

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EVELYN HICKMAN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Evelyn Hickman for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Evelyn has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Evelyn, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Evelyn's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Evelyn Hickman on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
DUTCHESS COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY WILLIAM GRADY

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dutchess County District Attorney William Grady. William is retiring after 40 years of serving the Dutchess County community as District Attorney.

William began his career in the District Attorney's Office in 1970 after his service in the U.S. Army, where he reached the rank of captain and received a Bronze Star. He started as an Assistant DA and was first elected as District Attorney in 1983. William has been re-elected 10 times and is currently the longest serving district attorney in New York State.

Under William's leadership, the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office has grown to a full-time staff of 39 attorneys which includes 20 female prosecutors. During his tenure William worked with Dutchess County to develop programs that address issues that lead to crime, such as substance abuse and mental health. These programs include the Dutchess County Drug Task Force, the Domestic Abuse Response Team, and the DWI Bureau. William has truly worked tirelessly to improve the criminal justice system in Dutchess County and keep residents safe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the career of Dutchess County District Attorney William Grady. We wish him nothing but the best in his well-earned retirement.

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE
JOSH KEENAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend The Honorable Josh Keenan, on his retirement.

Born in the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1937, The Honorable Mayor Josh Keenan attended and graduated from Northeast Catholic High School as a member of their Philadelphia Inter League Commission Championship Basketball Team in 1956. After graduating from High School, Mayor Josh Keenan matriculated to Erskine College in Due West, South Carolina, graduating with a bachelor's degree in science. His desire to continue his education led him to earn a master's degree in science and physical education at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York as well as earn a Certificate in Educational Administration from Glassboro College in Glassboro, New Jersey.

The Honorable Josh Keenan has been heavily involved within his community. He is a member of several organizations including the Knights of Columbus, Stratford's Joint Land Use Board, and the Free Public Library Board of Trustees, as well as the Stratford Ambulance Association Inc. He formerly served as president of the Stratford Board of Education, which he was a part of for 22 years before 10 years as Treasurer for the Sterling Regional High School Board of Education. Mayor Keenan paid close attention to the development of the borough as a committeeman concerning Stratford's Economic Development. He is also a member of the Holy Family Council & Bishop Eustace General Assembly, St. Luke R.C. Church, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

The Honorable Mayor Keenan served as Edgewood Regional High School's Athletic Director for 30 years. Throughout his career, Mayor Keenan served on the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association's Executive Committee, National Council of Secondary School Athletic Directors Executive Committee, and formerly led as President of the South Jersey Coaches Association. For his commitment to Athletics Mayor Josh Keenan was inducted into the Philadelphia Basketball Association and the South Jersey Coaches Hall of Fame.

Today, in his retirement, Mayor Keenan will have more time with his family. A resident of the Borough of Stratford for 59 years, Mayor Keenan shared 57 years with the late Medge Keenan, whom together, they had three sons John, Mike and Matt who are all residents of Stratford. He is the proud grandfather of three and great-grandfather of two.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending The Honorable Mayor Josh Keenan of the Borough of Stratford, New

Jersey, a resident dedicated to his community who has thoroughly served them to the best of his ability.

STUDENT THESPIANS ACT
AGAINST FOOD INSECURITY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, January 14, 2024, high school students, troupe members of New Jersey Thespians, will be honored for their leadership and contributions to a statewide program designed to help those facing food insecurity in our state.

Their charitable efforts are part of a program known as Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat, a community service venture in which students participate statewide to make a difference and help their neighbors in need. In just one month, October 2023, this humanitarian effort collected over 8,953 pounds of food. Eleven New Jersey schools with 255 Thespians participated, including four from the Fourth Congressional District of New Jersey: Toms River North, Manasquan and Brick high schools, and Ocean County Vocational Technical School Performing Arts Academy, all of which will be honored at a closing ceremony at Robbinsville High School.

