

first formal tour at Ellsworth Air Force Base, Dr. Smith served across the country in an impressive myriad of capacities, ranging anywhere from Instructor Navigator, to Branch Chief, to Regimental Air Liaison Officer. With approximately 3,000 flight hours and numerous accolades, including being a part of the 15th Air Force Crew of the Year, Dr. Smith consistently distinguished himself from his fellow airmen no matter which role he was serving in. His exemplary leadership led him to be selected as Deputy Director of the 412th Test Management Group and eventually the Edwards Inspector General.

During his transition to civilian service, Dr. Smith continued to be an outstanding leader at Edwards Air Force Base. As Director of the 412th Test Wing at Plant 42 he has led a multi-functional team that supports over 16,000 contract and government personnel; and worked with top defense contractors that produce and test B-2, U-2, RQ-4, F-22, and F-35. These important programs are not only the economic backbone of the Antelope Valley—they are also critical to ensuring our Nation's security and ability to deter and win a war. Additionally, he supported NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center's planetary and earth science missions and serves the state of California as our Title-31 Air Support Command Commander.

Dr. Smith's life is a testament to dedication, passion, and leadership. As he enters retirement, his work will undoubtedly leave Edwards Air Force Base and Plant 42 well equipped to continue their mission in the coming years and his legacy will inspire future generations of pilots.

On behalf of a grateful community, I extend our heart felt appreciation to Dr. David Smith for his outstanding service, and wish him happiness and prosperity in retirement. We thank him for his exceptional commitment to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded on Tuesday, July 9. Had it been recorded, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 340.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT BUDDY PELLERIN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the life of Coach George "Buddy" Pellerin of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Coach Pellerin peacefully passed away on July 4, 2016.

Coach Pellerin was born on January 9, 1939, in Pittsfield. He attended St. Joseph's High School, where he played baseball and achieved All Berkshire Baseball Player status.

In 1962, Coach Pellerin graduated from North Adams State College. During his senior year, Coach Pellerin served as a player-coach, which led him to launch a legendary coaching career spanning over five decades. He successfully led several high school baseball, softball, and football teams to numerous state championships and was known for his confidence, professionalism, and charismatic leadership style. For his outstanding work and contributions to the city, Coach Pellerin was inducted into the Massachusetts Coach Hall of Fame, the UNICO Baseball Hall of Fame, and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Hall of Fame. The Buddy Pellerin Field at Clapp Park has also been designated in his honor.

After he retired from the Pittsfield School Department in 2000, Coach Pellerin volunteered as a Little League coach and for the Babe Ruth All Stars team. He also led summer baseball camps at the local Boy's and Girls Club for fifteen years and founded the Rip City Training Center in Pittsfield. Rip City grants scholarships for students to train at the center and excel in their academic and professional careers. In addition to his famed coaching career, Coach Pellerin was most proud of being a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. I'm proud to recognize Coach Pellerin for making a positive impact on our community and inspiring countless students and athletes to succeed.

It is an honor to bestow Coach Pellerin with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of Pittsfield. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

CONGRATULATING THE BOB ROSS AUTO GROUP ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Bob Ross Auto Group, located in my congressional district in Centerville, Ohio, as they celebrate a half-century of service to its customers and the Greater Dayton community.

The Bob Ross Auto Group, which consists of three franchises, Buick, GMC and Mercedes-Benz, commemorated its 50th anniversary on February 22, 2024. Over the past five decades, this family-owned dealership has become a pillar of the community and earned the trust of thousands of customers for their automotive and service needs.

The dealership contributes to a variety of charitable causes and community events, and to the Nation as a whole, through its support of the American Cancer Society's efforts to raise awareness and find a cure for breast cancer.

Robert P. Ross, Sr. started his successful entrepreneurial journey in Richmond, Indiana in February 1974. He became the first African American Buick dealer in the state of Indiana, where he continued to work and serve his community until he moved his business to Centerville, Ohio in 1982.

It took no time for his business to become a symbol of change in the Dayton community, as it was here where Bob Ross became the

first African American Buick Dealer in the state of Ohio and the first African American Mercedes-Benz dealer in the United States.

Bob Ross would continue to be a trailblazer for civil rights in the automobile industry. He would help establish the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers, as well as supporting numerous charities.

