

RECOGNIZING MR. EMILIO LENA

HON. JOHN JAMES

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, while we often recognize noteworthy and acclaimed personalities, we have many other great unsung heroes and amazing souls who do a ton of heavy lifting with little to no recognition. Yet, if truth be told, they serve as the glue, sturdiness, strength, and all that is good about America. They go about their jobs quietly, without having the expectation of recognition. In fact, they do what they do because it's God's work. It's the right thing to do.

I am privileged to be in a position where I can acknowledge one such unsung hero, and his service to our country during the Korean War, Mr. Emilio Lena. Mr. Lena was born in Cassino, Italy on September 10, 1925. He immigrated to the United States on February 1, 1947, not knowing any English but wanting a better life for himself in pursuit of the "American Dream."

He enlisted in the U.S. Army on October 23, 1952, to serve his new, beloved country and was trained as an artilleryman. He learned to read and write English in the Army and obtained his U.S. citizenship. He was honorably discharged as a Private First Class on October 4, 1954. While in service, he earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal. He cherished his time in the military and was a proud veteran his entire life.

He settled back in the greater Detroit area upon his return from service where he married the love of his life, Elena, and raised five children. He never returned to Italy due to his allegiance to his U.S. citizenship.

We thank him for his service and contribution to his country.

CONGRATULATING ROCHESTER
FIRE CHIEF TOM BUTLER ON HIS
UPCOMING RETIREMENT**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Fire Chief Tom Butler, who is retiring as Fire Chief of the Rochester Fire Department in Rochester, Indiana, at the end of this month.

Serving as Rochester Fire Chief since 2008, Tom's career in public safety spans back three decades when he started as a volunteer firefighter for the Department in 1994. Chief Butler's 16 and a half years in his current role means that when he retires on June 28, he will hold the title for the longest serving Fire Chief in Rochester history.

Chief Butler's career with the Rochester Fire Department is but one reflection of his lifelong passion for helping others. Since he was a young man, Chief Butler felt a calling to serve our Nation in uniform. That calling led Tom to enter military service, where he was a military medic for 24 years with stints in both the Army and the Indiana Army National Guard. Part of that service was spent on two tours in the

Middle East, including a deployment during Operation Desert Storm. Tom distinguished himself in service, and his military awards include a Bronze Star, expert field medical badge, and combat medical badge.

Because of his service as Fire Chief, the Rochester community and Fulton County are unquestionably better off and safer thanks to this good man who exemplifies what it means to be a true public servant who sacrifices for others.

Chief Butler's example and leadership are also reminders that first responders are on the frontlines of some of the most difficult situations our communities face. When there is a problem, first responders like Tom answer the call and willingly put themselves in danger's path to keep us safe. For that, all of us are extremely grateful.

I am proud to join so many Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second District in expressing our appreciation to Chief Butler for his impressive career spent in service to others. I wish Tom and his family—including his wife Samantha and their two children Alison and Daniel—all the best going forward as Tom begins the next chapter of his life and a very well-deserved retirement. May God bless.

HONORING MARGARET COWLING

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Margaret Cowling of Lexington, Kentucky. She is an extraordinary educator and is retiring after a stellar career of 49 years. It is my honor to lift her up on this special occasion.

Miss Cowling grew up in Lexington, Kentucky and enrolled as a student at The Lexington School in 1957. Her love for the school and the lessons she learned there had a lasting impact. She attended Indiana University, where she earned degrees in both history and English. Miss Cowling earned a master's degree in history from State University of New York then went to New York City where she enrolled in the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. She returned to Lexington to accept a position teaching history at The Lexington School in 1975. Her intent was to teach for a year then return to New York City, but she fell in love with teaching, which kept her at The Lexington School for 49 years.

Miss Cowling's love for history was evident in the community as well as the classroom. She volunteered as a tour guide at Henry Clay's Ashland Estate, the Mary Todd Lincoln House, and Waveland. She wrote a book, *The Lexington School: Our First 50 Years*, to commemorate the school's 50-year history.

I am a great admirer of Miss Cowling as I was fortunate to be one of her many students. She instilled in me a strong passion for history. She taught me about Vikings, Egyptians, Ancient Greeks, Alexander the Great, medieval times, and so much more. Miss Cowling had high expectations for all her students. An excellent storyteller, she made history come alive. Miss Cowling exemplified a love of learning that has stayed with me over the years.

