

the men who fought to preserve it. The monument features an inscription honoring the five men from Saranac who volunteered to be a part of the special force of 25 soldiers that apprehended John Wilkes Booth following his assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. These men's dedication to the United States and to the preservation of our union will not be forgotten.

Today, Saranac stands as the northeastern gateway to the Adirondack mountains and as an ideal location for skiing, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. The town's proud history stands as a testament to the industrious and hard-working nature of Upstate New Yorkers and of all Americans. I look forward to the celebrations being hosted by the town this summer and upcoming fall to honor this momentous event such as Bicentennial Kids' Day and the Bicentennial Field Day. These celebrations importantly remind us of our shared history and the historic journey of the Town of Saranac. I am eager to see this town's incredible future and am sure that the next two hundred years will be as bright as the past two hundred.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the town of Saranac on the bicentennial anniversary of their founding.

**HONORING EULESS POLICE CHIEF
MIKE BROWN**

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Euleless Police Chief Mike Brown's 50-year career in law enforcement and congratulate him on his retirement. A native of Euleless, Chief Brown obtained an associate's degree from Tarrant County Junior College and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from North Texas University.

Chief Brown started his career in law enforcement with the Richland Hills Police Department where he worked as a police dispatcher and officer before moving to the Euleless Police Department in 1975. He has served in a variety of roles throughout his career, including as a Field Training Officer, Criminal Investigator, D.A.R.E. Office, Patrol Sergeant, Crime Prevention Sergeant, Community Service Sergeant, Administrative Sergeant for Internal Affairs, and Patrol Lieutenant. According to his colleagues, Chief Brown has always demonstrated the highest level of professionalism in performing his assignments and responsibilities.

In 2003, Chief Brown accepted a new role as the Chief of Police for the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center in Fort Worth. In February 2007, Brown began his service as Euleless Police Chief. He has never failed to put our community first and has been recognized for his outstanding service throughout his career: in 1984, he was named Euleless Police Department Officer of the Year and in 1996, he was named Texas Citizen Police Academy Officer of the Year. Brown was also honored as the Hurst Post Veterans of Foreign Wars Officer of the Year in 1980 and 1984.

As a Sergeant, Chief Brown developed the Euleless Police Department's first "Community

Policing Plan," which continues to benefit our community today through initiatives such as the town's first Citizens' Police Academy, as well as Neighborhood Watch, Citizens on Patrol, Community Emergency Response Teams, Youth Engagement, and National Night Out. In addition to supporting law enforcement officers, these programs have greatly benefited North Texas families. Since the inception of the Citizens Police Academy, the department has successfully conducted 39 classes with over 500 citizens participating. This is just one of the many examples of how Chief Brown's leadership has fostered stronger connections between the police and the public.

Our community is safer thanks to Chief Mike Brown's decades of service. As he enters retirement, he leaves behind a profound legacy that will continue to benefit Euleless for years to come. I'd like to thank Chief Brown for his dedication to protecting North Texans and I wish him the best in retirement.

**RECOGNIZING JEFF KOLE AND
DIANA MORRISON**

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeff Kole and Diana Morrison for their achievements as the 2024 honorees of the Junior Achievement Savannah Business Hall of Fame.

Jeff Kole is the President of Kole Investment Company and has been actively involved in improving the Savannah community through numerous boards and charity organizations.

In addition, he is the founding facilitator and Board Chair of East Savannah United, a nonprofit that will be opening a new library and children's center next year.

Diana Morrison is the Founder and CEO of Ad Specialty. She built her successful business up from just the trunk of her car.

Diana contributes her time to many organizations in the Savannah area and has been honored by the Savannah Chamber of Commerce twice for her accomplishments. We are proud to have leaders like Jeff and Diana in our district and wish them both the very best.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF GREGORY TIMMONS**

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gregory Robert Timmons for his years of service to Clinton County and the Town of Peru. Greg spent his entire life selflessly serving his community in many different roles.

