

HONORING GARRY DOUGLAS FOR
HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Garry Douglas for his hard work and advocacy on behalf of the North Country and its business community.

In December 1992, Mr. Douglas was selected to lead the North Country Chamber of Commerce from a pool of over 100 candidates. Prior to this, he served as Executive Assistant to Congressman Gerald Solomon for fourteen years. During his time in the Chamber, Mr. Douglas has worked tirelessly to provide members with multiple services and expand that membership. Today, the North Country Chamber of Commerce boasts a membership of over 4,200 businesses across Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, and Warren Counties.

During his tenure, Mr. Douglas has weathered many economic storms. When a local air base was forced to close under the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure Commission, Mr. Douglas seized the opportunity to expand into the Canadian market. Mr. Douglas and the Chamber Board were swift to fill the vacuum left by the closure with new business for the community. Similarly, when faced with the Covid-19 pandemic, he created an economic plan to assist all the businesses in the North Country, not just Chamber members, on how to navigate New York State's regulations. He also instructed Chamber of Commerce staff to assist small businesses in securing federal and state resources.

Mr. Douglas also founded the North American Center of Excellence for Transportation Equipment (NAMTrans) which develops and serves a cluster of transport equipment and aerospace manufacturers in northern New York. Mr. Douglas' efforts to improve the business environment led to the recognition of a Quebec-New York corridor, uniting regions that have close historical and cultural relationships in economic development efforts.

Mr. Douglas has received many accolades during his time leading the Chamber from local, regional, and state organizations. City & State Magazine has recognized Mr. Douglas on both its Economic Development Power 75 list and its Upstate New York Power 100 list. While Mr. Douglas would be the first to credit his team at the Chamber with much of his success, there is no doubt that his visionary leadership has significantly enhanced the North Country's economic development. Earlier this year, the Town of Plattsburgh officially named a road in the newly opened Clinton County Business Industrial Gateway as Douglas Boulevard in honor of his service to the region.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am proud to celebrate the achievements of my friend Garry Douglas. His dedication to public service and tireless support of small businesses across the North Country has benefited many and will continue to help the North Country for decades to come.

REMEMBERING THE INCREDIBLE
LIFE OF JOHN ZURLO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the incredible life of my friend, John Zurlo. John was a pillar of our North Country community, and his life has left a lasting legacy on the lives of thousands.

John was born on October 24, 1938, in Plattsburgh, New York, and raised in the nearby town of Champlain on the New York-Canada border. He attended St. Michael's College in Vermont and graduated with a B.A. in Business Administration in 1960. John then returned to his hometown to teach business at Northeastern Clinton Central School, a position he held for 34 years. He also served as the coach for the school's baseball and golf teams.

Going beyond his employment at Northeastern Clinton Central School, John continually gave back to the youth serving as the president of Champlain Central Teacher's Association and the local Youth Hockey Association, North Country Cougars Youth Hockey Association. John was also a member of the St. Michael's College Alumnus Board of Directors.

Further, John was extremely active in his community and held many roles in organizations across the region including the Rouses Point Kiwanis Club, Teacher's Federal Credit Union, Board of Directors for Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital, St. Mary's Mission Center, Knights of Columbus Council No. 3525, Plattsburgh Lodge of Elks No. 621, Plattsburgh Rotary International, and the Lake Champlain Citizens Advisory Committee.

John was also a public servant and was elected to several positions, including Champlain tax collector and Clinton County Legislator, before being elected Clinton County Clerk in 1995. John was reelected to his eighth term as the Clinton County Clerk in November 2023 and was the longest-serving Clinton County Clerk.

Outside the public sphere, John was also known for his generosity and kindness and became a mentor to many in Clinton County. I had the good fortune to be seated next to John at a judicial candidate event twelve years ago. When I informed him that I planned to run for the New York 21st Congressional Seat at the age of 28 and he nearly fell out of his chair. Or at least he always told it that way, but since that day I could always rely on John for advice and friendship. In my many visits to Clinton County, it was always a highlight to see John, whether it was at county events or seeing him at the Rouses Point Independence Day Parade in his antique car without fail every year.

John was warm and welcoming to all and a true North Country icon. He loved his family, friends, community, and country. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all who had the pleasure of knowing him. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, it is my honor to remember and celebrate the incredible life of John Zurlo.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LOUIS
LEONE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of United States Army Veteran and Former Mayor of Greenwich, Louis Leone, and to congratulate him on becoming the Grand Marshall for Greenwich's Memorial Day Parade.

Louis joined the Army in 1959 and served in Vietnam before retiring to Greenwich in 1984 after 24 years of active-duty service. Louis earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge with over 55 jumps, and received an expert status in rifle and pistol qualifications. In addition, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, 3 Bronze Star Medals, the Air Medal, 5 Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medal for Valor, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Korean Defense Medal, the Valorous and Meritorious Unit Awards, Vietnam Gallantly Cross Unit Citation Badge with Palm, and several Army service ribbons. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as a public relations officer for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY.

Beyond his distinguished service to his country, Louis has been an outstanding leader in the Greenwich community ever since he retired. He served as mayor from 1986 to 1995 and spearheaded the creation of the Greenwich Gazebo, Chamber of Commerce, the Youth Center, and the curbside recycling program. The people of Greenwich feel the lasting impact of Louis' leadership each day.

