

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.

MARCO POLO REPORT

HON. MARY E. MILLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disapproval of Joe Biden's decision to issue a blanket pardon for his son Hunter Biden. During the time covered by the pardon, Hunter was working for entities controlled by foreign governments without registering as a foreign agent. According to the House Oversight Committee report, \$20 million in cash and diamonds was paid to Biden LLCs by entities controlled by China, Russia, Romania, and Ukraine, yet there were no Foreign Agents Registration Act charges. Now, Biden issued his son a blanket pardon covering a decade of illicit activity. Hunter's crimes were published in the Marco Polo report. The report can be found at bidenreport.com. The American people deserve to know the truth.

HONORING FEDERAL GLOVER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, we rise today, along with Representative DESAULNIER, to recognize and honor Federal Glover on the occasion of his retirement following a meritorious career in public service, leadership, and commitment to the City of Pittsburg and Contra Costa County communities and beyond. For over two decades, Supervisor Glover has been a pillar of leadership, advocacy, and progress in our community.

Born and raised in Pittsburg, California, Supervisor Glover has spent his life committed to the betterment of his hometown and District 5. His public service journey began on the Pittsburg City Council in 1996, where he quickly rose through the ranks and later served as Mayor. Since his election to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in 2000 he has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of his constituents, serving with honor, vision, and compassion.

Throughout his tenure, Supervisor Glover spearheaded numerous initiatives that have left an indelible mark on our communities. He was instrumental in securing \$1 billion for Highway 4 improvements and the eBART extension to Antioch, which improved transportation and connectivity for thousands of residents. His leadership in consolidating rural fire districts into the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District enhanced fire protection and local control for our communities.

Supervisor Glover has also championed initiatives to support public safety, economic development, and youth engagement. From implementing safety improvements on Vasco Road to launching youth conferences that empower the next generation, he has always prioritized the well-being of his constituents. His commitment to inclusion and community building is reflected in programs like the Faith Initiative and the area's first Gang Task Force, which addressed critical social challenges through collaboration and holistic solutions.

In addition to his professional achievements, Supervisor Glover's personal story is one of resilience and gratitude. After surviving a life-threatening health crisis in 2015, including a 16-hour transplant surgery, he returned to his work with renewed purpose and dedication. His gratitude toward the donor who gave him a second chance at life, as well as the support of his wife Janis, their children, and grandchildren, has been a source of inspiration to all who know him.

Federal Glover's legacy of service, integrity, and leadership will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps. His work has not only improved infrastructure and services but has also fostered a sense of community and cooperation that will endure for generations. On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th and 10th Congressional Districts, we wish Supervisor Glover best wishes in his well-earned retirement and extend our sincere gratitude for his many years of service to the community.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM SCHLAGER

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and express my gratitude to a terrific public servant, a trusted advisor, and a young man whose future is limitless.

William Schlager is my Legislative Director and has for years served with distinction as a member of my staff. He came to this leadership position in my office the old-fashioned way: by rising up through the ranks of more junior roles with hard work, an eye for detail, and dedication to the constituents we serve. William's professional growth as a member of my staff has been nothing short of tremendous.

As I say farewell to this season of service in the United States House of Representatives, I thank William for his counsel and friendship. I am eager to watch William's career continue to unfold. I thank William Schlager.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LOU CARNESECCA

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of St. John's University's Hall of Fame Head Coach Lou Carnesecca, who passed away on November 30, 2024, at the age of 99.

Born to Alfred and Adele Carnesecca in 1925, Lou was raised with strong principles that would set the foundation for his legacy. After graduating from St. Ann's Academy—now known as Archbishop Molloy High School, Lou served in the Pacific Theater as a troop transporter for the United States Coast Guard during World War II.

Mr. Carnesecca is most well-known for his lifetime commitment to the game of basketball

and its players, with roles as head basketball coach for St. Ann's Academy, St. John's University, and the ABA's New York Nets. "Little Looie" was an old-school coach recognized for his tenacity, energetic leadership, and his emphasis on the fundamentals. He was a two-time National Coach of the Year, a three-time Big East Coach of the Year, and an inductee to the New York City Basketball Hall of Fame. Lou's coaching led St. John's to 18 postseason appearances in the NCAA Tournament, including in the Final Four and Elite Eight, and he cinched a NIT Championship title. His dedication to the program yielded five Big East Conference Regular Season Championships, two Big East Conference Tournament Championships, and more than 40 NBA Draft picks.

As a believer in the value of mentorship, I commend Lou for his dedication to impacting the lives of the players he coached, the fans he inspired, and the community he served. The vision of a future we desire is determined by our willingness to invest in others—Lou did it every day.

Mr. Carnesecca is survived by his wife of 73 years, Mary, and his beloved family—daughter Enes, son-in-law Gerard (Jerry), granddaughter Ieva and fiancé Frank, niece and nephew, Susan Chiesa, John Chiesa and his wife, Nancy—and his extended family and many friends.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: PAULINE BIEDKA

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 individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who 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 that I recognize the late Pauline Biedka, 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. Throughout her remarkable life, Pauline Biedka embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

At the age of 18, Pauline—one of our Nation's original Rosie the Riveters—joined the ranks of six million women across the country, during World War II, rolled up her sleeves, and went to work at Fleetwings Aircraft Plant in Bristol Borough. While there, she worked in the K9 department as the lead lady and guided other Rosies with riveting. According to Pauline: "If you had a good team of riveters and buckers, you could go fast, down the line and get it done!" Following her service during World War II, Pauline stepped up to serve our Nation once again and went back to work for Kaiser-Fleetwing in 1952 during the Korean