

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TED BLUM 4-H CENTER

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Somerset County 4-H on the 50th anniversary of the Ted Blum 4-H Center. I am truly grateful to be celebrating this monumental milestone with you all.

Named after Ted Blum, one of the most important and beloved figures in New Jersey's 4-H community, Somerset County's 4-H Center was touted as the largest building of its kind in the nation when it opened in 1974. The Ted Blum 4-H Center has served as a model for 4-H facilities nationwide, providing meeting spaces for clubs and events as well as office space for the dedicated staff and volunteers who continue to ensure that "4-H Is Tops".

I wish all the best to Somerset County 4-H on the 50th anniversary of the landmark Ted Blum 4-H Center, and I extend my thanks for all that they do for our community.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS HASTEDT ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2024

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated advocate and leader in my state who is retiring after several decades working to improve the lives of her fellow citizens. For nearly fifty years, Christine ("Chris") Hastedt has worked tirelessly to further equity, economic security, and access to higher education—among many other things—for all Mainers.

At the start of her career, Chris worked as a paralegal at Pine Tree Legal Assistance, a nonprofit organization which provides free, civil legal assistance to low-income people in Maine. Through her dedication and ingenuity, Chris proved to be fearless and deeply effective at expanding access to legal representation for countless people. Chris' years with Pine Tree were only the first of her forty-eight celebrated years as a respected and well-known force in the Maine State House. During my years at the State House, I relied on Chris for accurate information, strategic thinking and passion for all of the right causes. Many of our successes during that era were due to her assistance and persistence.

In 1996, Chris co-founded Maine Equal Justice, a nonprofit civil legal aid and economic justice organization. Under her guidance as Senior Policy Advisor, Maine Equal Justice has empowered people to better understand laws and independently navigate government systems to support their needs. By sharing her resources and policy knowledge, Chris has established coalitions among government agencies, policymakers, experts, academics, and national partners. Chris has consistently led with empathy and a distinct understanding of how to work with people across all backgrounds and life experiences.

In addition, Chris has dedicated her time to making higher education and workforce training more accessible for Mainers with low incomes. By advocating for programs such as Parents as Scholars, the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program, and Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment, Chris has helped thousands of Maine people reach their goals by expanding access to postsecondary education.

Chris Hastedts' nearly half-century as a uniquely dedicated advocate makes me very proud to represent her and the State of Maine in Congress. I wish Chris the best in her retirement, and I wholeheartedly thank her for her many years of influential work.

HONORING MSGT MATTHEW PERRI

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Master Sergeant (MSGT) Matthew Perri's 23 years of distinguished service, and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement from the United States Air Force.

MSGT Perri began his military career in August 2001, when he enlisted as a Security Forces Apprentice in the U.S. Air Force. After completing basic and technical training at Lackland Air Force Base, he was assigned to the 568th Security Forces Squadron at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. MSGT Perri quickly earned selection as a Security Forces Controller, and was deployed in support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. In 2004, he was transferred to the 11th Security Forces Squadron in Washington D.C., where he was selected to attend a Military Dog Handlers course and, upon graduation, served in various Presidential support missions where he provided explosive detection support.

After a brief break in service, MSGT Perri returned to military service in the 193rd Special Operations Civil Engineering Squadron as a Fire Protection Specialist, and quickly earned appointment to Station Captain. MSGT Perri further expanded his scope of service as a Career Enlisted Aviator, Loadmaster. Shortly after graduating this course, he was selected as the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC), wherein he oversaw daily flight operations, and ensured mission readiness and that Loadmaster training requirements were met. Through his exceptional performance as NCOIC, he was selected to attend Loadmaster Flight Instructor School, and deployed multiple times in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Throughout his illustrious career, MSGT Perri earned myriad medals and awards, including the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal with two OLC, the (PA) MG Thomas R White Jr. Medal, the (PA) GEN Thomas J. Stewart Medal, First Term Airman of the Year/Ramstein Air Base Award, 2003 Airman of the Year/568th Security Forces Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, 2004 Airman of the Quarter/11th Security Forces Squadron, Washington, D.C., 2005 Amn of the Quarter/11th Security Forces Squadron, Washington, D.C., 2005 Airman of the Year/

