

RECOGNIZING ROB ZERJAV

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Rob Zerjav for being named the 2023 Baseball America (BA) Minor League Baseball Executive of the Year.

A native of Green Bay, Rob began his career in 1997 as an unpaid intern with the team. During this time, his work ethic and love for the team became clear, and in the years following, Rob joined the full-time staff as a group sales representative. After two years in this position, Rob was promoted to Director of Baseball Operations and then to Vice President of Operations. Following the 2002 season, Rob was named Team President and General Manager, and in 2020, Rob purchased the team and stadium with partners Craig Dickman and Brad Raaths. This purchase made Appleton baseball club history as it became the first-ever private ownership group.

Throughout his years with the Timber Rattlers, Rob has remained focused on the organization's success and lived the organization's mission of "creating the best entertainment experience in Wisconsin so that every guest walks away with a smile and the desire to return." I applaud Rob for his dedication and thank him for his years of service to the organization and community.

It is clear that Rob's leadership and skills have played a critical role in the success of the Timber Rattlers. Since Rob assumed the role of General Manager, the Timber Rattlers have been recognized for many different achievements. In 2012, the team received the Larry MacPhail Award, Minor League Baseball's highest award in promotional excellence. The team was also recognized for its success in 2005, 2018, and 2019 when it received the Midwest League President's Award. As Rob marks his 28th year in Minor League Baseball, I wish him many more successful seasons and thank him for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Rob Zerjav for being named the 2023 Baseball America Minor League Baseball Executive of the Year. Rob's unwavering service and commitment to the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers and Northeast Wisconsin deserves the highest degree of recognition.

CELEBRATING WILLA HARTER'S
101ST BIRTHDAY**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Ms. Willa Harter of Bloomfield, Iowa a very happy 101st birthday.

Ms. Harter was born in Colorado on February 27, 1923. A survivor of scarlet fever at just four years old and left with only half her hearing, she learned to read lips at an early age. Ms. Harter's family moved to Iowa in December of 1933, and she graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1940. Two years later, she married her husband Marion Harter

and together they raised four children: Nancy, Betty, Tom Harter, and Mary Jo.

During her life she wore many different hats. She taught school, worked as a telephone operator at the Drakesville switchboard, and spent 27 years working at the Davis County Hospital. Willa's love and care was shown through her dedication at the hospital and at home with her children. Ms. Harter also has extensive experience crocheting afghans for every one of her children, her twelve grandchildren, twenty great grandchildren, and ten great-great grandchildren.

In addition to a full life at home in Iowa, Ms. Harter has seen her fair share of adventures, traveling to all 50 states, as well as Asia, Europe, South America, and Australia. Now, her daily adventure is enjoying retirement by doing puzzles and reading books in her Bloomfield home.

I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Willa Harter's life and achievements as we wish her a very happy 101st birthday. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to her and her family.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF
FOREIGN WARS POST 1136 IN WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1136 in Wyandotte, Michigan on the 100th anniversary of their founding. The support and care that they have shown to our veterans and our community over the last century is worthy of commendation.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States dates back to September 29, 1899, when it was founded in Columbus, Ohio following the return of Americans from the campaign in the Spanish-American war. Founded by a small group of veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars was founded to build upon them a spirit of comradeship only known to those who faced the dangers of war fighting side-by-side.

Post 1136 has a long and notable history of service. Throughout World War II, the Post sent gifts and home newspapers to the men and women serving all over the United States and the world. They continued serving the veterans as they returned home, creating a special Ritual Team to escort the returning bodies of their fallen comrades and to conduct military funerals. Although the Ritual Team was disbanded, in the late fifties, the Service Officer Burial Detail was formed and became known as the "Wyandotte Honor Guard." They still serve their fallen comrades even today. Post 1136 grew to over 1,000 members on March 25, 1970, at the height of the Vietnam War. Throughout war time, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1136 has been steadfast in its commitment to supporting our troops at home and abroad. With financial struggles and lower membership following the Vietnam War, Post 1136 gained strength once again as the United States liberated Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. Renewed efforts by the post allowed for continued campaigns of support for our

troops abroad, with Post 1136 donating food, toiletries, cigarettes, and other items in short supply to those on the battlefield.

