

House, Dr. BURGESS has been an important voice on every important healthcare debate during his two decades of service in the House. I've had the pleasure of working closely with Dr. BURGESS on the Energy and Commerce Committee for a long time, and whenever a bill related to healthcare was being debated or discussed, I knew I could count on Dr. BURGESS to provide clarity and insight from an experienced physician's perspective. Dr. BURGESS and I share a passion for our military servicemembers and for many Congresses have introduced the MISSION Zero initiative together to improve trauma care between the military and civilians. Seeing this bill signed into law was a major achievement together and I intend to ensure this program continues in his legacy. He has accomplished some truly amazing things during his time here including lowering drug costs, reigning in government waste, cutting taxes, and expanding healthcare options for folks around the country. Since being nominated as Chairman of the Rules Committee, Dr. BURGESS has worked tirelessly to ensure good legislation makes it to the floor and has been instrumental in our accomplishments in the 118th Congress.

I would like to thank Dr. BURGESS for his unwavering commitment to conservative principles and his sound leadership. On a personal note, I appreciate his friendship and counsel over the years. While his colleagues and the people in his district are sure to miss Dr. BURGESS in Congress, I know he is looking forward to spending more time with his family back home in his beloved Texas.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating my friend Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS on his retirement from the House of Representatives after 22 years of exemplary service to the people of Texas' 26th congressional district.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR MARIO FLORES, U.S. ARMY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Major Mario Flores, U.S. Army, for his outstanding work on behalf of the Department of Defense. Major Flores served as a Department of Defense legislative fellow in the U.S. Senate, and later as a congressional liaison for the Army Reserve. Mario commissioned in the United States Army in 2011 through the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program at DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois where he received a B.S. in Business and later an M.S. in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Through various assignments with 3rd Special Forces Group, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joint Targeting Directorate, and Special Operations Command, Mario has made direct contributions to the U.S. National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy. Mario specializes in strategic and tactical targeting operations and is a graduate of the Joint Targeting School, the Joint Special Operations University's Special Operations Intelligence Course, and the Special Forces Combat Course—Support, and the Basic Airborne Course.

Mario is also a committed advocate for our Nation's veterans. In 2020, Mario was ap-

pointed by then-Virginia Governor Northam to serve a four-year appointment on the Virginia State Board on Veterans Services. In this role, he is responsible for advising the Virginia Department of Veterans Services on relevant policies in support of Virginia's veterans.

In addition to his military service, Mario's civilian background includes extensive government and private sector experience including being a Public Policy Congressional Fellow for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Fellowship Program, having various roles at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and joining General Dynamics Information Technology. Following his completion of his next level of military education in early 2025, he will be returning to the civilian workforce while also continuing his service in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Mario has been instrumental as an Army Reserve congressional liaison, especially working with my office to support Fort Knox. I thank Mario for his dedicated service, for his professionalism, and for his passionate service to our country and to our community. I also want to thank his wife, Jazmine, and I wish them both the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING U.S. ARMY CORPORAL WARREN J. WINNE, SR.

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of United States Army Corporal Warren J. Winne, Sr.

Warren was born on February 17, 1931, in Albany, New York, to Lyman and Gladys Winne. He grew up alongside his siblings: Franklin, Eugene, Eileen, and Dorothy. Warren started his education in Rensselaer, New York, and later enrolled at East Greenbush High School before enlisting in the United States Army on May 3, 1948.

Warren served on active duty with the Army from 1948 to 1952 and earned the rank of Corporal during his military career. Corporal Winne was a member of the 7th Infantry Division during the Korean War until his Honorable Discharge in 1952. Upon returning to civilian life, he married his wife Mary on September 21, 1952, at St. John's Church in Rensselaer and began a career as a pipe insulator for the Johns Manville Company.

Warren established deep roots within his community. He was a proud volunteer firefighter with the Clinton Heights Fire Department, a member of the Melvin Roads American Legion Post No. 1231, and the Umpire-in-Chief of the East Greenbush Girls Softball Organization. His commitment to the softball community was recognized with the dedication of the East Greenbush Girls Softball field in his honor. Warren was also an active member of the Asbestos Union No. 40, demonstrating his solidarity with his fellow workers. In his free time, Warren was a skilled hunter and avid fisherman. Above all, Warren cherished his time spent with his four children: Carol, Sandra, Colleen, and Warren Jr.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, it is an honor to recognize the extraordinary life of Corporal Warren J. Winne, Sr. and the enduring legacy of his character, self-

lessness, and dedication to his country and community.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES ARMY WORLD WAR II VETERAN GUIDO P. DiFRANCESCO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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 outstanding constituent from my district, Guido P. DiFrancesco. He is a current resident of the Lutheran Community of Telford, Pennsylvania. Born in Philadelphia on December 17, 1924, Guido is celebrating his 100th birthday today.

He grew up on Mechanic Street in the Germantown section of Philadelphia with his four brothers and five sisters. At age 8, he constructed his own shoeshine box and started his own shoeshine business to help provide food for his parents and siblings. Guido had an amazing singing voice as a child, and he cultivated his love of music when he could by performing at school functions, weddings, and local night clubs. He attended Germantown High School until the Depression required him to leave high school and seek employment to help support his family.

As a teenager, he held several jobs including the Philadelphia Steel Mill and the famous Victor Harmonica factory where he learned to construct and play the harmonica before he entered the United States Army in 1941. He sailed to England on the RMS Mauretania where he entertained the troops with his gift of singing. He landed in Weymouth, England and prepared for the invasion of Normandy.

