

happy retirement, spent with the satisfaction of knowing they are responsible for inspiring an estimated 2.5 million audience members through the over 2,500 artists and performances they brought to the stage in the Hudson Valley.

HONORING DENNIS DEGROAT, JR.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran Dennis DeGroat, Jr., who recently passed in his hometown of Port Jervis, New York, only weeks after the entire community came together to celebrate his 100th birthday and only hours after finally being pinned with a Purple Heart that had been missing and replaced from years ago.

Dennis' life of service to our Nation is incredible and started in the Civilian Conservation Corps. He then went on to serve in the Army, protecting freedom and democracy for all Americans and the world on the front lines in Europe, including on the shores of Normandy and in the Battle of the Bulge, and suffering grievous injuries at the Battle of Aachen.

In that battle, he nearly lost both of his legs and was told that he would never walk again, but that was no match for Dennis. He relearned to walk and never slowed down again.

He came back to his home community and worked well into his 90s, and his incredible legacy of service and positivity lives on through 20 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren, 19 great-great-grandchildren, and countless others that his 100 years of heroism, humility, and service inspired.

Dennis is proof that a century spent in service to others leaves an impact that will last many, many more.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT BRANDON ROLA

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant Brandon Rola on being named the new chief of police for the city of Newburgh, New York.

Lieutenant Rola is Newburgh through and through. He decided early on in his life to commit fully to serving his community, our community.

At only 38, he is already a 16-year veteran of the Newburgh Police Department, recognized over 30 times for his meritorious and heroic acts.

If you know Brandon, it truly is not about the awards; it is about protecting his community and protecting his neighbors.

It is this sense of duty and selfless service that drove him into a cold, snowy Thanksgiving night in 2014 at 2 a.m. in search of two missing boys.

During the search, he found a shovel next to a snowbank, felt a gut instinct to dig, and ultimately found the missing boys buried in an 8-foot tall snowbank. He rightly received national attention after the rescue but humbly said: It was a good day.

Today is a good day for Newburgh, and tomorrow and many more after, with the city's safety in the hands of Lieutenant Rola, a tried-and-true public servant.

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN STEVEN MINARD

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Steven Minard on his retirement after over four decades of extraordinary and selfless public service to the city of Poughkeepsie Police Department and all the residents of the city of Poughkeepsie in the Hudson Valley.

Throughout his incredible career, Captain Minard went above and beyond in his call to protect and serve. In addition to his selfless service and great risk to himself and his family, he earned a master's degree and ultimately a Ph.D., becoming Dr. Minard, expanding the impact of his service and training others in our local community colleges and surrounding universities. He attended the FBI Academy and developed training ultimately for the FBI National Executive Institute.

He has not only directly uplifted the Poughkeepsie community by building trust and delivering peace of mind but made countless communities across New York safer through the curriculum he developed and taught.

While his retirement from the force will be felt and he will be deeply missed, I am hopeful for the future because of the thousands of others he has trained to be champions for their communities just like he has been.

HONORING PUBlix SUPER MARKETS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Publix Super Markets as they donate their one-hundred-millionth pound of produce to food banks across their eight-State footprint.

When leaders at Publix learned that farmers were plowing under produce crops in 2000 because markets dried up, they decided to purchase produce from farmers and give it away to their partners at Feeding America.

As of today, Publix has donated 100 million pounds of produce to 35 food banks.

I am proud to have Publix headquartered in my congressional district and appreciate all they are doing in partnership with food banks throughout the Southeast.

We congratulate all Publix associates on this important milestone and for doing good, together.

HONORING JACKIE AND DAVID SIEGEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on the floor about a very important topic but really to honor two people, Jackie and David Siegel of central Florida.

Jackie and David Siegel, as proud Americans, have stepped up to form

what is known as the Victoria's Voice Foundation.

