

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF 2024 SILVER KNIGHT AWARD  
WINNER SOPHIE WHITESIDE IN  
THE SPEECH DISCIPLINE

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 31, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Sophie Whiteside, a truly exceptional individual who has been bestowed with the Silver Knight Award in the speech discipline. This award, a symbol of academic excellence and community service, is a testament to Sophie's outstanding achievements and her significant contributions to her community. It recognizes her dedication, talent, and the positive impact she has made in the lives of others.

Sophie's intelligence and eloquence can be seen in her success as a two-time Tournament of Champions Bid Earning for debate. Her dedication is displayed through her participation in twenty national-level speech and debate tournaments, and her talent led her to place sixth in the State of Florida for policy debate by the National Speech and Debate Organization. She has also been a beacon of kindness to the elderly community, as she was inspired to establish the Sending Sunshine Pine Crest Chapter in 2021 in honor of her grandmother, who passed away after suffering from dementia in her later years. Through this nonprofit, she has worked tirelessly alongside her team of 260 members to make the elderly feel appreciated by sending over 5,300 handwritten letters to local and international senior homes.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ms. Sophie Whiteside as a remarkable student and exceptional contributor to the discipline of speech.

RECOGNIZING REBECCA SMIRK'S  
DEDICATION TO THE GIRL SCOUTS

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 31, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Rebecca Smirk whose work and dedication as an outstanding Girl Scout Volunteer, Leader and Service Unit Manager has touched many lives in the Lower Bucks County region and the surrounding areas over the span of twelve years.

A seventeen-year resident of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Rebecca grew up in Long Island, New York and attended Swarthmore College. She graduated with a BA in Chemistry and Economics in 2000 and from Seton Hall University School of Law with a JD in Intellectual Property in 2009. She is currently a Partner at Servilla Whitney, LLC.

While her career accomplishments are impressive on their own, her greatest impact has been within her own community. Rebecca and her husband Jim moved to the Yardley/Lower Makefield community in 2007 and welcomed their daughter Emma in 2005. Growing up as a Girl Scout, she knew that she wanted to give her daughter the experiences she loved

as a scout—outdoor adventure, leadership skills and lifelong friendships.

Rebecca understood the importance of volunteerism from her own mother who was her troop leader for 9 years. When Emma joined scouts in 2012 as a Daisy, Rebecca was quick to volunteer as a parent helper. When the troops leaders stepped down in 2015, Rebecca immediately stepped in. She knew they would be creating treasured scouting memories, just like the ones Rebecca had of her mother.

In June of 2018, Rebecca again stepped up her volunteering and became the Service Unit Manager for the Sandy Run Service Unit within the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania Council. In this role, she oversees nearly 40 troops, over 80 troop leaders, a Service Unit Team, and over 400 active, registered Girl Scouts. Under her leadership, she has increased girl enrollment, increased the number of girls achieving higher awards, promoted Outdoor skills education, fostered relationships with community members and community service groups like Aid for Friends as well as forming new relationships with Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Additionally, Rebecca built upon the Service Unit activities and traditions. Rebecca has been a driving force behind the continued success of our Sandy Run Service Unit Summer Day Camp which draws 100 girls each year from the Service Unit and neighboring towns. She has expanded and built a community of parents, volunteers, and community leaders who have worked together to build girls with courage, confidence, and character.

Rebecca has been a champion for girl-led leadership opportunities within the Service Unit. She has gone above and beyond in her service to ensure every girl who wanted to belong to a Girl Scout troop is included. Girls from disbanded troops or former Juliette Scouts were included by welcoming them into her own established older girl troop.

Rebecca's welcoming hand ensured these girls remained active in Girl Scouting and many went on to achieve Silver and Gold Awards through her encouragement. When 23 little kindergartners needed a leader so they could join Girl Scouts, Rebecca again stepped in to become the leader of a new Daisy troop while still helping guide her older girls towards graduation.

