

RECOGNIZING ROSS K. BAKER

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**OF NEW JERSEY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Tuesday, April 2, 2024*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ross K. Baker on his retirement from Rutgers University. Professor Baker dedicated over 50 years to Rutgers University and his many achievements and contributions should be celebrated.

A Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences, Professor Baker was honored in 2021 with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, which recognizes faculty members whose contributions have been significantly impactful. I had the distinct pleasure of speaking with Professor Baker's classes numerous times and it was evident that his students valued and internalized his teachings.

Specializing in American Government and U.S. Legislative Politics, Professor Baker brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the classroom. Throughout his tenure, he also served as a Visiting Professor at Haverford College and the University of Leipzig (Germany), as well as a Fulbright Lecturer at the Swedish Institute of International Relations in Stockholm. In addition to his academic background, Professor Baker worked for the offices of Senator Walter Mondale, Birch Bayh, Franch Church, Chuck Hagel, Patrick Leahy, and Harry Reid. He also served as a consultant to the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives. Likewise, he has published many books and articles and has contributed to USA Today and several NPR programs.

Immediately prior to joining Rutgers in 1968, Professor Baker was a research associate at the Brookings Institute. He had also worked at the Special Operations Research Office and was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Professor Ross K. Baker on his retirement. It is my privilege to recognize his commitment to education and government and offer my best wishes as he enters this new stage in life.

HONORING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AMY J. MARKOWICH AS SHE RETIRES FROM NAVAIR

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**OF MARYLAND  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Tuesday, April 2, 2024*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend Amy Markowich as she retires as Executive Director for the Digital Analytics Infrastructure and Technology Advancement (DAITA) and Mission Systems Groups, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)—located at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in my district. For over 30 years, the United States Navy and our community, state, and country have benefitted from her sound leadership. Our Congress owes her a tremendous debt of gratitude for her service.

As Executive Director, Amy managed thousands of civilian and contractor personnel across multiple installations. She guided them in their work developing and testing state-of-the-art naval aviation systems. Amy also successfully oversaw \$1.3 billion in National Asset laboratories, ensuring that these resources were used as effectively as possible to advance new technologies vital to keeping our servicemembers—and our Nation—safe.

Amy's tenure as Executive Director was just the latest chapter in a career defined by service and success. Appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2009, Amy also served as the Department of Navy (DON) Naval High Performance Computing (HPC) Principal, Deputy DON Test & Evaluation (T&E) Executive, the DON Modeling & Simulation (M&S) Executive, and a number of other important positions.

From spearheading development of the Air Combat Environment Test and Evaluation Facility, including the large anechoic chamber, and the Joint Simulation Environment to helping establish test configurations for various key aircraft, she has made numerous technical contributions. These cutting-edge systems continue to help prepare our men and women in uniform to face down challenges in the field. Crucially, no matter the post or project, Amy fostered a spin of innovation and culture of collaboration that will long endure.

Amy's work has also extended to representing the United States in many capacities at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other international organizations. Amy's leadership in both domestic and international situations often placed her as a top leader and often as the only woman in key technical roles where she established herself as a respected authority.

I've been proud to work with Amy to ensure that Congress provides the hardworking team at Naval Air Station Patuxent River with the resources it needs to conduct this essential work. She has been an excellent host during my many visits to the base over the years, and I—like many others—will be sad to see her go. Her leadership in building capabilities for the Department of Defense has always been forward-looking and provided our Nation with the tools necessary to remain at the forefront of development and testing of the most complex weapons systems in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me in thanking one of the smartest, most dedicated people I know: Amy Markowich. Although she is stepping back as Executive Director, I know that her commitment to serving her fellow Americans will never waver. For that, she has the gratitude of her Congress and her country. I wish Amy and her husband Brian well as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

CELEBRATING GINNY WHALEN'S  
100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**OF OHIO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Tuesday, April 2, 2024*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Mary Jane Berghoff Whalen, a resident of my Congressional District in Kettering, Ohio, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on June 1, 2024.

Ginny was an only child, born and raised on a farm in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was homeschooled through eighth grade, before graduating from Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, and attended Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida.