On D-Day, with G-Company, he landed on Omaha Beach with the First Infantry Division (The Big Red One), 18th Infantry Regiment. He was a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) Marksman and fought across France for 6 months in hedge row to hedge row battles until he finally reached Belgium. He became deathly ill and was hospitalized there and then transferred to a hospital in England. While recuperating in England, he entertained the patients with his singing. He eventually came back to America and continued his convalescence and his singing at the Convalescent Hospital in Camp Upton, New York until he was honorably discharged and returned home in the spring of 1943.

After he returned home, he married and lived on Boyer Street in Germantown and eventually moved to Horsham, Pennsylvania in 1952. He held several manufacturing positions including a plant manager position at Huntingdon Industries for 30 years and Mac Electric in Glenside for 10 years. He was also self-employed as a home-improvement specialist until he officially retired at age 85. Guido was an involved member of the Warrington Lions for many years and worked tirelessly at their events.

Guido finally received his high school diploma at age 93. His work ethic and ingenuity are exemplary. He was devoted to his first wife, Rose, who died in 1976 and his second wife, Kitty, who died in 2019. He is a proud parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent of a blended family including a daughter and

son-in-law, a stepson, two stepdaughters and sons-in-law, ten grandchildren, and twenty-five great-grandchildren. He is a loving role model to his family and is a living history of someone who served our country so valiantly.

Our Nation owes Guido a debt that can never be repaid. We wish Guido countless blessings, and I remain deeply appreciative to Guido DiFrancesco for his life of service and sacrifice for our community, district, and country. His commitment to his fellow neighbors, veterans, and service members alike is a testament to his character and spirit. I am more than honored to recognize him today and wish him nothing but the best for his 100th birthday and the future beyond.

HONORING EAST BAY REGIONAL
PARK'S DISTRICT DIRECTOR DEE
ROSARIO

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Board Director Dee Rosario as he prepares for retirement after an extraordinary 37 years of dedicated service to the East Bay Regional Park District. A proud native of the East Bay, Dee's journey began at Mt. Eden High School in Hayward, followed by an associate's degree from Chabot Community College and further studies at California State University, East Bay. His deep roots in this community have shaped both his personal and professional life, driving a career that has had a profound and lasting impact on our region.

Dee's career with the Park District began in 1975, where he took on a series of vital roles, including park ranger, firefighter, fire lieutenant, and ultimately, park supervisor of Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park. His unwavering commitment to preserving our natural resources and serving the public has left an indelible mark on the East Bay community.

During the 1991 Oakland Firestorm, his bravery and leadership were instrumental in mitigating the devastation. His steadfast dedi-

cation to both protecting lives and safeguarding our natural landscapes proved invaluable during that critical time, demonstrating his remarkable courage and deep sense of responsibility.

In November 2016, Dee transitioned to a new chapter as a Board Director, where his visionary leadership has shaped the direction of the Park District. Notably, he co-chaired Measure FF, a successful initiative that secured crucial funding for park improvements, wildfire prevention, and public safety—investments that will benefit generations to come. Dee's exceptional contributions to the Park District were recently recognized with the 2024 California Special Districts Association Board Member of the Year award, a fitting honor for his tireless work and dedication.

One of Dee's most lasting legacies is his role in renaming Redwood Regional Park in honor of Aurelia Reinhardt, a pioneering figure in the Park District's history. This thoughtful and meaningful tribute not only celebrated Reinhardt's contributions but also underscored Dee's commitment to preserving the rich heritage of our community and our parks.

Throughout his career, Dee has exemplified what it means to be a true leader. He has consistently sought to cultivate growth, creativity, and compassion in others, mentoring the next generation of public servants to continue his legacy of excellence and service. His belief that leadership is about empowering others will continue to resonate long after his retirement.

On behalf of the entire community, I extend our deepest gratitude to Board Director Dee Rosario for his outstanding service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to enhancing our natural and recreational resources. His legacy will continue to inspire us all.

REMEMBERING MY FRIEND
GEORGE CECALA

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. House of Representatives unexpectedly lost a true pub-

lic servant this week. My Chief of Staff, George Cecala, served with me from the day I was sworn into office on January 3, 2009, until his life was cut short earlier this week, suffering from a heart attack at the young age of 49.

George was a loving husband and father and leaves behind his wife Jennifer, whom he cherished and their daughter Genny who was the joy of his life. He also leaves a record of remarkable and sacrificial service to this institution and to the people of Florida's Space and Treasure Coasts.

Whether it is Kennedy Space Center, Patrick Space Force Base, Port Canaveral or our beautiful beaches, citrus groves or improvements to our highways or airports, George had a hand in it.

I saw both gentle care and dogged tenacity as George worked tirelessly against what seemed insurmountable odds to secure the safe return of abducted children from a war-torn region of the world to their grieving mothers.

To those who worked with George he was always encouraging. When someone was troubled or struggling, George was always there to offer a word of encouragement.

George was always attentive to the needs of those around him—the colleague sitting beside him, the visitor who just walked in the office door, the intern looking for that first job on the Hill, or the constituent on the other end of the line, calling the office to tell George how to fix Washington. George always went out of his way to serve others—the hallmark of a public servant.

He loved his Lord and Savior. He loved his church. He filled our office with stories of delight over Genny's latest achievements and her excitement over life's joys. And, he loved his community, even running for a seat in the Maryland House of Delegates.

The House of Representatives is a better place because of George Cecala. George will be deeply missed.