In 2023, Rebecca received the Gertrude K. McGonigle Award, which recognizes one individual a year from Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania's nine county footprint who has been a registered Girl Scout volunteer for a minimum of ten years, has proven to be a positive role model while working directly with girls, and has exemplified the values and traditions of Girl Scouting. The award is given in honor of Gertrude K. McGonigle by her daughter, in recognition of her mother's long-standing interest and support of Girl Scouting in the Reading/Berks County area. Rebecca has positively impacted and inspired numerous volunteers as well as hundreds of girls within our community.

The hours she has dedicated to her two troops and to our Unit are countless and her initiative and creativity providing a rich Girl Scouts experience to all of our scouts is limitless. Rebecca's ability to live a life of service and a dedication to the Girl Scout Law is commendable. She is a role model to many and

exemplifies the values and traditions of Girl Scouting.

We are all incredibly grateful for the positive impact Rebecca Smirk has had through her volunteer work and we are delighted that she will be taking on a new volunteer role as a Girl Scout Gold Award Committee Member with the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania Council continuing to inspire the young women in Bucks, Berks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia Counties.

HONORING CAPTAIN BILLY  
RICHARD INMAN, JR.

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 31, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Billy Richard Inman, Jr., as he celebrates his 32 years of service with the Lake County Fire Protection District and our community.

Captain Inman was born in Santa Rosa, California, on December 8, 1968. He grew up in Covelo and Corning before moving to Lake County. In 1985, he married his high school sweetheart, Pam, and soon thereafter welcomed two children, Jessica, and Billy IV. He and his wife have since expanded their family by welcoming nine grandchildren. Captain Inman obtained his General Education Diploma in 1987 and then took fire science courses to start his career.

Captain Inman began his service as a seasonal firefighter for South Lake County Fire. He then became a volunteer firefighter for the Lakeshore Fire Department Volunteer Association and a volunteer captain for the Lakeshore/Lake County Fire Volunteer Association. Later in his career, he became a firefighter for Lakeshore/Lake County Fire as well as a firefighter and emergency medical technician for Lakeshore/Lake County Fire. After, he served as the Fire Captain for Lake County Fire Protection District.

Since the beginning of his career in the fire service, Captain Inman has aimed to give back to our community. Currently, serving as a captain and training officer for the Lake County Fire Protection District. Captain Inman has tirelessly worked to embody the mission of the Lake County Fire Protection District, which is to protect all its citizens from injuries and loss due to both manmade and natural fires.

Captain Inman's service on behalf of our Lake County community is inspiring. In addition to his dedicated work to combat fires, he also works closely with youth. This includes working to restore fire damage, inspecting car seats, operating fire safety trailers, coaching youth sports teams, and supporting local school activities with his attendance and generous donations. Captain Inman has shown an immense commitment to the safety and health of our community.

For the past 32 years, Captain Inman has given countless hours to our community that have not gone unnoticed. He has dedicated his life to both his biological family, fire family, and our Lake County community over the duration of his long and storied career. We are grateful for his leadership in our community.

We are thankful for his service and wish Captain Inman a wonderful retirement.

Mr Speaker, Captain Inman is deeply appreciated for his work on behalf of our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER EMILIA MCGOVERN IN THE BUSINESS CATEGORY

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 31, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Emilia McGovern, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the Business category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

Emilia's academic journey is a testament to her dedication and passion. She earned an AICE Diploma with Distinction from Cambridge University and College Board Hispanic Recognition, showcasing her academic prowess. Her leadership role in her high school's Marketing Academy and her commendable performance in DECA competitions, where she secured the 5th position in the state for Marketing Communications, demonstrate her commitment to her community. Her aspiration to pursue a degree in public relations to become a social media manager is a reflection of her forward-thinking mindset and her desire to make a positive impact.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today to recognize Ms. Emilia McGovern as an excellent student and notable contributor to the field of business.

