

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RITA  
LENTZ OF BRISTOL BOROUGH,  
PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 18, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an extraordinary constituent from my district, Rita Lentz (née Porfirio) of Bristol Borough, Pennsylvania, who passed away at the age of 86 on January 12, 2024. Rita was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 17, 1937 but grew up and was a lifelong resident in Bristol Borough, Pennsylvania where she would spend the next 80 plus years growing up and raising her family becoming a beacon of joy in our community.

Rita graduated from Bristol High School in 1955 and went on to marry the love of her life, United States Navy World War II Veteran Philip Lentz on October 3, 1970. A proud Italian American, Rita was bilingual and became a dual citizen of Italy in November of 2010. This was a culmination of frequent trips she and Philip made to Italy to enjoy her culture and an excellent glass of vino in the village of Roccavivara.

Rita was a dedicated member of St. Ann Church and her faith inspired a life of service to our community. In addition to volunteering at church events, she and her husband were active members of the local Moose Lodge and VFW. She worked tirelessly throughout her beloved borough assisting countless people with care and transportation.

Rita also gave her time to serve as the judge of elections in the East Ward of Bristol Borough for many years. Some of Rita's most meaningful interactions were as a secretary at Warren Snyder School. She was fondly referred to as "Miss Rita" and worked to instill the same love and respect in the students that she gave to everyone around her.

Our community mourns Rita's passing but celebrates the legacy of her life. She will be missed by us all, especially her son Joseph, daughters Maria and Darlene, her sons-in-law Philip and Carl, and her grandchildren Philip and Daniel.

RECOGNIZING AMY RUTKIN AND  
HER SERVICE TO THE U.S.  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 18, 2024*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Amy Rutkin for nearly twenty-five years of outstanding service to the constituents of New York's 12th Congressional District and the House Judiciary Committee.

The decision to hire Amy as my Chief of Staff in 1999 was—as all my best decisions are—at the suggestion of my wife, Joyce, who had met her while working on the same New York City Comptroller race. While Amy hadn't previously worked on the Hill, upon meeting her, I knew she possessed the intellect, tenacity, and problem-solving skills necessary to step directly into the Chief of Staff role.

Previously, Amy had served as Director of Government Relations and Public Policy at Hadassah; as a Policy Analyst for New York Governor Mario Cuomo; and as Associate Director of Public Affairs at Planned Parenthood. This experience demonstrated our shared passion for advocacy and fighting for the principles we both believe in: women's and LGBTQ+ equality, civil rights, progressive Zionism, and much more.

While Amy grew up in Arizona and earned her undergraduate degree at Brandeis University in Boston, Massachusetts, she became steeped in the world of New York City politics when she studied at my alma mater, Columbia University, going on to graduate with a master's in public administration.

Despite a promise not to stay in the position "a day over four years," Amy was quickly thrown into the center of some of our nation's most significant challenges, and her commitment to seeing those challenges through kept her fighting alongside me for nearly twenty-five years. Barely two years into her taking the Chief of Staff role, the 9/11 terrorist attacks devastated my district, which then stretched from the Upper West Side of Manhattan through the heart of the World Trade Center and to parts of Brooklyn. We knew immediately that the air in Lower Manhattan wasn't safe to breathe—despite assurances from the Bush Administration—and in the years following, Amy dedicated herself to leading efforts in Congress to care for the victims, work that culminated in the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. This landmark legislation upheld our promise to our nation's heroes who responded to the attacks as well as to all those who had been impacted by the toxic dust in the disaster area—a monumental feat that affected thousands of lives. Thanks to her persistence and dedication, Amy's impact on our 9/11 families can be felt far and wide.

Years later, in 2017, our work together would face its biggest test as I entered the race to become Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee. Thanks in great part to the strong record I had built over the years with Amy's advice, I earned the trust of my colleagues to become the Ranking Member, a goal we had discussed for many years finally coming to fruition. I was proud to appoint Amy as Chief of Staff to the Committee, a role she seamlessly assumed following our victory.

Becoming Ranking Member—and later, Chairman—of the Judiciary Committee brought with it great opportunities for legislative action that Amy and I had talked about for years. It came with a caveat, however; Donald Trump was the President, and there was mounting pressure to launch an impeachment inquiry as he was fundamentally threatening and degrading our democracy.