Greg was born in Plattsburgh, New York in 1955. At the age of 18, he began working for the Town of Peru. In 1995, Greg replaced his father, Robert Timmons, as Water and Sewer Superintendent. Retiring in 2015 after more than 40 years of service to Peru, Greg continued to enjoy serving his community.

Greg also followed in his father's footsteps when he joined the Peru Volunteer Fire De-

partment where he took on many roles including Fire Chief, Fire Investigator, New York State Fire Instructor, Fire Commissioner, and Clinton County Car 5. Greg excelled during his service in the fire department, winning many awards for his incredible dedication to serving the Town of Peru. His wealth of knowledge was extraordinary and led him to be one of the best fire instructors in the state. Over the past 30 years he has taught some component of fire instruction to almost every firefighter in the county.

Greg was considered the "first call" for his family and friends. Whenever anyone needed anything, Greg was there with advice, assistance, or to lend a listening ear. With all the accolades he received over his years of public service, he was most proud to be a husband, a father, and a grandfather. His love for his family was truly boundless and he could often be seen taking time to share his wisdom with his grandchildren or waiting to bring home one of Pasquale's pizzas to his wife Debbie.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize Greg for his incredible life of service to the Town of Peru, Clinton County, and the North Country.

**RECOGNIZING THE READY SET
BACK 2 SCHOOL HEALTH AND
WELLNESS FAIR**

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15th annual Ready Set Back 2 School Health and Wellness Fair. The Ready Set Back 2 School Fair is an annual event that plays a vital role in meeting the needs of children throughout the Kern County community. The Kern County Department of Child Support Services hosts the event to provide students and families with the resources they need for a successful school year. Every August, eight fairs take place across Kern County, providing support including new backpacks to over 3,000 children and their families.

Over the past 15 years, the fairs have benefited over 46,000 children in the community. For more than a decade, volunteers and staff with the Ready Set Back 2 School Fair have been steadfast in their commitment to improving the well-being of students. During the events, children can receive essential immunizations, learn about car safety, and obtain other important school supplies. Parents also have an opportunity to learn about a range of local resources available in Kern County, including healthcare, child support, and employment services. The Ready Set Back 2 School Fair is open to all throughout the community and has been a critical resource for families facing financial challenges. It is because of the dedication and hard work of the fair's staff and volunteers that children in our community are able to return to school each year, well-prepared and ready to learn.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 15th annual Ready Set Back 2 School Health and Wellness Fair hosted by the Kern County Department of Child Support Services. Their work to improve the lives of Central Valley students and families will be felt for generations to come.

HONORING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARK PFISTER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 33 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Pfister, a remarkable community leader and dear friend, for his 33 years of service to the people of Lake County and his lifelong dedication to public health. Our community celebrates the positive impact Mark has had on the health and quality of life of the residents of Lake County and beyond.

Mark grew up in Denver, Colorado. Shortly after graduating from Augustana College in 1986, Mark embarked on a career focusing on service to others. As a Peace Corps volunteer, he taught biology, genetics, botany, and animal science in Bamilli, Cameroon. Two months into his mission, Cameroon suffered the Lake Nyos Disaster (a limnic eruption killing more than 1,700 people). Mark immediately joined efforts to help survivors and participated in international initiatives to address the onset of food insecurity in the region.

Mark's Peace Corps experience inspired him to pursue advanced degrees in limnology (the study of lakes) and ultimately brought him to the Lake County Health Department in 1991. He served 14 years as an aquatic biologist and project coordinator in the County's Lakes Management Unit before moving into senior leadership positions within the department. He was named Interim Director in June 2016 and officially made Executive Director in February 2017. Under his leadership, he led and inspired approximately 1,000 employees who are serving more than 700,000 county residents.

Perhaps his biggest challenge as Executive Director was guiding the Lake County Health Department through the COVID-19 pandemic. In the thick of the crisis, Mark showed extraordinary vision, dedication, and grace. It is impossible to overstate the impact of his leadership to building community trust in the public health system in those trying times.

Throughout his 33 years with the department, Mark's unwavering commitment to its mission of promoting the health and well-being of all who live, work, and play in Lake County resulted in the department's consistently being considered among one of the best local health departments in the country.

