

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.

Allen's selfless service left a mark on southwestern Pennsylvania and made his community a better place. Few people share his remarkable ability to connect with and mentor

young students. His story is the epitome of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I

wish Allen Q. Jones a happy 100th birthday surrounded by friends and family.