I have been impacted by many excellent teachers in my life, but Miss Cowling stands

out as my favorite. It is my honor to acknowledge my friend and my teacher for her educational excellence, her enthusiasm for learning, and the impact that she has had on me and thousands of other students over her 49-year career.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PERMIT
THE FLAG OF THE UNITED
STATES TO BE FLOWN AT HALF-
STAFF IN THE EVENT OF THE
DEATH OF A MAYOR OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would make a small but respectful change to federal law by adding the Mayor of the District of Columbia to the list of named principals for whom the President shall order the U.S. flag be flown at half-staff. Current law states that the President shall make this order "upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory." Surely the D.C. Mayor should qualify as such a principal. My bill would add the D.C. Mayor, who has the same responsibilities as state and territory governors, to the current list of officials. This bill is part of a series of bills to ensure equal treatment for the nearly 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia. In the 116th Congress, the House Committee on the Judiciary passed this bill.

Congress has already acknowledged that D.C. is entitled to a place among the states for certain honors. For example, legislation we got enacted gave D.C. a coin after D.C. was omitted from legislation creating coins for the states and required the armed services to display the D.C. flag whenever the flags of the states are displayed. We got D.C.'s Frederick Douglass and Pierre L'Enfant statues placed in the Capitol, alongside the two statues from each state. We also successfully worked with the U.S. Postal Service to create a D.C. stamp, like the stamps for the states, and successfully worked with the National Park Service to add the D.C. flag alongside the state flags near Union Station.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO MADDOX OLATUNDE**HON. BETH VAN DUYN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Maddox Olatunde. As quarterback for L.D. Bell High School in Hurst, Maddox Olatunde helped lead the Blue Raiders to victory over their longtime rival, Euless Trinity, for the first time in 25 years. After completing 18 of 21 passes for 150 yards plus 135 rushing yards and a touchdown, Maddox was selected as the Dallas Morning News "Inside High School Sports" Player of the Week.

Beyond the football field, Maddox is the team captain of the Varsity Men's Soccer Team and the principal cellist of the L.D. Bell Philharmonic Orchestra. He recently received the 2024 HEB ISD Education Foundation Award of Excellence, which is given to 33 outstanding high school seniors who have worked hard, overcome adversity, found their passion, blossomed, and excelled above their cohorts.

I want to congratulate Maddox on his outstanding achievements, both on the field and off.

RECOGNIZING PETERSON HEALTH'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peterson Health in their seventy-fifth year of serving the Texas Hill Country. The community is forever grateful to Hal and Charlie Peterson, two brothers who envisioned a full-service hospital in Kerrville, Texas. The Petersons' efforts began in 1944 by establishing the Hal and Charlie Peterson Foundation with an initial donation of one hundred dollars. Three years later, the Foundation board green-lit construction of a hospital for "the benefit of the people of the Hill Country in general." The brothers started building on their land at Sidney Baker and Water Streets in Kerrville. Named for their father, the Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital opened its doors on July 3, 1949. I include in the RECORD an excerpt from the Petersons' opening ceremony speech that day:

"And so here it is; it's yours to use. If it will ease a little the sufferings of the sick and injured; if it will help a little to mend their broken bodies; if it will provide a place where the next generation—and the next—can enter this world with the best of care and attention, and if it can do these things at a minimum of expense to those who must be patients, then our purpose in building it and giving it to the Hill Country community has been well-served."

It was a world-class facility, the first in America to have a central air conditioning system. Another groundbreaking feature was the intercom system that connected each patient's bed to the nurse's station. In 1969, the hospital underwent extensive upgrades and increased bed capacity to eighty-six. A six-million-dollar expansion plan was completed in 1985, including a new Surgical Annex. The hospital became independent from the Hal and Charlie Peterson Foundation five years later. At the turn of the millennium, medical air transport services were added to San Antonio and Austin.