Over the decades since its founding, Post 1136 in Wyandotte, Michigan has continued to give back to its community by hosting an annual 4th of July parade that it first started in 1939, memorial services for those lost in the September 11th attacks, charity fundraisers, and the construction of memorials for the brave heroes who lost their lives in the Vietnam War along the main boulevard that features inscriptions and poems written by community members. Committed to the cause of helping our service members, Post 1136 admirably helps veterans with health issues gain access to a variety of medical and social benefits and become comfortable at home following their return from combat.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1136 in Wyandotte, Michigan. For the last century, their members have continued serving their community well after being out of uniform. We thank them for their service, both at home and abroad, and are excited to see what they can accomplish over the next 100 years.

RECOGNIZING ALEX FERREIRA'S X
GAMES SUPERPIPE VICTORY**HON. LAUREN BOEBERT**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Alex Ferreira, an exceptional athlete hailing from Aspen, Colorado, who has once again earned a gold medal in the men's Ski SuperPipe at the Winter X Games. This is the third time Alex has won the X Games for the United States. He is an inspiration to us all, and he has shown the world what it means to be an American and a Coloradan.

The X Games invite athletes from across the world to compete in extreme sports, including skateboarding, BMX, motocross, snowboarding, and skiing. The SuperPipe event stands out among the events as a monumental challenge, allowing athletes to utilize towering walls to showcase breathtaking aerial tricks. The Winter X Games take athletes to the heart of Aspen to show off their skills to the world. Alex did not have to go far to remind us all, once again, that he had what it takes to win the X Games for a third time.

Alex's journey reminds us of what we can accomplish when we embrace difficulties and continue to push on. Time and time again, Alex kept going after setbacks that would have caused many people to give up. Last year's competition left him with two hard falls, a disappointing finish, and critics calling for his retirement. But Alex never gave up. At this year's X Games, he won not only for himself but for every young athlete across America who looks up to him.

Mr. Speaker, Alex Ferreira is a true inspiration to athletes across our nation, and I am incredibly proud to honor him today. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alex for his spectacular win at the X Games and for redefining what it means to be a Coloradan. Alex is the best that Colorado's Third Congressional District has to offer, and his story pushes us all to strive for greatness.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
KEVIN JOHNSON SENIOR'S LIFE-
TIME OF SERVICE

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Master Sergeant Kevin Johnson, Sr.

Originally of Philadelphia, MSG Johnson enlisted in the Army in 1984, marking the beginning of his lifelong career in service to his country. After completing basic training at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina, MSG Johnson went on to Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Gordon, Georgia and later participated in the Home Town Recruiting Assistance Program where he helped to recruit 10 soldiers and prepare them for entry into the Army by assisting them to pass their ASVAB tests and improve their physical fitness.

MSG Johnson would go on to serve in several different posts including as a Station Technical Controller in Germany with the 581st Signal Company and as a member of the White House Communications Agency where he supported the critical Direct Communication Link between the White House and the Kremlin during an era of heightened diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and United States.

Later in his career, MSG Johnson transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, proudly serving with the 80th division for 25 years during which he dedicated himself to training new soldiers, first as a Drill Sergeant and then as a Senior Drill Sergeant with B Company in Suffolk, VA. Deploying with the 80th during Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as a Platoon Sergeant for the 3rd Iraqi Army Division Basic Combat Training.

Holder of multiple professional certifications in IT and Telecommunications, MSG Johnson has spent his career preparing generations of soldiers for the tasks they face during deployment and building upon his own education to ensure his instruction is of the highest quality possible. Throughout his service, MSG Johnson received a number of awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

The proud father to Kevin Jr., Yasmeen, Courtney, and Kazmir I and husband to Tiniko Johnson, MSG Johnson is a shining example of dedication to service and patriotism. I extend my most sincere thank you to MSG Johnson and his family for their sacrifice and commend him for a career of selflessness.

RECOGNIZING AARON WILLIAMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Aaron Williams as the recipient of Inspire Life's Impact Award. Aaron and the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative were recognized at Inspire Life's 2024 Black Excellence Sneaker Ball on February 24, 2024.

