

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

in his work, including performing as a successful comedian under the name of Jackie Walker.

When things took a turn for the worse, he finally turned to the VA for help and was seen by a therapist, who diagnosed him with post-traumatic stress disorder and helped him receive treatment and VA benefits.

With a new lease on life, Jack began helping other veterans experiencing PTSD by encouraging them to seek support to live happy, productive lives.

Gutman's valiant service to both his country and his life of service to his fellow veterans serves as an inspiration for us all. For this reason, I ask my colleagues to join me celebrating the life and legacy of Jack Gutman, a true American hero.

HONORING TONY FLETCHER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tony Fletcher, a dedicated advocate in our Napa community. For thirty-five years, Mr. Fletcher has demonstrated unwavering commitment to enriching the lives of the blind and visually impaired (BVI) through his work with the Enchanted Hills Camp for the Blind.

Born and raised in Napa, Mr. Fletcher dedicated his career to serving our community and ensuring that visually impaired individuals have access to resources. Mr. Fletcher's journey with Enchanted Hills Camp began in 1989, marking the start of a lifelong career with LightHouse for the Blind. Later, in 1995 he earned a Master of Arts in Special Education with an emphasis on Orientation and Mobility from San Francisco State University. Mr. Fletcher is retiring after thirty-five years of serving Lighthouse for the Blind which oversees Enchanted Hills Camp concluding his career as the Senior Director of Services.

Under Mr. Fletcher's leadership, Enchanted Hills Camp has flourished as a safe, nurturing, and empowering environment where blind campers of all ages could explore, learn, and experience the joys of a traditional summer camp. Mr. Fletcher's vision and determination extended beyond the campgrounds, as he built partnerships with the County of Napa. In 2017, when devastating wildfires destroyed much of Enchanted Hills Camp, Mr. Fletcher in partnership with County Supervisor Ryan Gregory and the LightHouse organization, helped rebuild the camp. Today, Enchanted Hills Camp continues to be a fully accessible and inclusive retreat where blind, deafblind, and low-vision campers continue to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Fletcher for his remarkable service to the Napa community and the BVI population. Mr. Fletcher's work has had a profound impact on generations of students. His dedication has cultivated a legacy of resilience and compassion that will benefit our community for years to come. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING PA-1's HOMETOWN HERO: NEWTOWN BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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 group of individuals from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—people who have 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 several outstanding representatives of the Newtown Business Community as some of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Matt Arlen
Richard Fekete
Kathleen McCafferty
Gina Santoro

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. This group of remarkable individuals have embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In 2021, Newtown business owners Gina Santoro, Richard Fekete, Matt Arlen, and Kathleen McCafferty approached Main Street Founder Keith Fenimore with an idea to bring our community together in support of local breast cancer patients. Their idea was to host a block party event that drives community members to come out and shop locally, with all proceeds going to Main Street, whose programs help local breast cancer patients and their families with food assistance, integrative services, counseling, therapy, out-of-pocket expenses, treatment transportation, comfort bags, treatment center support, and more. And so, the business owners along State Street changed their exterior lights with pink bulbs, hosted their first Light the Night Pink Block Party, and raised over \$8,000. Seeing the impact they were able to have, the Newtown Business Community collectively decided to continue and grow their efforts and hosted their second Block Party in 2022, which raised \$17,000. And in 2023, in an awe-inspiring show of unity and compassion, this incredible group of local entrepreneurs rallied together once more and raised over \$70,000—the most money ever raised and donated by a single event to the Main Street organization.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Gina, Richard, Matt, and Kathleen that reminds us of the power 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 them not just for their remarkable deeds but for who they are—true heroes in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to these individuals 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RACHEL ABRAHAM

HON. JAMAAL BOWMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to remember the beautiful life of Rachel Abraham of Mamaroneck. Rachel passed recently at the young age of 25 from complications due to pulmonary hypertension, a condition she was diagnosed with at birth.

Our community in Mamaroneck and across New York's 16th district is devastated by Rachel's passing. I want to send love and strength to Rachel's parents, Deborah and Stephen, her siblings, Leah and Joshua, and her fiancé, Dylan. I know that they are proud of Rachel's incredible life and all that she was able to accomplish.

After graduating from Mamaroneck High School, Rachel attended American University and was in the process of getting her masters degree from George Washington University. She was also working at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society as a Government Relations Manager, pursuing her goal of changing healthcare in the United States. Before her time at HIMSS, she worked for the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and ADvancing States and interned here in Congress.

We are all grateful for the contributions Rachel made to improving our healthcare across the country, work informed by her own experiences with the healthcare system throughout her life. Her commitment to public service and advocating for others is clear and we are all better for it.

My thoughts are with her family, friends, and loved ones in this difficult time. Rachel was a beautiful soul and an incredible part of our Mamaroneck community. It has been an honor to represent her and her family.

CONGRATULATING DR. MICHAEL C. BURGESS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER 22 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend and colleague, Chair of the Rules Committee, Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS, on his retirement from the House of Representatives after a 22-year career representing the folks of Texas' 26th congressional district.

With his background as an OB-GYN doctor and the most senior medical doctor in the