After Bob's death in 1997, his wife Norma J. Ross, assumed the presidency of the company, and his daughter Jenell Ross became vice-president and principal dealer at the age of 27. These two remarkable women would become the first female African Americans to be at the helm of an automobile dealership.

They would continue to grow the business together, earning numerous accolades, including recognition as one of the "Top 100 Companies in Dayton." In 2011, Black Enterprise Magazine named the Bob Ross Auto Group "Automobile Dealer of the Year."

When Norma passed away from breast cancer in 2010, Jenell took over the business as its president. In memory of her mother, Jenell established the Norma J. Ross Memorial Foundation, which has raised thousands of dollars for breast cancer research. The foundation hosts a number of events, proudly branded as "Pink Ribbon Driven," to raise awareness about breast cancer prevention.

Jenell Ross is the only second-generation African American female automobile dealer in the United States, and she is the first-ever African American Chair of the American International Automobile Dealers Association.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Jenell Ross and her family for 30 years. I have seen firsthand how she has sustained and grown Bob Ross Auto Group into a thriving small business that her father would be proud of.

The Ross family's commitment to the traditional values of hard work, quality products, and customer service represents the very best of the American entrepreneurial spirit, and serves as a model for all small businesses.

I congratulate Jenell Ross, her family, and her employees on this great milestone in their company's history. I wish them many more years of continued success and leadership in the community.

CELEBRATING PASTOR DWAYNE R. GILLISON, SR.

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Pastor Dwayne R. Gillison, Sr., as he receives the Community Leadership Award from the Mary B. Talbert Civic and Cultural Club, Inc. Pastor Gillison's devotion to his faith and public service will be recognized at the 116th Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs Convention.

Pastor Gillison is a proud graduate of the State University of New York Brockport, the Bible College of Rochester, and the Houghton Christian Academy. In 2022, Pastor Gillison was elevated to Pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Buffalo. In his ministry, Pastor Gillison has led the construction of the Mount Olive Senior Manor, an affordable housing community for seniors on the East Side of Buffalo. Working with People Inc., the complex will provide 65 accessible housing units to seniors in need.

Beyond his pastoral work, Pastor Gillison is committed to serving his community in all capacities. Through his leadership with the Concerned Clergy Coalition, the Baptist Ministers Conference of Buffalo & Vicinity, and the Urban Think Tank, Pastor Gillison is a guiding figure in the community. Further, Pastor Gillison leads the Mount Olive Development Corporation, a non-profit organization founded by his late father, Pastor William Gillison. With the Mount Olive Development Corporation, Pastor Gillison provides resources for families on Buffalo's East Side to address their economic, social, and educational needs. Pastor Gillison established the Buffalo Raiders Little League Football team, a safe place for youth to participate in healthy programming.

Today, Pastor Gillison is a loving husband to his wife, Victoria, father of three, and grandfather of three. He continues to unify our community through his devotion to faith and commitment to service. Please join me in congratulating Pastor Dwayne R. Gillison, Sr. for receiving the Community Leadership Award and thanking him for his remarkable dedication to our community.

COMMENDING MEMPHIS PUBLIC
WORKS DIRECTOR ROBERT
KNECHT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Memphis Public Works Director Robert Knecht who is retiring from the City of Memphis after 23 years of making it a safer and more attractive place. Mr. Knecht is a hard-working and outstanding public servant who always had time to answer my questions about federal funding for city projects or how securing federal funding could advance the city's infrastructure needs, a quality invaluable to me as the Congressman representing Memphis. Mr. Knecht concentrated his efforts on the full Public Works portfolio including stormwater and wastewater operations, blight remediation, Code Enforcement, environmental enforcement, sustainability, street sweeping and street maintenance operations, and the results are to his credit. My staff and I worked closely with Mr. Knecht as we realized the \$41 million Big River Crossing project, which included improvements on downtown Memphis' Main Street from Uptown to the Harahan Bridge and the conversion of the vehicle sections of the bridge into a bike/pedestrian path. This project was made possible by \$15 million in federal funds I secured through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER IV) Grant as well as matching grants from state and local funds and private funds. Mr. Knecht was instrumental in helping to execute Community Project Funding I secured for projects such as developing the Memphis Cobblestone Landing Recreational Center, which received \$4 million. I have also worked closely with him to secure district projects in the past several Water Resources Development Acts, including provisions to deauthorize the Wolf River to create a lake adjacent to the historic downtown Snuff District and to accommodate a floating entertainment dock at Cobblestone Landing. A

graduate of the University of Memphis with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering (2003), he also has a Master of Business Administration (2008) from the University of Phoenix. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he served during Desert Storm/Desert Shield. Married to Memphis native Mandy, he and his three children have bright days ahead as he heads for an opportunity in the private sector. As Mayor Paul Young has said, his shoes will be hard to fill. His has been a job well done.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT
MICHAEL MURGO

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Michael Murgo of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Coach Murgo has dedicated himself to faithfully serving and uplifting his community.