I note that Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat had been previously run by the Educational Theatre Association before being discontinued in 2018. However, the students and adults that make up the New Jersey Thespians State Board saw the value and impact of the program, stepped up and revived the 2018 effort into the program that we now honor. As part of the program, theater students collect canned and dry goods from their neighbors and friends to then be delivered to local charities and food banks.

New Jersey Thespians serves as a leading honor society of the arts, holding a festival each year for high school students in January and a festival for junior high students in May in the Garden State. New Jersey has one of the fastest-growing Junior Thespian chapters in the country, doubling in membership in each of the last two years. New Jersey also has both high school and junior high Thespian officers who participate in events locally, regionally, and nationally.

Congratulations and thanks to the students of Thespians Troupe 7455, based out of Toms River High School North who collected over 450 pounds of food for one of the largest food bank organizations in the state, Fulfill of Monmouth and Ocean Counties:

Alexa De Los Santos, Allyson Olivera, Bailey Terrett, Betania Esparza, Brianna Fredella, Darlene Penn, Delaney Koovits, Elizabeth Diamond, Emma York, Faith Moreno, Gage Alburger, Hannah Kemp, Joey Beatty, Joey Scholz, Jose Padilla, Kara Kube, Kayla Fredricks, Kelly Nide, Leah Hugo, Levi Dudek,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Liam Ryan, Lillyanne Smith, Lucas Maciel, Madison McPhee, Mars Byles, Mycah Subai, Peyton Mendes, Riley Poll, Sania Williams, Yazmin Beita, Zachary Menth and Danielle Brooks; as well as their advisor, Dr. Michael Penna.

Congratulations and thanks to the students of Thespians Troupe 6185, based out of the Ocean County Vocational Technical School Performing Arts Academy in Toms River, N. J., whose students have collected 514 pounds of food for the Beachwood Thanksgiving Food Drive:

Emily Altomare, Joshua Arneth, Enrique Bartolo, Zel Bollard, Ava Brierley, Christopher Castaneda, Colin Chaplin, Noelle Coburn, Lluvia Cohen, Adeon-Ethan Congdon, Catherine Cullen, Brooke DeFazio, Paige Derco, Lana Dubrow, Mia Dungan, Haley East, Julia Emer, Miley Ferriolo, Zoe Frantz, Keira Gabbai, Sophie Gabriel, Ariana Gallagher, Cassandra Gariepy, Jose Gonzalez, Irene Gross, Susan Guida, Gracie Hammel, Kenneth Hankins, Lauren Harry, Allyson Hovance, Riley Hubert, Maya Jackson, Alani Jasinski, Zoey Jastrzebski, Saturn Johnson, Keira Kennis, Alexis Kinsey, Joseph LaManna, Olivia Linton, Raine Lopez, Samantha Martinez, Dakota Mason, Mia Matviiv, Gabrielle McColley, Madelynn McDevitt, Maci McNeil, Regina Messenger, Gianna Minardi, Riley Paluszak, Molly Pease, Jordan Perucki, Alexandra Reed, Benjamin Ricker, Victoria Roberts, Tayden Rock, Hannah Rowley, Cali Scott, Andrew Shuberdt, Kristin Uphold, Isabella Vitello, Samantha Voss, Katie Wallace, Christina Watrous, Mia Whalen, Kai Williams, Ella Ytterberg and Aronas Zajan; as well as their Troupe Directors Carolyn Little and Joseph Puliafico.

Congratulations and thanks to the students of Thespians Troupe 3411, based out of Brick Memorial High School, whose students collected 414 pounds of food for the Manasquan Food Pantry:

Michael Wells, Jules Fuches, Jenna Barry, Isabel Bartlucci, Jessica O'Brien, Ky Morghan, Joseph Wronko, Molly and Emma Idzahl, Ava Hasen, Luca Buckno, Skylar Hillin, Emily Farrel, Alexis Marrleveled and Jess Corsentino; as well as their advisor, Jessica O'Brien.