Amy navigated the complexities of leading an impeachment with a steady hand, facing a demanding schedule and non-stop media attention, managing a staff of some of our nation's finest minds, and working closely with the House Leadership team. This experience earned her the acclaim of former Majority Leader STENY HOYER, who praised her "wise counsel" and "razor-sharp instincts," an assessment I couldn't agree with more.

After the Impeachment concluded in early 2020, unbeknownst to anyone at the time, we would be back again the following year for yet

another impeachment after President Trump led the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol. While under vastly different circumstances—this time, the Members were the direct victims of the President's crimes—Amy built on past experience to give President Trump the dishonor of being the only President to be impeached twice.

Impeachments aside, Amy's tenure leading the staff of the Judiciary Committee allowed us to realize several legislative goals we had worked on together for two decades.

For example, back in 2009, when same-sex marriages were under attack, Amy was critical in helping author the Respect for Marriage Act to protect marriage equality, a bill that was seen as fanciful at the time. Although the Supreme Court later recognized marriage equality in the Obergefell decision, this right came under renewed threat when Justice Thomas urged revisiting that precedent in the Dobbs case, which overturned decades of precedent protecting the right to reproductive freedom. Amy seized the moment and jumped into action to revive efforts to pass the Respect for Marriage Act. Within months, we were on the White House Lawn together with President Biden as he signed the bill into law. A dream that seemed impossible just a decade earlier had become a reality largely due to Amy's relentless tenacity for LGBTQ+ equality.

Fighting for civil rights has always been at the core of my political philosophy, but it was never more urgent than in the wake of George Floyd's murder in 2020, when our country was clamoring for change to our nation's approach to policing. Amy worked in tandem with then-Representative and now-Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass to advance the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act through the House, not once but twice. On their work together, former Congresswoman Bass said, "Let me say in no uncertain terms that the United States House of Representatives would not have been able to pass the most comprehensive police reform package in United States history—the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act—two different times, without Amy's steady guidance and leadership."

Simply put, under Amy's leadership, the House Judiciary Committee was as productive and consequential as it has ever been in the years I served as Chairman. These accomplishments allowed me to run in a difficult primary last cycle on a record that was unmatched, and I am thankful to Amy not only for helping to develop this record, but also for amplifying to constituents the impact of my work in Washington.

Even now in the minority, Amy continues to influence the issues she is most passionate about. In the wake of the October 7th attack on Israel, she has doubled down on her work supporting my role as the most senior Jewish Member of Congress and she is a visible demonstration that you can be both progressive and Zionist. She is relentless in her work supporting our informal group of Jewish Members of Congress—and her success in bringing together voices from across the political spectrum speaks volumes to her understanding of the complexities of the Jewish community and her deep connection to the values that bind us together.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Amy's children, Phoebe and Zoey. Both of her children were born during her tenure in the office, and for me and the rest of our team, it has

been a pleasure watching them grow up and hearing their stories and jokes about their dog, Rufus.

As Amy moves on to the next chapter in her life, I am forever grateful to have had her by my side for nearly twenty-five years as my most trusted advisor. With her brilliant political instincts, keen understanding of policy, and strong moral compass, she has been essential in bringing about so many of my accomplishments throughout my tenure in Congress.

I want to thank her for her many years of service and her friendship over the years. My district, the Judiciary Committee, and the lives of millions of people are better off for having had Amy fighting on their behalf.

**HONORING SANTA ROSA POLICE  
DEPARTMENT K9 GHOST**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 18, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ghost, a City of Santa Rosa Police Department K9. I have named Ghost as a Public Safety Hero of the Year from Sonoma County in California's 4th District because of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Ghost is a 2-year-old Malinois who was born in Modesto, California and began his service with the Santa Rosa Police Department in September 2022. He lives and works with his partner, Officer Aaron Gonzales-Campos, along with Officer Gonzales-Campos' wife and two daughters. Ghost enjoys being a big brother to his two little sisters.

In a time of rampant gun violence, Ghost serves a crucial role for our community. Ghost and Officer Gonzales-Campos are Sonoma County's first firearm detection Police K9 team. After hundreds of hours of training and achieving certification in January 2023, Ghost is able to detect odors from firearms and related objects such as ammunition. After identifying an odor, Ghost identifies the threat to his partner.