11th Security Forces Squadron, Washington D.C., 2011 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year/193rd Civil Engineering Squadron, 2019 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year/PA, and the 2021 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. He also acquired more than 1,000 flight hours, including more than 295 combat hours, flying the C 130J, HC1303, MC130J, and EC130J aircrafts.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored, privileged, and humbled to congratulate Master Sergeant Matthew Perri on his retirement from the United States Air Force. His tireless, faithful, and selfless service of 23 years to the United States of America sets the standard by which we all should be judged.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF KIDWORKS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Kid Works, a community-driven nonprofit organization that continuously empowers youth in the City of Santa Ana.

KidWorks' mission is to inspire purpose in youth, fuel their growth, and help youth be leaders in their communities. KidWorks is determined to unleash youth potential in overlooked neighborhoods through mentoring, leadership opportunities, and academic enrichment.

Since its establishment in 1993, KidWorks has been a trailblazer in nurturing under-resourced youth by establishing the Dan Donahue Center along with a fully licensed preschool, after-school programs, college preparation programs and adult health and parenting services, exemplifying the potential of individuals from within communities to advocate for youth leadership.

Today, leadership empowerment expands at the heart of KidWorks, where youth are supported through mentoring, personal development, leadership development, and college and career readiness.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 30th anniversary of KidWorks.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. PATRICK COLLIGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE POLICEMAN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2024

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Patrick Colligan on his retirement as President of the New Jersey Policeman's Benevolent Association or New Jersey State PBA. Over his decade-long tenure as New Jersey State PBA President, Mr. Colligan has stood out as a passionate advocate for law enforcement across the state. Personally, he has been a friend and trusted advisor on key bipartisan bills like the Invest to Protect Act. Mr. Colligan's tireless advocacy

on behalf of New Jersey police will be honored and appreciated for years to come.

Patrick Colligan began his career in law enforcement in August 1992 at the age of 27 with the Franklin Township Police Department. He graduated from Class 9-92 of the Somerset County Police Academy, where he served as class president and was the recipient of an academy leadership award.

During his law enforcement career, Patrick received more than a dozen awards, citations, and commendations. He is a founding member of the County Firewatch Program, a preventive program for juvenile fire setters. He also is a charter member of the County Arson Task Force. During his storied thirty-year career in law enforcement, Patrick has worked on and has taken part in thousands of investigations as a Detective from thefts to homicides.

On July 1, 2014, Patrick became President of the 32,000-member-strong New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, one of the largest in the country. In his capacity as PBA President, Patrick has developed very strong relationships throughout New Jersey. Within just a few years in his role, Patrick made a significant mark on the organization. Since 2017, he has been consistently ranked in the Insider NJ "100 Policymaker Power List" and the NJ Globe "100 Power List."

Patrick was appointed by Governor Jon Corzine to the Task Force on Police Suicides, which developed a successful video and program to curtail what was an alarming trend of police suicides. Governor Corzine also appointed him to the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) where he proudly served from 2009 to 2011.

I salute Mr. Colligan for his steadfast leadership of New Jersey State PBA and his lifelong commitment to public service. He has notched an amazing record of legislative accomplishments that help keep our communities safe and ensure law enforcement have the resources they need to protect and serve. Jersey is truly lucky to have Patrick as a champion of what I believe are the greatest law enforcement officers in the country. I wish him a restful retirement with his wife, Lynette, and his wonderful family.

HONORING FATHER NICHOLAS PETROPOULAKOS' RETIREMENT AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I proudly join the Greek-Orthodox community of Staten Island to honor the service of Father Nicholas Petropoulakos and celebrate his retirement this month after 50 years of service to the Greek Orthodox Church of America. Therefore, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas Father Nicholas Petropoulakos was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, and entered Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology in 1967 to fulfill his calling of becoming an Orthodox priest;

Whereas Father Nicholas was ordained to the Holy Diaconate in 1973 at Holy Cross Chapel on the campus of our seminary by His Eminence, Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago,

and was named assistant to the Pastor of Annunciation Church in Woburn, Massachusetts;

