

## 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](https://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

War. Her inspiring commitment to service, community, and country continued even after her many years as a Rosie. For twenty-five years, Pauline served as a dedicated Crossing Guard for the students and staff of the Neshaminy School District. A trailblazer, devoted wife, mother, grandmother of six, great-grandmother of twelve, Pauline led an extraordinary life of service to her family, community, and country.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Pauline that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Her 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 Pauline not just for her remarkable deeds, but for who she was—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to the family of Pauline Biedka for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will continue to inspire generations to come. May her legacy remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT "BOB"  
GABLE

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 17, 2024*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a special man, Robert "Bob" Gable, of Frankfort, Kentucky. Mr. Gable passed away on November 29, 2024, at the age of 90.

Mr. Gable was born in New York City, grew up in Oregon and Arizona, and graduated from Stanford University. He served as an officer in the United States Navy. Mr. Gable and his wife Emily moved to Stearns, Kentucky, where they raised their three children. He ran The Stearns Lumber & Coal Co. founded by his great-grandfather.

In 1964, Mr. Gable's political activity began when he worked on Howard Baker's first campaign for the U.S. Senate in Tennessee. He then worked on the successful gubernatorial campaign of Kentucky's Louie Nunn. Following the election, Mr. Gable was appointed as the state parks commissioner and the family moved to Frankfort. Gable ran unsuccessfully for U.S. Senate in 1972. When his party needed someone to run for governor in 1975 against incumbent Julian Carroll, Gable agreed to enter the race. He ran for governor again in 1995 and was unsuccessful in the primary.

Mr. Gable was elected chairman of the Republican Party of Kentucky in 1986, at a time when Republicans were vastly outnumbered. A strong and unwavering leader, he began to lay the groundwork for changing the political landscape in Kentucky. His enthusiasm, optimism, and gracious demeanor never diminished. He took a close personal interest in candidates and party leaders, giving expert advice and counsel. Over the years he served as a mentor for countless young people with an interest in politics.

Mr. Gable's wife Emily passed way in 2017. He is survived by his three children James, Elizabeth, and John and his two grandchildren.

Bob Gable was a great patriot, one of my most valued political mentors, and a true Kentucky gentleman. I am most grateful for his loyal and genuine friendship, his sound advice, never-fail positive attitude, and kind, dignified manner. It is my honor to lift up his life before the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
RHONDA SOLIS

**HON. YADIRA CARAVEO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 17, 2024*

Ms. CARAVEO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rhonda Solis, a distinguished member of the Colorado State Board of Education, who has served her community with passion, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to improving educational opportunities for all students. As she concludes her tenure on the Board, I want to recognize her accomplishments, advocacy, and tireless dedication to our schools, our students, and our educators in Colorado.

Rhonda Solis has been a leader and a visionary on the Colorado State Board of Education. Representing her community with steadfast dedication, she has worked to ensure that every child has access to a quality education. Through her commitment to equity, inclusion, and academic excellence, Ms. Solis has advanced policies that have shaped our educational landscape and improved outcomes for students across the state.

Ms. Solis has been a fierce advocate for underrepresented communities, promoting programs and resources that uplift students of all backgrounds. She has championed initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by English Language Learners and low-income students, striving to create an education system that serves all children fairly. Her voice on the Board has consistently reflected her deep belief that every student deserves a chance to succeed, no matter their zip code or background.

In addition to her role on the Board, Ms. Solis has been active in her local community, inspiring and mentoring countless students, parents, and educators. Her work has extended beyond policy, touching lives and fostering an environment of compassion, respect, and understanding. She has earned the gratitude of those she serves, and her legacy will be felt for years to come.

As we celebrate Ms. Solis' dedication and contributions, I want to express my deepest gratitude for her service to Colorado. She has set a standard of excellence and integrity in public service, and her work has left an indelible mark on our state. On behalf of the people of Colorado's 8th Congressional District, I thank Rhonda Solis for her years of service, her passion for education, and her commitment to a brighter future for all our children.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF U.S. NAVY CORPSMAN JACK GUTMAN

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 17, 2024*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of WWII hero and U.S. Navy Corpsman Jack Gutman, who passed away just days short of his 99th birthday.

Born December 19, 1925, in San Francisco, California, Jack was the third of nine children. His father, who spoke seven languages, served in World War I, after which he worked at the Grand Hotel in Shanghai, China. Gutman's mother, from a wealthy Russian family, was a ballerina. When her family fled the Bolsheviks, they went to Shanghai, and the two met, married, and settled in America.

The Great Depression was a difficult time for the family and his father had to travel to make a living selling apples. By the time Jack was a teenager, the family was living in New York. Jack was hanging out with his high school friends when the news of Pearl Harbor broke. Gutman enlisted right away at age 17 as a Navy seaman. After boot camp, Gutman thought he was going to be an aerial radio man—but an urgent need arose for medics, and his training was diverted.

At age 18, Corpsman 1st Class Gutman provided treatment to the wounded and dying on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day and at some of the bloodiest battles throughout the European and Pacific theaters. Gutman vividly remembers when his unit landed on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944. With bullets flying, bombs exploding, and men dying all around him, Corpsman Gutman helped those he could, giving shots of morphine, applying bandages and tourniquets, and providing words of comfort to soldiers who died in his arms.

Gutman would later write a book about his experience titled "One Veteran's Journey to Heal the Wounds of War." His story was recorded by the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana. Jack was also interviewed as part of a documentary film about the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

A quote from his book best describes the impact the war had on his life: "I went into the war with a fervor to fight for my country and protect our freedom, but the experience had been nothing like what I thought when I signed up to join the Navy. Back at home, I thought constantly of the men that had died overseas. I wondered how and why I survived. There I was, a young teenager thrown into a crazy war with thousands of young men dying in front of me. I never dreamed it would be that awful, and that those horrifying images would stick with me now that I was safely at home, and for years to come."

After his combat experiences, Gutman decided to become a doctor. He took night school classes, and before algebra, would tell jokes. He met his wife, Mary Jo, in that class, and they were married June 22, 1947, a union that lasted 77 years. Once his children came along, he never made it to medical school.

Throughout his life, Jack kept quiet about the flashbacks that haunted him ever since returning home from war. As a band-aid to cover his recurring nightmares, he immersed himself