In his first year and in addition to his regular duties, Ghost intercepted and removed eight illegal firearms from the streets of Santa Rosa. Just two weeks ago, he helped bust an identity theft ring that was also manufacturing illegal ghost guns and assault rifles. A proactive approach to intercepting illegal firearms is keeping Santa Rosa safe and reducing the risk of violent crimes.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Ghost for his persistence, service and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

**RECOGNIZING SILVER LAKE  
MAYOR BERNIE HOVEY**

**HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 18, 2024*

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Bernie Hovey on his service as the Mayor of Silver Lake, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done

for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Mr. Hovey's drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He leads by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As Mr. Hovey goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Hovey for his commitment to the people of Silver Lake and to Northeast Ohio.

**RECOGNIZING XO GIFTS**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 18, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize XO Gifts for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to XO Gifts for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

**IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE  
DAVID NORVELL**

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 18, 2024*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor David Norvell for the incredible life and legacy he led serving the people of New Mexico. Mr. Norvell passed away on December 21, 2023 at the age of 88. I want to express my sincerest condolences to his wife, Leader Gail Chasey, and his family. I pray that all who loved him find solace and healing.

Mr. Norvell was born in Missouri and raised in Oklahoma. He made New Mexico his home. There, he practiced law in Clovis and then went on to a remarkable career in public service. He touched countless lives in our beautiful state as the youngest Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives and Attorney General. He was a legislative visionary in his fights for a higher minimum wage, a clean environment, and the repeal of the death penalty. As the man who led the charge for the New Mexico Human Rights Act, he created a brighter and more equitable future for all communities in our state.

I am confident that Mr. Norvell's legacy will live on through his family and friends and his innumerable accomplishments. His tireless dedication to the people of New Mexico proves how much we can accomplish as advocates for our beloved communities. I'm proud to follow in Mr. Norvell's footsteps and

continue working for the people of New Mexico. For that and more, we recognize Mr. Norvell for his invaluable service to the state of New Mexico and to the United States of America.

**CELEBRATING THE WALTER L.  
COHEN HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM NAMING CEREMONY IN  
HONOR OF JAMES "JIM" H.  
RABY**

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 18, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Mr. James "Jim" Raby, who has devoted his life to serving his community, and to celebrate Walter L. Cohen High School, for their choice to honor him with the dedication of the Gymnasium Naming Ceremony. Mr. Raby, though born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was raised from the age of 9 months in my home, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Raby attended New Orleans public schools, James Weldon Elementary School, and Walter L. Cohen Senior High School. Jim and his high school sweetheart, Nola, were part of the third graduating class of Walter L. Cohen High School in 1955 and have been married for 63 years.

Upon graduating from Walter L. Cohen High School, Mr. Raby matriculated at Southern University in Baton Rouge, where he earned a BS in Mathematics. Jim went on to earn a master's in education, and a certification in Adult Education. During his time at Southern, he became involved in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Program and, after graduating in 1959, received a Commission as an Army Second Lieutenant. In September of 1963, after serving 4 years on active military duty, during which he was often the only African American commissioned officer, Mr. Raby was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.

After his discharge from the military, Jim began worked at the Philip Morris Tobacco company, a company for which he was the only African American sales representative in Louisiana. In November 1967, he resigned from his position at Philip Morris Tobacco company, and became the first African American to serve as a Field Underwriter for New York Life Insurance Company in the New Orleans General Office.

Once he retired from this position in 1994, Mr. Raby began working for the Orleans Parish School Board as the Program Coordinator for Project Independence. In August 2009, Jim was elected President of the Board of Directors of the Walter L. Cohen Alumni Association, through which he spearheaded efforts to rebuild Walter L. Cohen High School on its original site.

Mr. Raby's dedication to the different communities of which he is a part is evident throughout his story. He has not only contributed immensely to his Alma Mater, Walter L. Cohen High School, but also to our state, and to our nation. I commend Walter L. Cohen High School for dedicating the Gymnasium Naming Ceremony in honor of Mr. Jim Raby, and I am proud to acknowledge Mr. Raby for his dedication to serving others, both locally and beyond.