RECOGNIZING SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP POLICE CHIEF DOMINICK P. BELLIZZIE'S RETIREMENT

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 31, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent of my district, Solebury Police Chief Dominick P. Bellizzie who is retiring on July 1, 2024 after 48 years of dedicated and faithful service to the citizens of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

After high school, Dominick joined the United States Navy where he served prior to

his law enforcement career. He found his lifelong career on May 17, 1975 when he started as a police officer at the City of Philadelphia Police Department, working in patrol, investigations, administration, and narcotics.

Dominick has had extensive police training, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Chief Bellizzie was also selected by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to travel abroad to Ukraine to provide training in police methods.

In 2002, Chief Bellizzie became the Chief of Police for the City of Coatesville Police Department in Chester County, Pennsylvania. He left Coatesville Police Department in 2006 to lead the Solebury Township Police Department. Under the leadership of Chief Dominick Bellizzie, the Solebury Township Police Department was transformed from a pre-21st century department to an innovative community-based police department. The principles of leadership, service, honesty, integrity, humility, purpose, and trust were part of Dominick's devotion to law enforcement and his officers.

I wish to congratulate Dominick on his almost five decades of service to the citizens of Bucks, Chester, and Philadelphia Counties, and on his well-deserved retirement from the Solebury Township Police Department.

HONORING RAY JOHNSON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 31, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ray Johnson, the Executive Director of the Wine Business Institute. Mr. Johnson's contributions to the wine community, both locally and beyond, exemplify a commitment to excellence and leadership.

Mr. Johnson's earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Masters in Wine Business from the University of Adelaide.

Mr. Johnson's career in the wine community spans over three decades, during which he has tirelessly worked to elevate the visibility and viability of the Wine Business Institute at Sonoma State University in Sonoma County, California. Since assuming the role of Executive Director in 2010, Mr. Johnson has spearheaded initiatives that have propelled the department to new heights, generating millions of dollars in support for its students, faculty, and programs. His visionary leadership and strategic acumen have been instrumental in shaping the future of wine education and business.

Beyond his professional career, Mr. Johnson's passion for wine runs deep. While working at a French restaurant in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he discovered his love for wine and

embarked on a transformative career path that led him to California. Mr. Johnson's journey from a tour guide at Christian Brothers to the helm of the Wine Business Institute is a testament to his unwavering determination and dedication to his craft.

What sets Mr. Johnson apart is not only his expertise in wine education and business but also his commitment to sharing his knowledge and passion with others. Through his work at the Wine Business Institute, Ray has empowered countless individuals to pursue their passions and unlock their full potential in the wine community. His belief in the transformative power of education is evident in every aspect of his work, from the classroom to the boardroom.

His dedication to education culminated in the launch of the Executive Wine MBA program in 2012, the first of its kind in the nation. Additionally, Mr. Johnson played a pivotal role in founding the Sonoma State Wine Cellars, which provides students with invaluable hands-on experience in the wine community.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Mr. Johnson for his dedicated service to the wine community. His passion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to education have left an indelible mark on us all. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST ON HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR DAY

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 31, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Holocaust Survivor Day. On June 4th, we come together to celebrate the survivors for their bravery, sacrifices, and lives.

Holocaust survivors are our teachers, and it is our collective responsibility to pass on the legacy of their testimonies.

I would like to recognize and honor the following survivors Frances Gaspar, 103 years old; Chaim Greenberg, 102 years old; Lucy Blicher, 102 years old; Elaine Lefkowitz, 101 years old; Hana Altarac, 104 years old; Allan Feld, 105 years old; Rena Reiter, 101 years old; Rosa Lindenberg, 100 years old; Rose Boyarsky, 100 years old; Herman Haller, 100 years old; Betty Eisdorfer, 100 years old; Estelle Dreese, 100 years old; David Elefant, 100 years old; Miriam Rozenbaum, 100 years old; and Lena Porter, 100 years old.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 23rd Congressional District, please Join me in commemorating Holocaust Survivor Day. May their stories be forever remembered.