

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.

# HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. ALAN NISHIO

## HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2024*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of a community leader and advocate, Mr. Alan Nishio.

Mr. Nishio was an activist, educator, and tireless organizer. Born in the Manzanar incarceration camp in 1945, Mr. Nishio spent his life uplifting the Japanese American community in his many roles, including as the longest-tenured Board President for the Little Tokyo Service Center. Mr. Nishio was also the founder of UCLA's Asian American Studies program in 1968.

Mr. Nishio advocated for the Japanese community in Little Tokyo and beyond. As founder and co-chair of the National Coalition of Redress/Reparations, Mr. Nishio worked tirelessly to provide rightful compensation to Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II.

Mr. Nishio was not only a mover and a changemaker, but a genuinely kind individual. Mr. Nishio always focused on the bigger picture, emphasizing the importance of building strong relationships between the Japanese American community and other communities throughout Los Angeles.

Mr. Nishio's legacy will live on in the Japanese American community in Little Tokyo, and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Alan Nishio.

# RECOGNIZING OFFICER BRYAN SZOSTAK'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF CANTON

## HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Bryan Szostak on the occasion of his retirement from the Canton Police Department after 25 years of service to the city of Canton, Michigan. His decades of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Officer Szostak joined the Canton Police Department in 1999 and has served as a midnight shift officer ever since. For the past 24 years, he has been a member of the department's Honor Guard as one of the founding members and leader, with which he has participated in Posting of the Colors for ceremonies across the state and funeral services for fallen officers. Officer Szostak also served the community's youth as a veteran advisor for the Explorer Unit, a program for teenagers interested in law enforcement. In these roles, Officer Szostak has showed his emphatic commitment to the units he has been involved in.

Most notably, Officer Szostak has been a committed Canine Officer for the past 20 years. His loyalty and passion for this program has been exemplified in his love for his current canine partner Ragnar, who is retiring alongside Officer Szostak, as well as his two pre-

vious canine partners, Poncho and Hoss. In this role, Officer Szostak has set new standards for training and policing, which will not soon be forgotten. Over the course of his extensive career, Officer Szostak earned many department awards, in addition to citizen recognitions for his service and commitment to improving the city.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Officer Bryan Szostak for his remarkable 25 years of service. His commitment to the canine program, Canton Police Department, and the City of Canton has been dedicated to the safety and improvement of the community. I join Officer Szostak's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

# HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARK SMAIL

## HON. GUY RESCIENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2024*

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Mark Smail, who sadly passed away at the age of 62 on February 17, 2024.

A graduate of Hempfield Area High School and the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, Mark joined the family business at Smail Auto Group and spent the next 40 years establishing the company as an institutional pillar of the Westmoreland County business community. Mark replaced his father as General Manager in 2018 and became the third generation of the Smail family to lead the business.

Mark distinguished himself through his leadership, business acumen, and dedication to the community. The Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce named Smail Auto Group the 2021 Business of the Year, largely due to the company's ability to keep all 500 employees on staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mark's continuous participation in industry and community associations also earned widespread praise. In recognition of his commitment to civic engagement, the Pennsylvania Automotive Association awarded Mark the 2021 Bud Smail Political Advocacy Award. The award pays homage to Mark's late father, who inspired him to work hard and give back to his community.

Mark shared his father's determination to give back to the community and strived to make southwestern Pennsylvania a better place to live. As a philanthropist, Mark raised millions of dollars for local nonprofits. He contributed to and volunteered with many organizations, including the Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases, the Magee-Women's Research Institute and Foundation, the Troops First Foundation, the Westmoreland Cultural Trust, and the Westmoreland Food Bank.

As a devoted husband and father, Mark cherished his friends and family. Mark will be remembered by his wife of 35 years, Kelly, and their children, Taylor and Marcus. His memory will undoubtedly serve as an example of love, devotion to one's family, and selfless service.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Smail dedicated his life to the people of Westmoreland County and southwestern Pennsylvania. His legacy is the

epitome of a life well-lived. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I wish his family healing during this difficult time.

# HONORING REV. DR. KEITH G. TYLER, SR.

## HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2024*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special man, Reverend Dr. Keith G. Tyler, Sr. from Lexington, Kentucky. His church, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, is celebrating Reverend Tyler's 25th anniversary as their pastor.

Reverend Tyler professed a hope in Christ as a child and was baptized at the age of eight by the late Rev. A.D. Jones in Louisville, KY. He was called to preach the Gospel in 1985 and went on to be licensed and ordained. Reverend Tyler accepted the call to serve as pastor at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in 1998. Under his leadership, membership has more than tripled. He encourages the delivery of God's word in a variety of methods, including a feed-the-homeless effort, a neighborhood bazaar and community festival, a Women's Conference, and Children's Church. He launched a live radio broadcast in 2022. He is a motivating speaker, an inspiring preacher, and an innovative leader. He enjoys traveling across the nation evangelizing.

Reverend Tyler is an active leader in the community. He serves many organizations, including the Speigel Hill Community Center, the Black Faith Leaders of Lexington and Vicinity, and the Central KY Council for Peace and Justice. In addition, he is a trustee of Simmons College of Kentucky, and he serves on the Community Police Chaplain "Response Team." He is the proud father and grandfather of four children and three grandchildren.

Reverend Tyler is to be commended for his ministry over 25 years at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. I congratulate him and all the members of the congregation and wish them many more years of serving our Lord. I am honored to recognize Reverend Dr. Keith Tyler before the United States Congress.

# CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOB CORPS

## HON. JARED F. GOLDEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2024*

Mr. GOLDEN of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Job Corps program on 60 years of dedicated support in changing the lives of young Americans. 2024 marks six decades of ambition and hope for our young Mainers at the centers in Limestone and Bangor, and throughout the United States of America. Maine's Job Corps programs are vital for preparing young people in the Great State of Maine for high demand industry sector employment as well as furthering educational opportunities.

I join my congressional colleagues in honoring and supporting their mission to better the