I have no doubt Mark's legacy of public health leadership and his record of innovative accomplishments within the department will continue to inspire those at the Lake County Health Department and advance their mission for years to come.

It is with great honor and respect that I commend Mark Pfister for his outstanding 33 years of leadership within our community.

As Mark embarks on this new chapter of life, I wish him a retirement as wonderful as his career. May this be an opportunity to cherish time with his loved ones and savor the fruits of his labor.

HONORING SPECIALIST 4 ISRAEL "IZZY" A. TORO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist 4 Israel "Izzy" A. Toro, a dedicated and accomplished United States Army Veteran.

Israel, a lifelong resident of Amsterdam, New York, graduated from Amsterdam High School in 1979. In August of the same year, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, which led him to attend basic training and Military Police School in Fort McClellan, Alabama. During his service, he was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; and the Kriegsfeld Special Weapons Depot in West Germany. Israel completed his military service in 1983 achieving the rank of Specialist 4.

Upon returning to his hometown, Israel began working as a Security Inspector for the Knolls Atomic Power Lab in Niskayuna, New York. In March 1989, he joined the New York State Police, where he served with distinction in Troop K in Poughkeepsie and Troop G in Latham as a uniform trooper and Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) investigator. In 2013 Israel was promoted to Senior Investigator and began overseeing Troop G BCI administration as well as 20 polygraph examiners in the Northeastern region of New York State. After 29 years of dedicated service, Israel retired from the New York State Police in 2018.

In his retirement, Israel worked as a private investigator and provided security at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady, New York. He is now fully retired, enjoying time with friends and family in New York and at his second home in North Port, Florida.

Israel "Izzy" A. Toro's lifelong dedication and service to his local community, the state of New York, and the United States are truly remarkable. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize his extraordinary life.

HONORING MS. LILLIE CONNET

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lillie Connet, for her work as an intern serving in my district office, located in her hometown of Hendersonville, North Carolina. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions she has made to the office this summer.

Lillie is a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she is studying human development and family studies and political science. She aspires to share her passion for knowledge as she pursues a career in education. Wherever she finds herself, Lillie selflessly volunteers her time and effort to those around her and is a dedicated member of the Western North Carolina community.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th Congressional District.

Lillie was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation with her positive attitude and impressive work ethic.

It was a pleasure to work with Lillie, and I am so proud to have such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office. Lillie exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. Congratulations to Lillie on this successful completion of her internship, and on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I thank her.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JAMES BARTELLI

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a pillar of public service, James Bartelli of Waterford, Connecticut. James is retiring this year as the Director of Utilities from the Waterford Utility Commission after 39 years of dedicated service. His almost four decades of outstanding expertise and dedication to his community will be sorely missed.

James's professional career has been defined by his service to the community. James began his journey with the Waterford Utility Commission in 1985 when he started as a sewer maintainer and has worked his way up from apprentice to director. From a young age, James was able to apply and develop his specialized knowledge and caring disposition to a range of different positions with the Utility Commission.

James has since remained a dutiful protector of his community in Waterford, serving in many different capacities with the Waterford Utility Commission. Given his steadfastness, James was promoted several times within the Utility Commission, quickly moving up the ranks. He spent more than 20 years as the Assistant Director, making changes for staff and customers of the Waterford Utility Commission that enhanced the community.

His valuable contributions to Waterford residents in all situations were recognized time and time again and he achieved the position of Director, a position he has dutifully held for the past two years. James's dedication to his work is evident in his demonstrated enthusiasm to jump into action in any scenario no matter how complex, working through bad weather, budget crises, and anything in between.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents like James Bartelli. James has been an exceptional public servant throughout his life, and he is deserving of a relaxing retirement. James's nearly 40 years of unwavering dedication to the Waterford community will leave a legacy for years to come. He will leave behind an expert skill set and enthusiasm that will be hard to replace. We can take solace in the knowledge that James's tireless work will continue to be felt in Waterford for decades to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing James Bartelli's immeasurable contributions and congratulating him on his well-earned retirement.