Ginny met a native Daytonian, Herbert E. Whalen, Jr., and they were married on June 29, 1946. They established a home in Kettering, and raised four children. She is currently the proud grandmother of nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. During their sixty years of marriage, Ginny and Herb served as role models and civic leaders in their community.

As dedicated parishioners of St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in Kettering, Ginny and Herb worked together to renovate and expand their spiritual home. They served on the committee that enlarged the church from a one-room building in the 1940s, to the thriving community that currently serves over two thousand families. Ginny has remained a faithful member of the church for over 70 years.

In the 1970s and 80s, Ginny and her husband worked diligently to save the Oregon District, one of Dayton's oldest historic neighborhoods, from demolition. She worked with the city to facilitate the renovation of two houses and four apartments, and continues to support the historic preservation efforts of the Oregon Historic District Society.

From an early age, Ginny adopted the motto: "To give back to others." The generous amounts of time and energy she has contributed to a variety of volunteer and civic organizations serve as an example for all of us.

Ginny remained active and involved in her community throughout her nineties, and has indulged in a variety of hobbies and personal interests that include: reading, playing the drums (which she still loves to do), harmonica, tennis, horseback riding, and participating in her local theater group "Hamlets."

I am proud to join Ginny's family and friends in celebrating her long and extraordinary life. I wish her a very happy birthday, and in the years to come may God bless her with continued good health and happiness.

HONORING ELLEN LOCKER

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**OF NEW JERSEY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Tuesday, April 2, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ellen Locker on her retirement and honor her 26 years of service as a member of the Hunterdon Health System Board of Trustees.

Under the exemplary leadership of Ms. Locker, the Hunterdon Health System has undergone tremendous growth. Including the opening of the Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center, the opening of the Norman and Denise Guilloud Cardiovascular Center, and the expansion of primary care and health and wellness care systems across New Jersey. During this time, Hunterdon Health not only expanded its physical network, but also increased its capacity to care by adopting and providing new and innovative procedures to treat a wider range of issues. Furthermore, Hunterdon Health achieved impressive recognitions during the tenure of Ms. Locker, including eight consecutive 'Leapfrog A' Hospital

Safety Grades, four-time Magnet hospital designation, and its first 5-Star award from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

In 2020, Ms. Locker championed the greatest governance reorganization in the organization's history while simultaneously guiding the health system through the unprecedented disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The revised governance model reshaped the 41-member representative body into a streamlined Board of 15 Trustees and resulted in the elimination of redundancies, an increase in efficiency, and a greater alignment with Hunterdon Health's mission and strategic direction.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Locker for her many contributions to residents in the 7th District and across the state of New Jersey. Ms. Locker is an example of one of the many innovative leaders which makes the 7th District strong, and I congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING SPRINGFIELD  
NATIVE BRAD BOOKER ON WIN-  
NING AN OSCAR

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 2, 2024*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Springfield native Brad Booker on the incredible achievement of winning an Oscar for his short film "War is Over". This incredible achievement is even more impressive given that Brad was a first time Academy Award nominee.

Booker started his journey towards this incredible achievement in Springfield where he attended Glenwood High School and later Lincoln Land Community College. Prior to his work on this short film, he worked as an animator at Warner Brothers Studios on films such as Iron Giant, Stuart Little, Spider Man, and Lord of the Rings.

I am honored to congratulate Brad, who still lives with his family in Chatham, on this incredible achievement. His dedication serves as inspiration to me and all of those who call the Springfield region home. Congratulations to him, his family, and his colleagues on this remarkable achievement.

I am looking forward to his next project.

HONORING MICHAEL J. CIOFFI

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 2, 2024*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commemorate the life of my dear friend, Michael J. Cioffi, who passed away on March 23, 2024 after a courageous battle with cancer and other 9/11-related illnesses.

A resident of Ocean Township, Michael was born and raised in Long Branch and served his hometown's fire department for 14 years before serving with the New York City Fire Department (FDNY). Although off-duty on September 11, 2001, the day of the attack, Michael didn't hesitate to rush into New York City to assist his fellow firefighters and emer-

gency personnel and spent the next several months meticulously working through rubble at the site.

