

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

showcased his brilliance and unwavering commitment to advancing technology and science.

In 1985, Miguel's expertise and leadership were further recognized when he was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to serve as a member of the National Science Board for the National Science Foundation. This prestigious appointment underscored his significant contributions to the scientific community and his influence on national science policy.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Miguel's leadership at the National Center for Genome Resources (NCGR) in Santa Fe, where he served as Chairman of the Board and Interim President/CEO, was transformative. His work in bioinformatics and computational biology has left an important mark on the field, contributing to advancements that will benefit future generations.

I was privileged to work alongside Miguel on the National Genome Resource Center, where his insights into the role of science in shaping New Mexico's economy were invaluable. His passion for both science and community was truly inspiring, and I learned so much from him.

Miguel was not only a brilliant scientist and leader but also a loving husband, father, and grandfather. His deep love for his wife, Maria Estela de Rios, is legendary. I will always remember their smooth dancing to the tango, the cumbia, and other mainstays of his Latino cultural heritage. His love for his family (familia)—Miguel III, the late Benjamin Tomas, Eva Angelica, Magdalena Anastacia—and his grandchildren was evident in all he did.

His family is in my thoughts and prayers. May Miguel's spirit continue to guide and watch over them. His passing is a profound loss not only to his family but also to the scientific community, to our civic community, and to all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Miguel's legacy will continue to inspire all who knew him.

HONORING COLONEL ALAIN G. FISHER

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 Colonel Alain G. Fisher, the sixty-third Commander of the Watervliet Arsenal.

Alain Fisher selflessly served his country through years of distinguished service in our military, where he played a crucial role in defending our Nation and protecting our interests around the world. Alain enrolled in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Early Commissioning Program at Kemper Military Junior College where he was commissioned in 1998. After graduating from the University of Central Florida in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, he entered active duty as a Quartermaster Officer. His first assignment was with the 725th Main Support Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. There he served as a Supply Platoon Leader, Battalion S1, and S4 until 2003. Upon attending the Captain Logistics Career Course at Fort Lee, Virginia COL Fisher served with the 19th Theater Support Command G4 at Camp Henry in South Korea.

In 2005, he was reassigned to 7th Special Forces Group and served as a Support Operation Plans Officer during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2006. COL Fisher commanded the Service Detachment in the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), deploying again in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2007 to Afghanistan. He returned to the 7th Special Forces Group to serve as the Battalion Operations Officer until 2008. COL Fisher was reassigned to the Commonwealth of Virginia, as the Quartermaster Captain's Assignments Officer and Future-Readiness Officer.

After attending the Air Force Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, COL Fisher served with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia as the 703rd Brigade Support Battalion's Executive Officer, Support Operations Officer, and the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's S4. Fisher was then assigned to the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Italy in Spoliate Olona, Italy, serving as the Corps Information Knowledge Management Officer. He has served as the 63rd commander of the Watervliet Arsenal in Watervliet, New York since July 22, 2022.

For his distinguished and lengthy military service, COL Fisher was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (with two bronze oak leaf clusters), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with silver oak leaf cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (with two bronze oak leaf clusters), the Army Achievement medal (with three bronze oak leaf clusters), the Combat Action Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize Colonel Alain G. Fisher for his exceptional record of service to the United States, and I wish him continued success as he continues his military career at Fort Liberty in North Carolina.

HONORING SOUTHLAKE FIRE CHIEF MIKE STARR

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor a remarkable leader, Fire Chief Mike Starr, who has dedicated 27 years of his life to serving and protecting the citizens of Southlake, Texas. In 1997, Starr joined the Southlake Fire Department, working as a firefighter and paramedic. As a result of his unwavering dedication and commitment, he rose through the ranks, taking on the positions of driver, engineer, and captain of operations. Then, in 2008, Starr earned the title of Fire Chief, a role he has used to make a lasting impact in North Texas.

During his tenure as Fire Chief, Mike Starr led the department through a period of significant growth and transformation. Under his leadership, the department expanded its personnel from 45 to 74 members and oversaw the openings of Station 1 DPS Headquarters and the Station 3 North training facility. Chief Starr's vision and commitment to excellence have been the driving force behind these achievements, ensuring that the fire department not only meets but exceeds the needs of

our growing community. Throughout his distinguished career, Chief Starr has embodied what it means to be a true leader. His dedication and hard work have been recognized through numerous honors, including the Teamwork Award in 1998 and the Director's Award in 2006. In 2007, he was named Firefighter of the Year, a testament to his outstanding service.

Chief Starr has always focused on leading and developing a department that models best-in-class service delivery. In the Fire Department's 2023 annual report, Chief Starr highlighted the importance of continuous improvement through daily "quick drills" for line personnel, ensuring operational effectiveness and preparedness. His leadership has been invaluable, and as Southlake City Manager Alison Ortowski noted, his guidance has been instrumental in navigating the challenges of growing a fire department while maintaining the highest standards of service.

As Chief Starr prepares to retire at the end of August, it is both an honor and a privilege to recognize his 27 years of exemplary service. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for his contributions and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the success of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in the State of Missouri. This new initiative increases literacy and education among our state's youth and will foster an invaluable love of reading for our state's precious youth. I express my deepest gratitude to Dolly Parton and the State of Missouri for bringing this program to the youngest constituents in my district.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library delivers books monthly to children's homes from their birth until their fifth birthday. For the children and their families receiving the books, the program is completely free. In Missouri, this program thrives thanks to the generosity of Dolly, nearly 60 affiliates and legislation passed by the state to establish and administer Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for all children in Missouri 0 to 5 years old.

In 1995, Dolly Parton—already an award-winning and chart-topping artist—established an Imagination Library in her home county in Tennessee, inspired by her father who could not read. Since then, the program boasts recipients from five countries around the world. As of this year, it has delivered over 250 million books to over 3 million young children. Dolly is an incredible philanthropist, and her record of community service is as vast and acclaimed as her career as an international musical phenomenon. We are thankful to have our very own Imagination Library here to continue inspiring future generations of leaders through literacy.

Though Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has been an "Unlikely Angel" in helping our state advance early childhood literacy, the establishment of the Missouri Imagination Library