In 2008, the hospital changed locations to the new Peterson Health campus, complete with a brand-new hospital building. It was the only hospital in Texas to be named a Top 20 Rural Community Hospital by the National Rural Health Association. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in 2022 for the Amanda and J. David Williams Surgery Center which will expand surgical capacity by 25% and procedure rooms by 50%. Congratulations to CEO Cory Edmondson and the entire staff on seventy-five years of service to the Hill Country. I applaud Peterson's stated mission of "maintaining their status as an independent, private, nonprofit health system."

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. XIAOGUANG (DON) SUN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Xiaoguang (Don) Sun, who passed away on March 13, 2024, in San Jose, California, with his family by his side. Don was a distinguished citizen who dedicated his life to advocacy, including advocating on behalf of Asian Americans, and served a prominent role in American politics.

Mr. Sun was born on July 10, 1959, in Beijing, China. He obtained a bachelor's degree from Renmin University of China in Beijing in 1982. After graduation, Mr. Sun worked on the Economic Reform and Opening-up policies for six years, focusing on agrarian reform, privatization of land, and grassroots elections in rural China. This work ignited his passion to tirelessly serve the people and galvanized his commitment to the betterment of society. He also earned a master's degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1990 and worked as a research fellow at the Hoover Institute at Stanford from 1990 to 1993, specializing in the research of political and land reform in Taiwan.

Mr. Sun served as President to the Bay Area chapter of the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association since 2009 and as a Cupertino Planning Commissioner from 2011–2019. He was also actively involved in the Cupertino Rotary Club for nearly two decades. Mr. Sun was vocal about the treatment of Asian Americans, leading advocacy efforts towards securing a formal apology from the U.S. House of Representatives for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Mr. Sun will be forever remembered for his contributions to the Asian American community.

Mr. Sun is survived by his two sons. May his proud legacy continue to live on through all who had the honor of knowing him.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Monmouth County Historical Association. This milestone will be celebrated by its leadership, members, and the greater community at its 49th Annual Garden Party on June 7, 2024. I would also like to join the Monmouth County Historical Association in honoring the members of its newly formed Advisory Council: Robert Broege, Hope Jones, and Ross Millhiser.

Organized by a group of Monmouth County residents with the intention of preserving and celebrating the county's rich history, the Monmouth County Historical Association has grown immensely since 1898. In less than 25 years, the group had expanded to several hundred members and procured an extensive collection. Today, the Association boasts a

collection of over 30,000 artifacts, a headquarters, library, archives, and five historic houses.

The Association is a renowned historical organization that continues to fulfill its mission to discover, preserve, and promote the history, genealogy, and biography of Monmouth County. Through its work, the Association provides an anthology of our heritage for future generations. Its exhibitions explore various topics from the American Revolution to the County's resort towns. It has received Giles R. Wright Award twice for its recent work to share the stories and experiences of the enslaved in Monmouth County. In its 125th year, the Monmouth County Historical Association is led by Executive Director Shannon Eadon and a knowledgeable staff as well as its Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, and its new Advisory Council.

The Monmouth County Historical Association continues to play a vital role in the preservation and promotion of the County's rich history. As it marks its 125th anniversary, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the contributions and efforts of the Monmouth County Historical Association.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER SHAYNE KOTARA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Shayne Kotara's 22 years of service with the North Richland Hills Police Department. Officer Kotara began his career in the Patrol Division, where he soon became an invaluable asset to the Department because of his committed work ethic and love for serving his community.

Officer Kotara has served the police department in several capacities over the years. In 2006, Officer Kotara transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division where he was assigned to the DEA's Fort Worth Multi-Agency Task Force and later to the DEA's Drug Diversion Task Force. In 2017, Officer Kotara was transferred back to the Uniformed Services Division, and from there he was transferred to the Community Resources Division in 2019. For the last five years, he has served as a school resource officer in the North Richland Hills district. Officer Kotara has shown exceptional dedication and has made a positive impact on his community.

Throughout his distinguished career, Officer Kotara has received numerous awards and commendations, reflecting his exemplary service and dedication. He currently holds a Master Peace Officer License and was awarded one Lifesaving Award. In addition, he's received two Meritorious Service Awards and seven Certificates of Recognition due to his outstanding service in the City of North Richland Hills.

I'd like to thank Officer Kotara for his outstanding service to our community during his career with the North Richland Hills Police Department.