

HONORING MICHAEL PERUSICH AS
VETERAN OF THE MONTH FOR
MICHIGAN'S 9TH DISTRICT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Michael Perusich, our Veteran of the Month for April 2024 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. It is a privilege to acknowledge the service and dedication of a distinguished American veteran whose contributions and sacrifices have left a lasting impact on our Nation.

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, in 1942, Michael graduated from Henry Ford High School in 1961. After a brief period working in California in the field of electronics and communications, Michael returned to Michigan and enlisted in the Air Force in November 1963, where he specialized in Top Secret Communications Maintenance.

Michael's service took him to the historic island of Iwo Jima from September 1964 to 1965, where he played a crucial role in supporting communications and the Far East Network from this strategic location. His dedication and skill were further exemplified during his two tours in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967, marking a significant chapter in his military career.

After honorably concluding his service, Michael embarked on a successful career with Control Data Corporation, yet his commitment to serving his fellow veterans never wavered. He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4659 in 1992, where he has been an active and valued member for over 30 years. Rising through the ranks to Sr. Vice Commander, Michael has been instrumental in supporting the Post, the Honor Guard, and the Macomb County Honor Guard, demonstrating unwavering dedication to the veteran community.

Michael's contributions extend beyond his military service; he is deeply involved in the local community, regularly assisting in ceremonies honoring veterans. His recognition with the "White Hat" at the 2016 State VFW Convention is a testament to his commitment to veteran support programs, community service, and hospital service.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Perusich's life is a testament to the spirit of American courage, resilience, and unwavering dedication to service. His contributions both in uniform and as a veteran advocate have significantly impacted the lives of many and serve as a beacon of inspiration for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our gratitude to Michael Perusich, not only as being named my district's Veteran of the Month but as a true American hero whose legacy of service and community continues to enrich our great Nation.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE

SPEECH OF

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the lives of the six construction

workers who passed away as a result of the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore.

Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, Dorian Ronial Castillo Cabrera, Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval, Miguel Luna, Jose Mynor Lopez, and Carlos Hernández.

These men who lost their lives while working on the Bridge were everyday heroes.

These men could've been our fathers, brothers, grandsons, or nephews.

That evening, they arrived at work proudly as immigrants, ready to help build this country with their own two hands by undertaking hazardous and challenging tasks that others refused.

Their dedication reminds us that immigrants should be celebrated and acknowledged for contributing to this country—not vilified and attacked for where they come from, the color of their skin, or their accent.

They deserve to be praised and remembered. We should be inspired by their tenacity and dedication to pursuing the American Dream for themselves and their loved ones.

We will continue to work on behalf of our immigrant community in honor of these brave souls. We will rebuild the Bridge and help build an immigration infrastructure that celebrates our workers.

HONORING SHARON J. STONE

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Ms. Sharon Stone for 35 years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Ms. Stone, known as "Sherry" by friends and family, has made outstanding contributions to our country for more than three decades as part of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

Ms. Stone's career with the DoD started in 1989 with Army Medicine in Europe where she served for 10 years and played a pivotal role in implementing centralized medical business operations across Army Europe, aligning personnel, workload, and financial systems. In 1999, she was named the Army Medical Expense and Reporting Program Manager. As Program Manager, she provided crucial medical cost accounting education and training to Army military treatment facilities, significantly impacting the Medical Expense and Performance Reporting System.

In 2004, Ms. Stone spearheaded the development of the U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) Performance Planning Program, translating strategy into action and facilitating the budget allocation of \$6.3 billion for healthcare delivery. In February 2018, Ms. Stone received recognition from the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army for her contributions to MEDCOM and the Army.

Finally, in December 2018, Ms. Stone was requested to lead, develop, and implement the Defense Health Agency's Quadruple Aim Performance Planning process. Since then, Ms. Stone created a single, integrated, transparent process to align military treatment facilities with the Defense Health Agency's priorities. Ms. Stone received the DoD Spirit of Service Award for her display of honor, integrity, and

excellence through outstanding support as a public servant to the U.S. Department of Defense in recognition of her work.