Louis is also active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a veteran service organization, and is instrumental in the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program for high school and middle school students which instills patriotism and democracy in Greenwich's youth. He is a loving husband to his wife, Susan whom he celebrated 67 years of marriage with this summer.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize the incredible service of Army Veteran Louis Leone. I congratulate him on his incredible achievements and on becoming the Grand Marshall of the Greenwich Memorial Day parade.

RECOGNIZING LYNNAE FLORA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lynnae Flora of Golden, Colorado, on her retirement following 27 years of service to the people of Jefferson County.

Lynnae joined the county in 1997, and over her career rose to become the Deputy Director of Jefferson County Human Services. There, Lynnae dedicated her professional life to ensuring every member of the Jefferson County community can access health services and receive the support they need. She served the

county for almost three decades and through numerous challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Her leadership and passion kept the department running and kept vital services open for the people of Jefferson County.

Her impact is not limited to her role as Deputy Director. As a member of the Health Ethics committee and the steering committee for the Healthier Jeffco Alliance, Lynnae has collaborated with organizations across Jefferson County to promote a smarter, fairer, and more equitable health care system. Her work, and the dedication she has shown to her community, are a proud example for every Coloradan. The people of Jefferson County owe Lynnae a debt of gratitude.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Lynnae on her well-earned retirement and to thank her for her commitment to our community.

HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF PATRICK J. KELLY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick J. Kelly, a St. Lawrence County native who was named New York State's economic developer of the year by the New York State Economic Development Council (NYSEDC).

In January 2012, Patrick was appointed the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency's Chief Executive Officer and has since served faithfully in this capacity overseeing the agency's planning, initiation, implementation, and administration of programs. In this role, Patrick encourages and attracts industries to locate or expand within St. Lawrence County, boosting our local economy. In 2023 alone, Patrick helped lead 45 IDA projects in St. Lawrence County which helped retain 615 jobs and create an additional 225 roles in our community.

Patrick was elected as the NYSEDC Board Chair in 2020 following his success in St. Lawrence. As Board Chair, Patrick showed himself to be a true leader as someone who understands how to create economic opportunity and knows how to build consensus to move initiatives forward.

Upon receiving his award, Patrick congratulated his team and the many people that helped him and the program succeed showing true selflessness and thoughtfulness. While Patrick serves as CEO and as NYSEDC Board Chair in his professional life, he is also

a loving husband to his wife, Jackie, and a caring father to his children balancing his busy career with his loving family.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, it is my privilege and honor to recognize the incredible accomplishments of Patrick J. Kelly. I congratulate him on his incredible achievements and look forward to witnessing his future endeavors in the community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
LAWRENCE "LARRY" DOLHOF

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lawrence "Larry" Dolhof and congratulate him on being re-elected Chairman of the Lewis County Board of Legislators. Larry has served two separate tenures on the County Legislature with a total of 15 years of service including as the Board's Representative for District 8, which includes the towns of Pinckney, Harrisburg, Montague, West Turin, and Osceola.

Larry was first elected to the Board of Legislators in 2000 and briefly served two terms returning to private life in 2004 before being re-elected in 2013. He earned the unanimous support of his colleagues to serve as Chairman in 2018 and was recently reelected to another term as Chairman in 2023. Under his leadership, the legislature has prioritized fiscal responsibility and infrastructure improvements throughout the county. Larry has led efforts to renovate the Human Services building, build a new highway garage, and provide a new facility for the DMV and Board of Elections.

Larry's leadership has helped to usher in a lower tax rate, decreasing the tax rate from the previous decade and leveraging more than \$3.5 million in broadband infrastructure, reducing the number of unserved households by over 70 percent. The people of Lewis County have increased access to online resources necessary for education, healthcare, and emergency communication thanks to Larry's stewardship. A dedicated community leader, Larry has forged partnerships with state and federal representatives to address issues regarding tourism, renewable energy opportunities, and health and human services programs, while advocating for the full and fair representation of the voices in his rural county.

His service as Chairman of the Board is not the only way Larry serves his community. He and his wife Donna reside in Lyons Falls where they own and operate Dolhof Hardware.

They offer hardware, lumber, building materials, steel roofing, sporting goods, rifles, shotguns, and automotive goods, as well as a drive-up propane filling station to provide essential access to energy in cold upstate winters.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I am honored to recognize Lawrence "Larry" Dolhof and congratulate him on his years of dedicated public service to the people of Lewis County and on his reelection as Chairman of the Board of Legislators.

HONORING JAMES "JIM" WALLACE
FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James "Jim" Wallace who has diligently served his community as County Administrator for Herkimer County for 45 years.

Jim is highly regarded by his peers and throughout his community, as he was unanimously appointed by the Herkimer County Legislature. First appointed in 1979, Jim has been an incredible champion for Herkimer County working to increase investment and promote economic development during his time as County Administrator.

Through his role as County Administrator, Jim worked closely with the Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency (IDA). They came together to expand businesses, enhance economic development, and create jobs throughout the county. These results have been seen in the investment of millions of dollars in energy, manufacturing, healthcare, and tourism industries across the county.

If you asked Jim, he would be among the first to credit his success to his hard-working staff and colleagues but there is no doubt that Jim's stalwart leadership has been invaluable to Herkimer County. Former Herkimer County Legislature Chairman Vincent Bono has characterized Jim as a well-respected man with a wealth of knowledge, calling him a tremendous asset to Herkimer County. I am proud to represent individuals like Jim in my district who diligently work for the betterment of the North Country.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, it is my privilege and honor to recognize the incredible accomplishments of James "Jim" Wallace. I congratulate him on his incredible achievements and look forward to witnessing his future endeavors in the community.