

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.

HONORING THE KELLY FAMILY

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 the United States veterans and siblings of the Kelly family of Rensselaer County, New York.

Mr. James A. Kelly and Mary Elsie MacArthur-Kelly were the parents of twelve children, instilling in them a sense of pride and duty to their Nation. Seven of their children, sons James, Francis, William, Donald, Charles, Robert, and George, each valiantly served in the United States military.

James Kelly was born on June 8, 1921. James enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces on December 28, 1939, and was serving at Naval Station Pearl Harbor during the 1941 attack that instigated the U.S.' entry into World War II. He worked as a heavy automotive equipment operator. Upon his honorable discharge on June 9, 1945, James was awarded the American Defense Service Medal with One Bronze Star, the American Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. After his military service, James married his wife Dorothy Levinoch on September 8, 1948, and together they had one daughter, Janice. James was privately employed as a milkman with the Dairy League, a bus driver for United Traction, and a tractor trailer driver for the St. Regis Paper Co.

Francis Kelly was born on May 30, 1923. He enlisted with the U.S. Navy on December 5, 1940, and was stationed alongside his brother at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Upon returning to civilian life, he worked as a frozen food salesman and eventually as the Vice President of Sysco Foods in Miami, Florida. He and his wife Nellie Kulpa were married on August 26, 1945, and together had two children, Lynn and Roy.

William Kelly was born on March 18, 1927. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on March 20, 1944, and served in campaigns during both World War II and the Korean War. Among the accolades for his honorable service, he received the World War II National Defense Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Korean Service Medal, Navy Occupation Medal with Asia clasp, Armed Forces Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Naval Reserve Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, and the United Nations Service Medal for Korea. William married his wife Dorothy Huskie on July 20, 1947, and together they had three children, Kathy, Leanne, and William Scott.

Donald Kelly was born on August 7, 1929. He enlisted with the U.S. Army on August 20, 1946, and served with American occupying forces in Japan. Donald was honorably discharged from the Army and reenlisted with the U.S. Navy in 1949, where he continued his military service until 1969. For his decades of honorable service, he received a Letter of Appreciation, Letter of Commendation, and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal with One Bronze Service Star, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with Japan clasp, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button. He and his wife Mary Glass were married on April 14, 1956, and together they had

five children, Donna, Donald, James, Michael, and Jeffrey. He worked with the Continental Can Company and later as a public works dispatcher with the City of Troy, New York.

Charles James Kelly was born on October 27, 1933. He enlisted with the U.S. Navy on May 29, 1951, and served aboard the USS *Macon* CA 132. After serving for three years, he was honorably discharged and earned the National Defense Service Medal. As a civilian, Charles was employed by Behr Manning, Norton Co., and Niagara Mohawk before his retirement in 2007. He and his wife Peggy Dwyer were married on September 11, 1954, and together they had four children, Joyce, Nancy, Mark, and Paul.

Robert "Bob" Kelly was born on August 8, 1936. He enlisted with the U.S. Air Force in 1953, where he served as an Air Policeman in Korea and as a Supervisor of the K9 Section in Vietnam. Bob received the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster. He and his wife Shirley Keesee were married on June 8, 1957, and together they had two children, Kimberly and Robert.

George Francis Kelly was born on September 15, 1937. He enlisted with the U.S. Air Force on October 15, 1954, and served for four years until his honorable discharge as an Airman, 2nd Class Personnel Specialist on August 26, 1958. George remained with the Reserves for another three years until February 2, 1961. He and his wife Shirley Nesbitt were married on September 20, 1960, and together they had six children, Timothy, Jacqueline, Edward, George Jr., Theresa, and Shannon. George worked independently as an electrician until he passed away on August 30, 1992.

The bravery and integrity of each of the Kelly Siblings serves as a shining example of selflessness, camaraderie, and heroism. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize their extraordinary personal sacrifices.

RECOGNIZING WILKES-BARRE
TOWNSHIP'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Township of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, a modern metropolitan hub with roots in our Nation's Industrial Revolution. I have always been proud of the heritage and history of the 8th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, which I have the privilege to represent, and the story of Wilkes-Barre Township is one I'm eager to share.

The Township of Wilkes-Barre, founded during America's Colonial Era, originally extended from the Susquehanna River to the Lehigh River. The Native American inhabitants of the region sold to Connecticut settlers rolling hills with endless forests, valley-wide vistas, and pristine watersheds nestled between these two major waterways.

Officially incorporated in 1774, Wilkes-Barre Township was named for two courageous

Englishmen, John Wilkes and Colonel Isaac Barre, who supported colonial America and fought for our country's independence while serving in the British Parliament.

The Township's role in the 19th Century Industrial Boom began in 1849, when Moses Tammany left the shores of his beloved Ireland for a better life that was promised in America. Upon arrival in our region, Moses acquired most of the land that is now Wilkes-Barre Township for the sum of \$12,000. Not long thereafter, the largest anthracite coal fields in the United States were discovered nearby, with coal companies purchasing up major parcels of Tammany's land as it contained the finest and purest anthracite coal deposits in the world.

Between the late 1800's and early 1900's, hundreds of thousands of European immigrants flocked to Wilkes-Barre Township to work in the mines, transforming the Wyoming Valley from an isolated farming area to a major metropolis and fueling America's Industrial Revolution.

When coal mining waned in the 1930s, the region developed a highly diversified manufacturing economy that includes glass, boilers, toys, steel fabrications, airplane parts and electronics.

Today, Wilkes-Barre Township serves as a commercial destination for Northeastern Pennsylvania thanks to the addition of the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza and several major shopping hubs, including the Arena Hub Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Township Commons, and the Wilkes-Barre Township Marketplace.

Throughout the past two-and-a-half centuries, the spirit of America has truly been portrayed in Wilkes-Barre Township and the heart of American history lies within.

I commend Mayor Carl Kuren and the citizens of Wilkes-Barre Township for their commitment and hard work in organizing a grand Semiquincentennial Celebration—250 years as a community and a township is certainly a cause for celebration.

I also congratulate Wilkes-Barre Township for withstanding the tests of time and for providing a welcoming community for friends, neighbors and visitors.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Wilkes-Barre Township's 250th anniversary and wishing its residents many more years of good fortune.

REMEMBERING DR. MIGUEL RIOS,
JR.

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I commemorate the passing of a beloved force in New Mexico, Dr. Miguel Rios, Jr.

Miguel's life was a remarkable journey of dedication and achievement. From his early days earning his Ph.D. in Experimental Nuclear Physics at the University of Maryland to founding ORION International Technologies, Inc. in Albuquerque, Miguel was a pioneer in his field. His tenure as president of ORION and his work at Sandia National Laboratories