A native of Bristol, Rhode Island, Coach Murgo attended Colt Memorial High School and Brewster Academy. During this time, he discovered his passion for sports, and this inspired him to study physical education. In 1969, Coach Murgo graduated from the University of Rhode Island, where he was recognized for his athletic abilities and distinction in football. As such, he was selected to play professional football for the Providence Steamrollers. Coach Murgo began working for the Pittsfield Public School System in 1972 as a physical education teacher, a role he held for over 35 years. He also served as the football coach for Pittsfield High School for 17 years and led his students to success through physical fitness, teamwork, and discipline.

On top of his professional career, Coach Murgo worked diligently to support his four children so that they had the opportunity to pursue their interests. He is married to his wife, Ellen, and they will celebrate 52 years of wonderful marriage this year. I am pleased to recognize Coach Murgo for a lifetime of service as a teacher, coach, and mentor for our youth. His contributions to our community have been nothing short of outstanding, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Coach Murgo with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of Pittsfield.

HONORING EDGAR "EDDIE" PETER GUARALDI OF BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY, JUNE 29, 2024

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Edgar "Eddie" Peter Guaraldi, in recognition of his 100th birthday and with the deepest appreciation for his courageous service to our Nation during World War II and his many contributions to the Brockton community.

Eddie was born in Bourne, Massachusetts on June 29, 1924, to John and Angelina Zambelli. Along with his siblings Yober "Bert," Yolanda, and Lillian Guaraldi, Eddie lived in Bourne and Springfield before moving to Brockton. He graduated from Brockton High School in 1941 and worked at a shipyard for ten months before enlisting in the United States Army.

Eddie served his country with pride and distinction from March 1942 to December 1945 as a Sergeant and member of the 296th Combat Engineer Battalion, Company C. He fought in five major battles, including the Battle of Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, and battles in northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Guaraldi landed on Omaha Beach during the Normandy Landings on D-Day and was part of the liberation of Buchenwald—courageous acts that later earned him the European Campaign Medal and the French Legion of Honour Medal.

Eddie met the love of his life, Rose Marie Altieri on New Year's Eve in 1947. They married in Brockton on October 12, 1950. The couple raised two sons, E. Peter Guaraldi, Jr. and John Joseph Guaraldi. Eddie and Marie doted on their grandson, Peter James Guaraldi, throughout his childhood.

After his service, Mr. Guaraldi attended school to be a radio and electronic technician, eventually getting a job at Central Radio in Brockton. There, he fixed televisions and installed antennae, with the desire to open his own business. In 1951, that dream came true as Eddie opened Community Television in Brockton, running the family business for 44 years before working part-time alongside his eldest son until the age of 80.

Eddie was very involved in the South Shore and Brockton communities. For decades, he was a longtime volunteer and communicant at his local church Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Brockton. His volunteering at the Brockton Kids Road Races at D.W. Field Park for nearly 15 years helped make a positive impact on thousands of children and aspiring athletes. Mr. Guaraldi was also a regular at various veterans' meetings and events hosted by the Brockton VA Medical Center, and the Whitman Veterans of Foreign War Post, among others.

He and Marie were known for their love of travel, visiting many places around the world, including Europe, China, Japan, and South America.

Eddie is a man of many hobbies and talents, particularly his ability to repair electronics, appliances, and anything else his family needs fixing. He looks forward to supporting his favorite team, the New England Patriots, every Sunday during football season.

Mr. Speaker, Edgar "Eddie" Peter Guaraldi's legacy is one of committed service to his country, and his community, and most importantly, his family. It is my distinct privilege to join Mr. Guaraldi's family and friends in recognizing his 100th birthday and to thank him for his service on behalf of a grateful Nation.