Throughout her career, Ms. Stone has trained over 30,000 personnel across the Military Health System. Her commitment to service and her passion for sharing her knowledge and skills have proven to be valuable assets to her team. Her contributions have had a profound and positive impact on the Military Health System.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Ms. Sharon Stone for 35 years of service to our country, and in wishing her the best in her retirement.

HONORING GLOBAL INNOVATIVE
FOUNDATION, INC.

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I use today to commemorate the 5th Annual Power & Influence Luncheon hosted by Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. and to pay tribute to their many contributions to our community.

Whereas, the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization that was incorporated in 2019 by a diverse group of professionals engaged to create global awareness for the prevention of crimes and to empower the lives of victims and survivors through support, education, service, and scholarships; and

Whereas, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the esteemed honorees of the 5th Annual Power & Influence Luncheon hosted by the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. These individuals have demonstrated exceptional leadership, compassion, and dedication in their efforts to uplift and support victims and survivors within our community. Among them, we commend Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava for recipient of the Power & Influence Award, State Representative Marie Woodson, District 105, for being recognized with the Trailblazer Award, Miami-Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle as the recipient of the Justice Advocate Excellence Award, and Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody as the recipient of the Iman's Light Foundation Award. We also honor the commitment and service of Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Dept. Director Sherea Green, Hispanic Women of Distinction President & CEO Elaine Miceli Vasquez, Miami Dade College School of Health Sciences Dean Dr. Alwyn Leiba, South Region Florida Nurses Association Director Dr. Guillermo Valdes, Jewish University System President Lucy Alfonso, Quest2Freedom Founder & CEO Victor Williams, Empower U Community Health Center, Guiding Light Outreach Founder/CEO Dr. Shanika Ampah, Miami-Dade County's Office Community Advocacy Communications & Media Director Griselle Marino, Foundation of the Americas & Global Philanthropy Society CEO/Founder Rachel Pinedo, President and CEO of CMS International Group Jeff Lozama, and President of Florida Association of Non-profit Organizations, Inc. Marina Pavlov. Lastly, we recognize the dedicated service of Global Innovative Foundation's 2021–2023 Chairwoman Bernadette Pierre, recipient of the Service Excellence Award.

Whereas, the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. renders services that empower and instills confidence among individuals. Its partnerships with various organizations and support of other philanthropic causes promote awareness, activities and positive outcomes for victims and survivors of crime; and

Whereas, the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. provides local, national, and international services such as scholarships, coaching, mental health services, self-defense classes, youth-focused programs, workshops/seminars, advocacy, career development, and mentoring; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, FREDERICA S. WILSON, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am proud to recognize the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. for their dedication and outstanding commitment to motivate and empower the lives of victims and survivors.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR.
JAMES M. SUNSER

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of an outstanding New Yorker and educator, President of Genesee Community College, Dr. James M. Sunser.

Dr. Sunser has spent over a decade as President of Genesee Community College and has been an invaluable leader and partner in education, fostering collaboration and strengthening the ties between Genesee Community College and the citizens of Genesee County, New York. Under Dr. Sunser's leadership, the college saw the development of the Richard C. Call Arena and the Student Success Center, capital projects that represented the largest fundraising efforts ever undertaken by the College.

Dr. Sunser has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the success and well-being of students, faculty, and staff at Genesee Community College, making significant strides in advancing educational opportunities for all. The 24th Congressional District of New York extends its heartfelt appreciation for Dr. Sunser's role in enhancing the educational experience and contributing to the overall prosperity of the region.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes to Dr. Sunser for a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement, filled with joy, accomplishments, and continued success in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER
SANTANGELO'S 27 YEARS OF
FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
SERVICE

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation recognizing Christopher Santangelo, President of the New York City Chapter of the Federal Law

Enforcement Officers Association on his retirement after 27 years of federal law enforcement service on April 27, 2024.

Whereas Mr. Santangelo, who grew up in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn from childhood until his early 30s, is a product of a New York City Education. He graduated from Kingsborough Community College with an AAS degree in accounting, earned a BS in accounting from Brooklyn College, and obtained an MS from John Jay College.

Whereas Christopher Santangelo began his federal law enforcement career in January 1997 with the United States Park Police in Washington, D.C. where he was stationed to protect the White House in our nation's capital.