Congratulations and thanks to the students of Thespians Troupe 2430, based out of Manasquan High School, who collected 374 pounds of much needed food for the Manasquan Food Pantry:

Casey Finnegan, Cormac Lawrence, Janelle Slovak, Jessica Slovak, Olivia Maes, Lexi Drent, Charlotte Dery and Bridget Freeman; as well as their advisor, Maddi Schille.

Working together, these students, and their advisors, have made a significant and positive impact in our communities, helping to feed the hungry. Their noble and generous efforts are inspiring and deeply appreciated.

AARON LANE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aaron Lane for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Aaron has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Aaron, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Aaron's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Moore Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Aaron Lane on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM A. SHAFER II

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of William A. Shafer II, a pillar of the Broome County community who was beloved by all who knew him. William recently passed away on November 6, 2023, at the age of 79.

William attended public school in Erie, Pennsylvania and enlisted in the United States Air Force after graduating high school. He spent his early career as an Electronics Warfare Officer before his discharge in 1966. He then worked for Spectrum Control in Erie before moving to Binghamton in 1988 where he worked for Lockheed Martin and later BAE Systems. He also spent several years in the Civil Air Patrol where he attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

William, also known as "Bill," was known throughout the community for his selflessness and integrity. A devoted member of the Civil Air Patrol, he was committed to mentoring young cadets in his community and was awarded Communicator of the Year during several years of his service. His contributions to Broome County will endure for generations to come, and he will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the life of William A. Shafer II, a remarkable man who made a lasting difference in his community.

NAYELI LECHUGA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nayeli Lechuga for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Nayeli has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Nayeli, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Nayeli's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Nayeli Lechuga on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF AUDIE LEON MURPHY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the extraordinary life and legacy of Audie Murphy. Audie Leon Murphy was born the son of sharecroppers on June 29, 1925, near Kingston, Texas, and rose to national fame as the most decorated U.S. combat soldier of World War II. Among his 33 awards and decorations he was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States, for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty". He also received nearly every decoration for valor that our country had to offer, as well as honors from Belgium and France. Murphy is credited with killing over 240 enemy soldiers, and wounding and capturing many others. Beginning his service as an Army Private, Murphy quickly rose to the enlisted rank of Staff Sergeant, then was given a "battlefield commission" as 2nd Lieutenant. He fought in 9 major campaigns across the European Theater, and he was wounded three times.

Upon returning to the United States after the end of World War II, Murphy received a hero's welcome. He appeared on the cover of Life Magazine, which led James Cagney to invite Murphy to Hollywood in September 1945. His 1949 autobiography "To Hell and Back" was a best seller which was made into a movie in 1955, in which Audie Murphy starred as himself. The movie held the record as Universal's highest grossing picture until 1975 when it was surpassed by the movie "Jaws." Over Murphy's time in Hollywood, he made a total of 44 feature films and a 26-episode western television series.

In 1955, Murphy became interested in Freemasonry. Encouraged by his close friend, Texas theater owner Skipper Cherry, he petitioned and joined the Masonic Order in California. Later he returned to Texas to conduct his 32-degree work where he joined the Shriners. Murphy remained active in various masonic events and was a member of good standing at the time of his death.

Murphy suffered from what is now known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and suffered from chronic insomnia and depression. Always an advocate for the needs of veterans, Murphy spoke out candidly about his personal problems with PTSD, then referred to as "Battle Fatigue." He publicly called for the United States government to study the emotional impact war has on veterans and to extend health care benefits to address PTSD and other mental health problems of returning war veterans.

On May 28, 1971, Murphy was killed when the small plane in which he was a passenger crashed on the side of a mountain near Roanoke, Virginia. On June 7, 1971, Audie Murphy was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. His gravesite is the second most visited gravesite in the Cemetery.

On June 9, 1999, the Texas Legislature officially designated his birthday, June 20th, as Audie Murphy Day. Governor George W. Bush