

and Instructor, teaching sociology, management, and decision-making courses at Columbia College, Chapman University, and the University of Phoenix.

Through their work in public service, education, telecommunications, and intelligence, Anastasios and Chrys have positively impacted our nation and the Tri-Valley community. I join the residents of my district in commending them for their decades of service and wish them rest, relaxation, a lot of time with their children and grandchildren in retirement.

RECOGNIZING JUNE 9TH AS BATTEN DISEASE AWARENESS DAY

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Batten Disease Awareness Day. Batten Disease is a fatal rare disease of the nervous system that usually begins in childhood. In the U.S., an estimated two to four children out of every 100,000 will get the disease, and unfortunately, there is no cure.

On June 9th Batten Disease advocates around the world will celebrate International Batten Disease Awareness Day. Families and caregivers impacted by this disease are often fighting a silent battle due to a lack of public awareness. Increasing awareness helps honor their fight and strengthen the development of innovative treatment options and research for a cure. That's why last year I was proud to introduce a resolution in support of Batten Disease Awareness Day.

I urge my colleagues to join me on June 9th in honoring the families and caregivers, and most importantly, the children who have been impacted by this terrible disease.

HONORING MRS. LEIGH WALKER FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated citizen from the greatest generation of Americans, Mrs. Leigh Walker.

Mrs. Walker represents the best of patriotism and what it means to be an American. Eighty-three years ago, a fifteen-year-old in California heard a call to help her country. Pearl Harbor had been attacked, the United States entered the war, and women had just begun joining the war effort. Miss Leigh and her mother were two of the many civilians who reported for duty. Women across the country worked long hours and long weeks, including Leigh and her mother. After months of training, Miss Leigh became a certified welder and began working on ships in Richmond, California at only sixteen years old.

The SS *Red Oak Victory*, a ship named for the small town in Iowa, was among the ships Mrs. Walker remembers working on. Built to last, this naval ship is still docked in Richmond today. Now no longer used for war, it is a testament to the skill and perseverance exempli-

fied by young women during the war. Miss Leigh and many of her peers rose to the occasion and served their country well with strength and dedication.

After the war, Leigh married Leland Walker, who was a highly skilled steamfitter and boiler-maker. Together they moved across the country to Tennessee, which is still their home over 70 years later. Together, they raised two children: Jerry Walker, who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, and Marcia Chandler, an elementary school teacher of 46 years. Mrs. Walker and the late Mr. Walker have four grandchildren.

Leigh Walker served her community in many informal ways as well. Mrs. Walker spent nearly twenty years helping her daughter's students with reading and writing. She was a reliable volunteer at the high school baseball games where her son-in-law coached and spent many years making cakes treasured by her community for various events.

Today, she is 97 years old and still resides in Dickson County, Tennessee. The advice she leaves speaks to her legacy, "Be honest, love your family, and always vote."

Leigh Walker's life is a testament to the American spirit of duty and service, and it is with the greatest respect that I recognize her today.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SALES AND DEVELOPMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2024 recipients of the IES Sales Excellence Awards presented by the Institute for Excellence in Sales and Business Development (IES).

IES was created to foster excellence in business sales and development practices and to help sales professionals and organizations maximize their efforts. Each year, IES recognizes individuals, teams, and organizations who demonstrate exemplary performance through leadership, risk taking, innovation, vision, and customer development.

The recipient of the 2024 Lifetime Achievement in Sales Award is Jim Kelly, Senior Vice President North American Federal Sales for Dell Technology. He is responsible for supporting federal customers and their missions, providing the technology and expertise needed to transform and protect their data.

The recipient of the 2024 Woman in Sale Executive Leadership Award is Gerilyn Horan. Gerilyn is the Vice President, Group Sales and Strategic Accounts at Hilton Worldwide Sales. She is responsible for driving the growth of the group segment for all Hilton brands and oversees a total account management approach to Hilton's largest customers.

The 2024 Entrepreneurial Sales Leader of the Year Award is presented to Reggie Aggarwal. Reggie is the CEO and Founder of Cvent, a market-leading meetings, events and hospitality technology provider.

Chuck Ghoorah will receive the 2024 Institute for Excellence in Sales Entrepreneurial Sales Leader of the Year award. Chuck is Co-

founder and President of Worldwide Sales and Marketing at Cvent. Chuck has been instrumental in building Cvent from a startup to a 4,800-person company.

The 2024 Sales Partner of the Year Award is presented to Rebecca Wetherly. Rebecca leads the strategic development and accelerated growth for AWS's diverse and expanding Systems Integrator (SI) partner ecosystem. This rich partner ecosystem enables government, education, and nonprofit customers to grow and deliver impact by leading with AWS cloud services.

Margo Edris will receive the 2024 Institute for Excellence in Sales Rising Sales Star award. Margo Edris is a Regional Vice President of Sales at Salesforce. She leads a team of accomplished Sales professionals who partner with State and Local Governments across the Rocky Mountain Region to modernize Government services.