Founded by Aaron in 2021, the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative aims to introduce tennis to

local children while instilling the values of discipline, self-confidence, sportsmanship, and leadership. Playing tennis throughout his life, Aaron knows firsthand the benefits of the sport. Recognizing the lack of access to the sport, Aaron established the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative to create opportunities for Asbury Park's students to experience tennis and the life skills it helps develop. He has partnered with local schools, churches, and community organizations to connect with the city's youth, providing not only tennis lessons but also mentoring and community involvement. Aaron's commitment to the success of the program is evident and his dedication is admirable.

Aaron's work with the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative is indicative of his commitment to public service and as United States Marine Corps veteran and an LGBTQ advocate, he has dedicated his life to serving his community and Nation. His passion to help others and improve our communities is commendable and he exemplifies honor, integrity, and professionalism in each endeavor he undertakes.

Mr. Speaker, I join Inspire Life in recognizing Aaron Williams and the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative for their impact on Asbury Park's youth. I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking Aaron for his service to our Nation and local communities.

RECOGNIZING ANGELA LOPICCOLO
FOR HER YEARS OF EXCEL-
LENCE EDUCATING HER COMMU-
NITY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional dedication and contributions of Ms. Angela LoPiccolo, better known as "Ms. LoPo" by her students from Dakota High School in Michigan's 9th Congressional District. It is with great honor that I highlight the exemplary service and educational leadership of a truly remarkable educator, whose passion and commitment have profoundly impacted the academic and personal lives of countless students.

Beginning her career as a student teacher at Chippewa Valley Schools, Ms. LoPiccolo has devoted her life to teaching Advanced Placement United States History, global history, and comparative government courses. After a brief tenure at Fitzgerald High School, she returned to Dakota High School, where she has remained a pillar of knowledge and guidance for the last 18 years.

Ms. LoPiccolo's dedication to the field of political science, government, and United States history was inspired by the influential instructors and mentors in her own life. She has become a beloved figure at Dakota High School, known for her ability to identify and nurture her students' academic strengths, and for her commitment to building meaningful relationships with each of them. Her role extends beyond teaching; she serves as the advisor to the Dakota High School Chapter of Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society and has previously advised the National Honor Society and Senior Class Council.

Her accolades, including being named the 2022 High School Teacher of the Year at

Chippewa Valley Schools and receiving the Excellence in Education Award in 2016 from the Michigan Lottery, are testaments to her exceptional service and dedication to education. Currently, she teaches advanced placement courses in United States history and micro and macroeconomics, continuing to inspire and shape the minds of future generations.

Ms. LoPiccolo holds an MAT from Marygrove College in Detroit and a BA in history and political science from Oakland University. Her educational background, combined with her passion and dedication, has made her an invaluable asset to Dakota High School and the community at large.

Ms. Angela LoPiccolo's life and career represents the values of educational excellence, dedication, and commitment that are so crucial in academics. Her service as an educator during a pivotal time in our nation's history reminds us of the profound impact that one individual can have on shaping the minds and futures of our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful leader for her commitment to education and enabling future generations to uphold the values of knowledge, democracy, and civic engagement that have defined our nation.

HONORING PAUL ELMSTRAND,
MATTHEW RUGE, AND ADAM
FINSETH

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I joined thousands of people in Minnesota who gathered for the public funeral for Burnsville Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge, and Firefighter-Paramedic Adam Finseth who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

On Sunday, February 18, 2024, these courageous public servants answered a call to protect a family and our community, and were gunned down in a horrific act of violence. This heartbreaking incident occurs amid a crisis of gun violence and domestic abuse, and our first responders are on the front lines every day.

Officers Elmstrand and Ruge dedicated their lives to protecting our community. Firefighter-Paramedic Finseth was committed to saving lives, as he was attempting to do that day. He also served our Nation proudly in the U.S. Army, twice deploying on tours of duty in Iraq. Their deaths in the line of duty are a devastating tragedy that touches their families, their fellow first responders, the Burnsville community, the state of Minnesota, and our Nation.

I extend my deepest condolences to their families and friends who loved them. Their heroic sacrifice will always be remembered and honored.