The story behind this is one that resonates with millions of Americans. They lost their daughter, 18 years old, to the ravages of drug addiction, to the ravages of what started as a simple marijuana cigarette turning into a THC-induced addiction that led her onward through drugs, ultimately to her death.

Mr. Speaker, across this country, millions of American families are searching for ideas not only about the truth behind the problems with THC, which is the active ingredient in marijuana, but also the ravages of drugs that come after that because marijuana is a gateway to these harder drugs that so many people move to.

David and Jackie Siegel understood this as they watched not just their daughter's addiction but how she moved herself through drugs, and eventually it led them to seek time for her to receive treatment.

Treatment, while very important, is stronger than love is, and that is what they learned also. David and Jackie watched their daughter as she spiraled through not only drug addiction but the people that she became associated with.

I stand today to say that David and Jackie Siegel did something about this as they joined a nationwide organization that is intended to teach communities, schools, and parents that there is a way to not only understand and comprehend the things that are happening to our youth but a way to become active to where they can address these issues. They accomplish this by working with schools, by working with parents, and by working with law enforcement to make sure that these ravages of drug addiction are not only understood but addressed.

Mr. Speaker, David Siegel lost an 18-year-old daughter he loved very much, and it has caused him and Jackie to spend millions of dollars to give this outreach the voice that Victoria held and brings to light how important that is to them because they care about other people also.

Families all across this country are struggling to find exactly how to address this; how to take on a big problem. I would suggest today that Jackie and David Siegel, through Victoria's Voice Foundation, have provided a really clear way for the American people, for families, for communities, and for schools who are struggling with these addiction problems, who are struggling with not just the psychosis that happens but ultimately the death of so many of our students.

I think that David had the right idea when he said he didn't want this to happen to another family without the knowledge of what they could do to become engaged to save not just their children but other children in their community.

Mr. Speaker, today, I stand up and salute Jackie and David Siegel for not

just sitting back in their own sorrow but actually moving forward in the American spirit, in working with people of goodwill, who want to protect our children, who want to see the dangers as they exist in our country today and make a meaningful difference.

I applaud David Siegel for not only his investment of millions of dollars, but I also applaud David Siegel for standing up and saying that he believes that the only way we can win this battle is through the confidence that we give our children, showing them that we care about them, that our schools will take this same rigorous responsibility, and, we, as a community and as a Nation, can solve this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of David and Jackie Siegel, not in their grief but in the resiliency that they had to move forward to help other people in our country.

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SALT DEDUCTION CAP HYPOCRISY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LALOTA. Hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker. Hypocrisy.

For years, House Democrats said they were in favor of raising or eliminating the State and local tax deduction cap. Yet, exactly 3 months ago today on the floor of the House of Representatives, every single House Democrat voted to block a bill that would eliminate the marriage penalty on the SALT deduction cap.

It is shameful, Mr. Speaker, that House Democrats claim to support SALT relief but vote otherwise. Their party line “no” vote denied many Long Island families, including many of my constituents, about \$2,000 in much-needed tax relief.

As a lifelong Long Islander, I understand how costly Albany Democrats have made life for New York suburbs. We have the highest property, sales, and income taxes in the entire Nation. Yet, when we needed Washington Democrats to help relieve us of some of that burden by raising the SALT cap, they ran for the hills, Mr. Speaker.

I am disappointed in my colleagues from the other side of the aisle, but, Mr. Speaker, I am not deterred. I will continue to call on all of my colleagues to help raise or eliminate the cap on the SALT deduction. My constituents deserve nothing less.

HONORING RICHARD JOHN McDERMOTT II AND ANNAMARIE McDERMOTT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the lives of Richard John McDermott II and Annamarie Christine McDermott, valued and beloved members of the

Oswego County community who were tragically killed in a car accident last year, on June 10, 2023.

Nearly 1 year later, our community still feels the gaping hole created by the sudden loss of these two wonderful people. Rick and Annamarie left an enduring legacy and profound impact on their three children and their grandchildren, family, friends, and community, and also on me.

