

intellectual contributions, passion for education, and love for both India and the United States will continue to inspire us all.

Sadly, Ved lost his beloved wife and partner Katharine last August. During this difficult time, my heart goes out to his friends and family—his daughter, Anjati, son-in-law, granddaughters, extended family, and all those who counted him as a friend, teacher, and mentor.

He will be missed.

CONGRATULATING DUCHESNE
BOYS' SOCCER ON THEIR CLASS
1 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Duchesne High School on their victory in Missouri's Class 1 Boys' Soccer State Championship.

The Pioneers claimed the Class 1 title for the first time in 20 years with a narrow 1–0 victory over Dubourg. Junior Zach Hubert came off the bench to net the game's only goal, as goalie Ben Burke led the defense in recording its ninth shutout of the season. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home a state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Duchesne Boys' Soccer Team for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING GREEN MAYOR
GERARD NEUGEBAUER

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 Gerard Neugebauer on his service as the Mayor of Green, 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. Neugebauer'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. Neugebauer 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. Neugebauer for his commitment to the people of Green and to Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE KIWANIS CLUB
OF DADE CITY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kiwanis Club of Dade City as it celebrates its 100th anniversary this week. Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis club, with Kiwanis members participating in over 150,000 service projects, devoting more than six million hours of service and raising nearly \$100 million every year in communities around the globe.

The Kiwanis Club of Dade City is especially impactful. Under the skillful leadership of President Kristia Dimarakis, the Kiwanis Club of Dade City has made immeasurable contributions to the community. In addition to raising funds to support countless local charities and organizations, the Club sponsors a program to help children receive eyeglasses in partnership with the local schools and eye doctors. Kiwanis of Dade City also helps facilitate clothing drives and keeps the local food pantry stocked for children in need. The lives of residents throughout Pasco County have been improved because of this group's philanthropic approach to making a difference to the lives of others.

HONORING THE WASHINGTON
HUSKIES' 2023 FOOTBALL SEASON

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Washington Huskies' remarkable 2023 football season. The Huskies reached the College Football Playoff, secured the greatest number of wins in the football program's history, and won the Pac-12 Championship. Under the leadership of head coach Kalen DeBoer, the Huskies put a well-deserved national spotlight on the university's football program and concluded the regular season with a perfect 13–0 record.

The University of Washington continues to bring immense pride to Seattle and Washington State. It is a leader in both academic and athletic excellence in the Pacific Northwest and the United States. I would like to commemorate the amazing work of the coaching staff and the student-athletes as they prepare for another excellent season. Congratulations on a phenomenal season and go Dawgs.

RECOGNIZING ONE HUNDRED
YEARS OF THE KERHONKSON
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the historic 100-year anniversary of the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company.

On December 26, 1924, the Kerhonkson Fire Company was organized as a meeting of

31 men. In a community that needed their men to step up, the community worked together to build a fire company that has continuously protected Kerhonkson and the surrounding areas. Today, the fire company includes 84 men and women among its ranks.

Over the past 100 years, the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company has maintained a strong group of dedicated workers and generations of families. Creating such a strong institution is inspiring and I wish them success in the next 100 years as they continue protecting their neighbors.

I want to personally thank the men who started this fire company 100 years ago as well as those who lead this great group of men and women today. I thank Fire Chief Steve Stephens and President, Former Chief, and Life Member Christopher D. DePew. Their work does not go unnoticed, and I wish them great success in the future.

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS
DAYS

HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Shen Yun Performing Arts Days:

Whereas, Shen Yun Performing Arts was established in 2006 by a group of elite Chinese artists in New York with a mission of reviving 5,000 years of Chinese culture, and since then, has grown into a household name around the world; and

Whereas, Through the universal language of music and dance, Shen Yun weaves a wondrous tapestry of heavenly realms, ancient legends, and modern heroic tales, taking you on a journey through 5,000 years of Chinese culture, its stunning beauty and tremendous energy leave audiences uplifted and inspired; and

Whereas, Shen Yun features the world's foremost classically trained dancers, a unique orchestra blending East and West, and dazzling animated backdrops—together creating one spectacular performance; and

Whereas, There has been an overwhelming and positive response to Shen Yun Performing Arts around the world, it is traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be, a study in grace, fluidity, inner strength, and positive virtues; and

Whereas, Themes of kindness, compassion, and courage are brought out through the songs of eminent vocalists and stunning choreography, the human spirit triumphs over adversity in powerful, thought-provoking dances, providing an uplifting and inspiring experience, energizing our Motor City with hope; and

Now therefore, be it resolved, I, SHRI THANEDAR, Member of Congress, do hereby proclaim the Shen Yun Performing Arts to be recognized for their artistic accomplishments and culture contributions to the city of Detroit.

EULOGY FOR MICHAEL
DESTEFANO

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, long before I was a Congressman and long before I had been a Council Member, I am and will always be the eternally grateful student of Michael DeStefano. For his influence on me is as powerful today, as it was nearly two decades ago, when God first brought him into my life.

When I was a kid, growing up in the 1990s, I would watch a show known as *Boy Meets World*, which had an iconic character, a wise, revered teacher by the name of George Feeny.

Mr. DeStefano was, in many ways, the Mr. Feeny of Herbert H. Lehman High School in the Bronx. As a teacher, Mr. DeStefano embodied for me the nobility of public education as a profession. And as a person, he was a formidable presence who could inhabit a room with the power of his personality and the force of his intellect. He had an eloquence and erudition that could captivate almost anyone who heard him speak. And captivate he did.

Indeed, Mr. DeStefano was the first educator to inspire me.