Whereas from mid-1998 to early 2000, Mr. Santangelo was assigned to the New York Field Division, where he led the JBU unit to numerous arrests, earning him the Officer of the Month award five times. Additionally, Mr. Santangelo was assigned to one or more NYPD narcotics task forces and served as a plainclothes officer with the U.S. Park Police in Operation Weed and Seed, covering areas in Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island.

Whereas in April 2000, Mr. Santangelo became a special agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and was assigned to the New York Field Division, Group V—HIDTA. Mr. Santangelo survived the World Trade Center attacks and participated in the recovery efforts for several months. As a result of his unwavering dedication, Mr. Santangelo was awarded a commendation for meritorious service for his actions during the September 11, 2001, World Trade Center attacks and the subsequent evidence recovery.

Whereas after transferring to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in June 2002, Mr. Santangelo conducted investigations into fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement related to USDA programs and operations. Mr. Santangelo conducted or participated in hundreds of program crime investigations, including inquiries into the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) EBT program, violations of the Animal Welfare Act, violations of the Sherman Act, farm loan fraud, prohibited agricultural product smuggling, and agroterrorism. He also served as the anti-money laundering subject matter expert (SME) for the Northeast Region.

Whereas for his investigative excellence, Mr. Santangelo is a past award recipient of the Council of Inspectors General (CIGIE) Investigative Excellence Award for leading a multi-million-dollar civil investigation into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Error Rate. Additionally, Mr. Santangelo received recognition from the NYPD Detective Endowment Association for his participation and assistance while being assigned part-time to the NYPD Counter Terrorism Bureau in Brooklyn, New York, from 2002 to 2005.

Whereas in February 2017, Mr. Santangelo transferred to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Office of Inspector General, New York Field Division, where he investigated failed banks and former members of the board of directors of failed banks. Mr. Santangelo successfully investigated global financial institutions for market manipulation in Foreign Currency (FX) trading, as well as in the High Yield Junk and Variable Rate bond markets. Additionally, Mr. Santangelo was the co-case agent in *United States v. Rishi Shah, Shradha Agarwal, Brad Purdy, et al.*, in which the former executives were convicted in a \$1 billion corporate fraud case, resulting in him receiving the Attorney General Award in January 2024.

Whereas in June 2022, Mr. Santangelo was promoted to the SSA position within the

FDIC-OIG, New York Regional Office, which covers New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and all of New England while also serving as the lead SSA for investigations in the Eastern District of New York (encompassing Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties), leading or coordinating investigations into bank insiders, borrowers, and accountants suspected of committing bank, wire and elder fraud. Furthermore, Mr. Santangelo personally directed disaster relief and romance scam investigations in the Smithtown—Hauppauge—Kings Park area related to Hurricane Sandy, as well as investigations related to the CARES Act.

Whereas since 2009 Mr. Santangelo has served as the President of the New York Chapter of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Vice President of the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation, and is a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 53.

Whereas our Nation is forever indebted to Christopher Santangelo and offers its sincerest gratitude and warmest wishes in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING CHIRICAHUA
NATIONAL MONUMENT

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Chiricahua National Monument on the centennial anniversary of its designation as a national monument.

Recently, I visited the Chiricahua National Monument and explored parts of the 12,000 acres of hiking trails, campgrounds, and scenic views.

Chiricahua National Monument is one of the most treasured landmarks in Arizona. This "Wonderland of Rocks" features unique, boulder-balancing rock pillars formed by volcanic eruptions. These abstract formations draw visitors from across the nation and around the world to the Southeast corner of our state.

It is a privilege to have this incredible landscape in our own backyard. Not only does it provide great recreational opportunity and natural habitat, it is also a major driver for southern Arizona's economy.

The monument annually supports over 40 jobs and produces \$4.4 million of economic output, with 60,000 visitors that come each year generating \$4.1 million in spending.

Last year, I proudly introduced a bipartisan bill, the Chiricahua National Park Act (H.R. 1479), aiming to update the national monument to the status of a national park.

CONGRATULATING MISSISSIPPI
STATE UNIVERSITY VETERANS
BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mississippi State University (MSU) Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) on being recognized as the 2024 Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Year.