Whereas on June 1, 1974, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood at his home Parish, Holy Trinity in Lowell, Massachusetts, again by His Eminence, Metropolitan Iakovos. In 1987, Father Nick received a M.A. in Biblical Theology from the University of Notre Dame;

Whereas since accepting the pastorate of Holy Trinity—St. Nicholas in August of 1996, Father Nick has been heavily involved in education ministries, leading Bible study sessions, and teaching in youth ministries. He helped develop the parish website further to bring the community together and introduced the Junior Hellenic Dancers as well as a dance ministry for 3- to 6-year-olds;

Whereas Father Nicholas established the ELEOS Ministry for illness support, organized monthly healing services, and initiated THARROS for divorced Orthodox Christians. He oversaw the completion of the Community Center building program and led the renovation of the church, which was adorned with iconography for its consecration on June 3, 2013, conducted by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America.

On behalf of the Greek-Orthodox community of Staten Island, I want to thank Father Nicholas for his years of devotion, dedication, commitment, and spiritual guidance.

THANKING TOM COYNE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2024

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, to celebrate his retirement, I rise to thank Mr. Tom Coyne for 33 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives. Tom has served this great institution as a valuable employee of the House Chief Administrative Office, both in the Office of Logistics & Support, and the Office of Finance. His journey was not without its challenges, but his resilience and dedication have been unwavering, and we are all the better for it.

Before embarking on his 33-year journey with the U.S. House of Representatives, Tom Coyne dedicated four years of his life to the U.S. Army, serving with honor in the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard" Unit. His military service concluded in 1984, and he then pursued his passion for numbers, earning a degree in Accounting from George Mason University.

Tom began his career at the House in February 1991 as an equipment counselor in the Office Equipment Services, and due to his excellent service, he was promoted through many positions, leading up to his role as Chief Logistics Officer. Tom assisted with multiple computer system implementations, which include the fixed asset and inventory management system (FAIMS), work ticketing, point of sale, finance, and online flag ordering systems. Additionally, Tom was instrumental in initiating and managing the first Office Services department, allowing offices to request CAO support and services more quickly.

For 33 years, Tom's logistical, technical, analytical, communication, and financial skills have not just served the House, they have enriched it. His commitment and dedication have

provided a wealth of institutional knowledge, resulting in numerous successful initiatives and programs. He has been a pillar of support during all significant events over the past three decades, such as 9/11, Anthrax, the pandemic, 17 Congressional transitions, five Inaugurations, and nine House leadership changes. His professionalism, solid presence, and unwavering confidence has been a source of reassurance for his team, the Chief Administrative Office, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

While Tom's physical presence will be missed in the halls, his legacy will continue to guide us. The Logistics & Support employees will continue to rely on his example, asking themselves daily, "What would Tom do?" This commitment ensures that the House Members will continue to receive the best service, a testament to Tom's lasting impact.

In retirement, Tom looks forward to embarking on new adventures. He plans to spend more time exploring the world with his wife, Susan, and cherishing family moments with his sons, Tom and wife Amanda, Joe, James, and daughter Jennifer. The most recent addition to the family is his grandson, Henry, who will undoubtedly bring joy and laughter to their lives. Tom is excited about the opportunities and future endeavors that retirement will bring, and we wish him all the best in his new chapter.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend our warmest congratulations to Tom Coyne. We celebrate his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Tom many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams. May this new chapter be filled with joy, adventure, and fulfillment.

COMMEMORATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, we commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, an event that serves as a stark reminder of the brutality of authoritarianism and its tragic human costs.

Thirty-five years ago in 1989, in the heart of Beijing, the world witnessed a military crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square. The Chinese government's violent suppression of student-led demonstrations shook the world's conscience, leaving a permanent scar on the collective memory of humanity and reminding us of the lengths to which authoritarian regimes will go to maintain their grip on power. There are credible estimates that more than 200,000 Chinese army soldiers killed nearly 1,000 people and wounded many thousands more. In the decades since the massacre, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has relentlessly pursued its agenda of control and repression, which has stifled dissent and trampled on the fundamental rights of its citizens. Freedom of speech, assembly, and religion remain severely curtailed, with censorship and surveillance pervasive throughout the country. Dissidents, human rights activists, and religious