He engendered in me a love of words and ideas—a love that has remained with me ever since. He enabled me to discover a talent for public speaking I never thought I had. He encouraged me to lead the Lehman High School Law Team, which, I believe, set me on a trajectory that led to the New York City Council and then ultimately to the United States Congress. Words cannot capture the fullness of what Mr. DeStefano has meant to me.

The only constant in life, it has been said, is change. The ancient Greek thinker, Heraclitus, put it best: no person steps into the same river twice. The river is not the same, and neither is the person. Everyone and everything changes constantly at every moment. Reflecting on the theme of a constantly changing self, William James once observed that we have various selves at various points in our lives, and how do we know which one of those selves is the true self? According to James, the true self is one in which we feel most deeply and intensely alive.

Mr. DeStefano inspired me to pursue Moot Court in high school, and it is through Moot Court where I began discovering something resembling my true self, where I felt most deeply and intensely alive for the first time in my life.

As a student at Lehman High School, I remember looking for reasons to stop by Mr. DeStefano's office just to listen to and learn from him, just to be inspired by him. He never disappointed. He never ceased to amaze me with the sheer breadth of his knowledge and the sheer eloquence with which he could express every thought that came to mind and the sheer seamlessness with which he could move from one subject area to the next: philosophy and history and psychology, economics and international relations, literature, and religion. He could speak effortlessly about all of it. He had anecdotes and allusions, quotes and statistics that he could readily recover from his encyclopedic mind.

Whether it is Abraham Maslow's theory of self-actualization as the highest human need or Immanuel Kant's concept of the thing in itself or Søren Kierkegaard's leap of faith: all of these ideas that continue to shape how I think about life and the world were born out of conversations with Mr. DeStefano nearly two decades ago.

Those dialogues with Mr. DeStefano remain fresh in my mind as if we had spoken yesterday. I often find myself wondering: What would Mr. DeStefano do about a particular problem? What would he think about a particular question?

As I ask these questions, I am reminded that I am a better person and a better public servant for having had Mr. DeStefano as an educator in my life.

Mr. DeStefano brought out the best in me, and that, to me, is the greatest gift that one can give you.

I am grateful to his wife for sharing her brilliant husband and to his daughters for sharing their brilliant father with the students of Lehman High School, where he served with distinction as an Assistant Principal and teacher for decades.

He was a close confidante of Robert Leder, who at the time was the longest serving principal in the NYC public school system, beloved by many in the Bronx and beyond. The two of them, together, were the dream team in public education.

I miss and love them both.

Mr. DeStefano's legacy will live on not only in the lives of his family and friends but also in the lives of his students.

I will end as I began: I am proud to be a student of Michael DeStefano—always have been and always will be.

May my greatest teacher Rest in Peace.

RECOGNIZING THE WHEAT RIDGE
ROTARY CLUB

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wheat Ridge Rotary Club for receiving the Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Non-Profit of the Year Award.

The Non-Profit of the Year Award recognizes an organization serving the Wheat Ridge community for their outstanding work and the difference they are making in the community. The Wheat Ridge Rotary Club supports service activities by individuals and groups that are working to improve the community. They raise money by manning the beer tent at the Carnation Festival, volunteering at local schools, sponsoring a coat drive, and also offer scholarships for local students.

We are grateful to the Wheat Ridge Rotary Club for their many contributions to the Wheat Ridge community.

REMEMBERING ARCHITECT
ROBERT BONNER NORCROSS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my deep respects to Robert Bonner Nor-

cross, a Memphis architect known for his designs of many Memphis landmarks, who died from complications of Early Onset Alzheimer's on December 27 at the age of 62. A native of Tyronza, Arkansas, and a graduate of Marked Tree High School and Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas, Mr. Norcross became a principal in the architecture firm Looney Rick Kiss and led projects that transformed the city of Memphis and nearby communities for three decades. He was licensed in seven states and perhaps best known for his work on AutoZone Park, named the Minor League Ballpark of the Year in 2009 by Baseball America, and the FedEx Forum, home of the NBA Grizzlies and the University of Memphis Tigers. He had a hand in South City, the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital expansion, Soulsville Charter School and Multipurpose Building, Central Station, many homes in Harbor Town, the University of Memphis Men's Basketball Training Center, AutoZone's headquarters and the FedEx World Technology Center in Collierville. In 2020, he won the prestigious Francis Gassner Award from the American Institute of Architects—Memphis Chapter. Active in his Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church and its Vestry St. Columba outreach ministry in West Tennessee, Mr. Norcross was also a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Memphis, Leadership Memphis, the Memphis Leadership Academy of Arkansas, Dean's Circle at Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, and was a founding committee member of the Regional Memphis Design Center. I attended his service at Grace-St. Luke's on Saturday which was packed to the walls. I read the eulogy written by his children and will never look at butterflies again in the same way. I express my sincere condolences to his wife of 37 years, Jill, and their children Phoebe and Brandt, his colleagues and his many friends. He led a good life, but he left us too soon.

HONORING PERRY HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL DAN MARBURGER

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Principal Dan Marburger's family who are grieving following an attack on Perry High School.

During the attack, Principal Marburger heroically and selflessly put himself in harm's way enabling his students to run to safety. He saved many lives through his actions.

Dan passed away and will be laid to rest this weekend. As his daughter Claire said, "Dad taught us, inspired us to be better people every day. He passed many lessons and things on to us kids."

There's no doubt his impact will live on through the many students he mentored as an educator.

My heart goes out to Dan's wife and children. I would like to include in the RECORD a Facebook post written by his daughter Claire that encapsulates the tremendous man, husband, father, grandfather, and educator he was:

"Yet another post I didn't imagine having to write . . .