimming career of Nancy Hunt Weiman.

Clearwater Beach, Florida, two weeks after the second devastating hurricane in a matter of days, hosted the 2024 Master's National Artistic (Synchronized) Swimming Championships. More than 300 Master's swimmers competed, the largest number of participants—all

ages—for this Master's meet since the Master's program was first established some five decades prior. Nancy Hunt Weiman competed in five events and medaled in all five.

Immediately after Labor Day, Nancy went to San Francisco to train and to prepare for the competition. Daily workouts—in the pool and land drills—with her Redwood Empire teammates (some of whom Nancy swam with back in 1969 to 1973). She decamped in Pacifica with her current duet partner and fellow member of the International Swimming Hall of Fame, Margo McGrath.

Nancy began her synchro career in St. Paul, Minnesota when she was nine. In 1969, Nancy moved to San Francisco to swim with the nationally and internationally famous San Francisco Merionettes. Four years later, in 1973, she "retired" after some 15 years of amateur competition. She got hitched a year later and moved to Washington, D.C. A year later, in 1975, now some 49 years ago, Nancy was one of the founders of Master's Synchronized Swimming. At that first meet, she performed "triple duty" as a swimmer, coach and Judge.

At the time, the Master's program was a step-child in the Synchro world. As such, few judges were willing to attend a "Master's Meet." So, at that very first meet, held in Reading, Pennsylvania, Nancy was needed to judge. She wore "Judge's whites" as required, but had her swimsuit on underneath it. When it was her turn to compete, she took off her Judge's uniform, went on deck, waited for the whistle and then swam her event—scores provided by the remaining judges. As soon as she completed her routine, still wet, she put her on her judge's whites and climbed back on the judge's chair to continue judging. Nancy also wrote the first set of official rules that governed that competition. Over the past 49 years, Nancy competed in almost every national and criss-crossed the globe for international competition, doing so in six different age groups from in her 20's to now, in her 70's.

Along the way, Nancy has met wonderful people from around the world and had a few "unique" experiences. A year ago, after preliminaries in Japan at the World Master's Championships, the meet was halted for several days as a typhoon roared through. Nancy's flights home were canceled and to get home, she was routed to Tokyo, Paris, New York, and then back to D.C. She flew around the world to attend, compete, medal, and then work her way home. Luggage, phone and medals arrived about a week after she did.

Today, there is one major difference when she competes: she swims with two new hips and a new knee. Her surgeon's office keeps a framed photo of Nancy in their waiting room. Synchro, now Artistic Swimming, has come a long way since Reading. So Nancy is still practicing, still swimming and still competing. Meets in Canada and Singapore are now on the schedule in 2025 and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions Nancy Hunt Weiman has made to Synchro (now called "Artistic" Swimming).

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BURTONSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the 75th anniversary of the Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department in Esperance, New York.

The first 22 members of what would become the Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department convened on May 2, 1949, to elect its leadership and organize an all-volunteer company. After officially incorporating the department later that year, members held meetings in their private homes and barns as they had yet to establish a central station. The department was able to raise sufficient funding and purchased its first vehicle in 1950—a 1948 GMC truck—while additional equipment was stored on the premises of the local Methodist Church. Years later, after replacing the body of the original GMC, the department was colloquially known as the "Pepsi Cola fire department" for the red and white colors of its truck.

In 1951, the department passed a resolution to purchase land at the intersection of Burtonsville and Colyer Road for its firehouse. Construction began in 1952, and the first on-site meeting was held on May 13, 1954. In the decades that followed, the firehouse grew and started additionally serving as a community center that hosted bingo, concerts, movie nights, fundraisers, auctions, and many special dinners. An extension to the firehouse in 1990 expanded their premises, including a new bay for additional and larger trucks.

Since its incorporation, the Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department has consistently modernized and increased its capabilities. The department formed an auxiliary in February 1955 to supplement their organization and welcomed its first female volunteers from this auxiliary in the 1960s. The organization has continued to grow in both its personnel and capabilities as some volunteers are now trained as First Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians to provide life-saving care at the scene of an emergency. Furthermore, the department's volunteers now respond to instances of flood and storm damage, as well as hazardous materials incidents, and cooperate with other New York State fire departments to assist in emergencies.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, it is an honor to recognize the history of the Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department and the generations of brave volunteers who have worked to ensure the safety of their community.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: SHIR AMI REFORM SYNAGOGUE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary organization

from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—one that has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration I recognize the members Shir Ami Reform Synagogue, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. The members of Shir Ami Reform Synagogue have embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

As a generous charity, Shir Ami Reform Synagogue has not only served our community, but transformed the lives of those around them. In a remarkable display of community and compassion, the Shir Ami members united to collect over 30,000 pounds of food to donate to eight local hunger relief agencies. Beyond their efforts to assist local families experiencing food insecurity, the Synagogue also has a Code Blue initiative to house homeless community members, a vital lifeline throughout our blistery winters. In addition to their local efforts here in Bucks, the Synagogue also collects food for multiple relief agencies throughout the Philadelphia region and host a monthly meal-making project to support Caring for Friends, a nonprofit organization that provides meals to the homebound and homeless in our community and beyond. Their efforts exemplify the true essence of community service.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of organizations like the Shir Ami Reform Synagogue that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Their service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Shir Ami Reform Synagogue not just for their remarkable deeds, but for who they are—true heroes, in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of organizations like Shir Ami Reform Synagogue that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Their actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures, but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. They embody the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively, and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Shir Ami Reform Synagogue for their extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional organization, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May their example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.