Despite the illnesses he endured as a result of his work at the World Trade Center site, Michael continued to serve with the FDNY until 2020. Michael was tough and determined, and his duty to serve was profound. Michael demonstrated character and leadership throughout his life and was deeply committed to each endeavor he undertook.

Michael is survived by his loving family, including his wife Sylvia and six children, Michael Luciano, Sofia, Maryella, Christopher, Jack, and Emma. His dedication to his family was evident and I am blessed to have had such a wonderful friend in Michael.

Michael should be remembered for his decades of service to Long Branch and New York City as a firefighter, most notably his selfless actions following the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, which contributed to his health battles. I know I join with his family, friends, and fellow firefighters in paying tribute to his memory and the ultimate sacrifice he paid in service to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 2, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Paul Laurence Dunbar Commemorative Coin Act, which would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins in honor of Paul Laurence Dunbar. This bill would recognize one of the first influential African American poets in American literature and benefit the Dunbar Alumni Federation, the alumni association for the Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School in the District of Columbia, which is historic for being the first public high school for African Americans in the United States. I am a proud graduate of Dunbar, a storied African American high school in our country.

Paul Laurence Dunbar was born on June 27, 1872, to formerly enslaved parents, and went on to pen such classics as *Majors and Minors* and *Lyrics of Lowly Life*. He also composed the lyrics to *In Dahomey*, the first all-African American musical produced on Broadway. By the late 1890s, Dunbar had become a prominent author, having had his poems published in major national newspapers, including *The New York Times*. Dunbar died on February 9, 1906, at age 33.

Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School was established in 1870 as the Preparatory High School for Colored Youth. It was the first college preparatory high school for African American children in the United States. The school was renamed for Dunbar in 1916.

The Dunbar Alumni Federation was organized in 2002 to provide scholarships and other financial support to students and graduates of Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School. The Federation has alumni from more than 35 graduating classes, and supports the school through its scholarship efforts, community activities and other endeavors.

This bill would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to mint 50,000 five-dollar coins,

400,000 one-dollar coins and 750,000 half-dollar coins, with a surcharge on each coin. The surcharges would benefit the scholarships and similar activities of the Dunbar Alumni Federation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH  
BIRTHDAY OF ALLEN Q. JONES

**HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 2, 2024*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Allen Q. Jones, who celebrates his 100th birthday on April 11, 2024.

Allen was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and attended Uniontown High School during the early years of World War II, receiving a draft notice shortly before graduation. In 1943, Allen departed for training with the U.S. Army's 717th Tank Battalion. The following year brought him through Forts Chaffee, Knox, and Meade before leaving for Europe aboard the S.S. Cristobal on Christmas Eve, 1944. Corporal Allen Jones and the 717th Tank Battalion crossed the River Rhine in the spring of 1945 and remained in Germany until the end of the war. Once he returned to the United States, he attended Waynesburg College and joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 21 in Connellsville, Pennsylvania.

Allen stayed active in the VFW for over 70 years, winning leadership elections at the local and national levels. He began his tenure as Fayette County Commander but soon rose to the rank of District 23 Commander. Allen's peers elected him Pennsylvania State Commander in 1986, where his work ethic earned national acclaim. He served on the VFW National Home's Board of Trustees for two years before winning the Board President election in 1995. Allen gained further distinction at the 1999 VFW National Convention when the delegates appointed him to the National Council of Administration. His leadership tenure ended in 2016 after a one-year commission as National Chief of Staff.

Allen's call to service inspired him to become an active member of the Connellsville Area School District community throughout his adult life. He taught science and special education for 30 years and served as president of the Connellsville Area Education Association after retiring from teaching in 1984. Allen also coached multiple sports teams at Connellsville Junior High School. He led the Connellsville Junior High East boys basketball team through an undefeated season in 1970, cumulating in winning the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League Junior Championship. He also won a league championship in 1984 while coaching the Connellsville Junior High girls basketball team. The Connellsville School Falcon Foundation recognized Allen's years of commitment to student-athletes by inducting him into their Hall of Fame in 2016.

Allen married Nancy Carol Dayton in 1950 and shared 70 happy years of marriage before her passing in 2021. The couple raised two children together: Marcia Knight and Charles "Chuckie" Jones. Over the years, their family grew to include two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.