Tom Snyder will receive the 2024 Institute for Excellence in Sales Speaker of the Year award. He is the Founder and Managing Partner of Funnel Clarity, LLC, a sales training and consulting firm headquartered in Washington, DC. Finally, Tom is listed among America's 100 Most Influential Sales Leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this year's awardees for their innovative and effective leadership and in wishing them success in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. JOHN BREWER

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. John Brewer. A passionate journalist and dedicated community leader, John passed away in mid-April.

I got to know John when I first ran for Congress back in 2012. From the first moments I spent with him, I learned just how deeply he cared about his community, and his passion for local journalism.

John was the consummate newsman and dedicated his professional career to the field of journalism. His first job was with the weekly Upland News in his hometown of Upland, California in 1965. From there, he went on to work with The Associated Press for 19 years as a reporter, editor, bureau chief, and executive in Seattle, Los Angeles, and New York.

As the Seattle bureau chief, he oversaw the coverage of the devastating 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. In Los Angeles, he oversaw the coverage of the 1984 Summer Olympics. During his 10 years as president, CEO, and editor-in-chief of The New York Times Syndication Sales Corp., he enlisted high-profile columnists, including Mikhail Gorbachev, Martha Stewart, and former President Jimmy Carter.

After a prolific career around the country, John joined the Peninsula Daily News in 1998, where he championed local journalism until his retirement in 2015.

John was heavily involved in his community in the North Olympic Peninsula, supporting over 25 nonprofits and other organizations, including the Port Angeles Downtown Association, Community Multicultural Alliance, and Peninsula Home Fund. He served on several

community boards and was a past president of Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington, a statewide press association.

Mr. Speaker, I join our communities of Clallam and Jefferson counties in grieving the loss of a pillar of the community, passionate and dedicated journalist, and compassionate father, brother, husband, and friend. I join John's wife, Barbara, his two sons, and the rest of his family in grieving this sudden and tragic loss.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that journalism, not just at the local level, but across the country, is better because of the dedicated work and passion of Mr. John Brewer. His impact and legacy will be felt in Port Angeles and the broader Washington State community for many, many years to come.

CELEBRATING GENE GERRARD'S
102ND BIRTHDAY

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize the amazing life of United States Coast Guard Veteran Eugene "Gene" Gerrard, who recently celebrated his 102nd birthday.

Gene, like many from the "Greatest Generation" wanted to begin his military career before reaching enlistment age but had to wait and finally enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1942. Gene served in the Coast Guard until 1945, where he attained the rank of Quartermaster First Class. For his service, he earned an American Campaign Medal, an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, a Good Conduct Medal, a

World War II Victory Medal, and a Philippine Liberation Medal.

Previous to his enlistment, Gene worked as a printer by day and attended trade school by night in Brooklyn, New York. After his military service, Gene started his own printing business in Elmont, New York. Gene owned Gerrard Printing from 1951 to 1965, and St. Gerrard Printing in Port Jefferson Station, New York, from 1965 to 2013.

Gene was also a dedicated public servant, having been elected as town councilman for 22 years. Gene also contributed to the Mount Sinai Fire Department for 50 years as its chief, chaplain, and fire police captain. He founded the Mt. Sinai Fire Department Benevolent Association and the Brookhaven Volunteer Firefighters Museum.

Currently, Gene resides in the Town of Canandaigua in Ontario County, New York with his daughter, Pam Rushack. At 102 years old, Gene still gives back to the community by attending events, giving invocations, and leading in the Pledge of Allegiance. Most notably, Gene has served as a Red Coat Ambassador to the Canandaigua VA, where he has done so the last seven years.

Gene Gerrard is an exceptional community member whose devotion to his country and his community is truly inspiring. It brings me great joy to know Gene. I am thrilled to recognize him for his many accomplishments and wish him a very happy 102nd birthday.

CELEBRATING THE LIONS CLUB
OF KENMORE'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 95th anniversary of the Lions Club of Kenmore and their remarkable contributions to our community.

Founded in May of 1929, the Lions Club was established to support the visually impaired in Tonawanda and Kenmore. They are committed to improving access to eye and vision health for everyone through various initiatives such as their Eyeglass Collection Project, which gathers and distributes used eyeglasses worldwide. Locally, the club offers free vision screenings for children, as well as hearing aids and related examinations for those in need. The Kenmore Lions Club further creates welcoming spaces for the visually impaired, hosting annual Christmas parties, Thanksgiving dinners, and picnics throughout the year.

In addition to their work for the visually impaired, the Lions Club is committed to serving the broader community in every possible way. Through participating in programs such as Adopt a Highway to keep our roads litter free, organizing personal care donation drives for women veterans, and providing scholarships for local high school students, the Kenmore Lions Club has undoubtedly made a positive impact on many people's lives.

I thank the Lions Club of Kenmore for 95 years of dedication and service in making our community a better place.