I was fortunate enough to know Rick and to actually become friends with him over the past 20 years. He was a bright, engaging, and passionate advocate, particularly for the Second Amendment, and also an avid sportsman and conservationist. Rick believed in preserving the natural resources we are blessed to have in New York State, especially in the beautiful region of upstate New York, where he resided for most of his life.

Rick McDermott worked at Novelis for over 23 years as an electrical engineer and retired in April 2023, just a few months before his life was tragically taken from him.

As an avid outdoorsman, Rick devoted countless hours to local gun clubs and conservation groups. He was a tireless advocate and trusted resource for hunting rights and Second Amendment rights across New York State.

In 2012, Rick founded the New York Crossbow Coalition, which was critically important to the efforts to legalize the crossbow as hunting equipment in New York. I remember meeting with Rick when I was a member of the State legislature to organize several rallies in Albany against New York's unconstitutional gun law, known as the SAFE Act, passed in the dark of night in 2013.

Earlier today, I had the honor of meeting Tom, Rick's son, at the White House. They were touring the White House, a wonderful opportunity that we have as American citizens. Tom informed me earlier that he was actually an attendee at one of these massive rallies at the capitol in Albany.

Rick was always leading the way on Second Amendment issues and always in Oswego. He was passionate, always trying to educate everyone in our community so they understood the true value of our Bill of Rights and everything that we stood for as Americans and as New Yorkers, particularly. Understanding the value of outdoor recreational programs, Rick led many youth pheasant hunts and wounded veterans crossbow hunts throughout the years, making this his mission.

Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Rick's lovely wife, Annamarie, she exhibited a similar passion and dedication to our community.

The heartwarming tributes by their own hometown to Annamarie and Rick are really incredible and touching, and they reveal the depth of devotion of these two wonderful people to our community and to their families.

Annamarie McDermott was a devoted teacher's assistant for nearly 20 years

in the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown, the APW, school district, as we call it. Annamarie was dedicated to supporting young, aspiring leaders in our community. She was described by so many who loved and admired her as a person who would strive to go above and beyond for her students.

Annamarie created the Breakfast Club and also another club called the Rebel Club, which were beloved morning and afternoon programs that encouraged students to embrace learning and foster stronger relationships with other students.

They were united in marriage on May 16, 1987. Rick and Annamarie's legacy is not only defined by their professional achievements but by the love and devotion they poured into their role as parents of Megan Burch and her husband, Eric, who now reside in Canandaigua, also in New York's 24th District; Valerie Bullock and her husband, Troy, of Pulaski; Thomas McDermott and his girlfriend, Allie Hamilton, of West Monroe; and also as the grandparents of Brayleigh and Mason Bullock.

Rick and Annamarie and their unwavering support and presence at every milestone event underscored their commitment to this wonderful family and community, leaving an indelible mark on all fortunate enough to know them. Certainly, it was an honor for me to know Rick. What an impression he left on me.

My deepest condolences to the family and friends of these wonderful people taken too early in life. I hope this modest recognition and remembrance of Rick and Annamarie McDermott on the House floor will provide some comfort to their family, friends, and everyone who knew Rick and Annamarie.

I also hope that all Americans will know that, as they witness on this floor, there are wonderful people living wonderful lives of courage, compassion, and patriotism in our own communities who are not seeking recognition but always seeking to do good for their communities, for their families, and for everyone who knows them, and who leave a beautiful and indelible impression on so many people they met.

I thank the families and everyone who have suffered through this very difficult year and provided so much support, including the communities, in all that has happened to the young children, the grandchildren, and also to the kids, Valerie, Thomas, and Megan, and all that they have done to try to stand strong in the face of this tragedy.

I thank, again, everyone who supported Annamarie and Rick and who supports their family.

CELEBRATING JAYLIN SIMPSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the