

With this, I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE
CAREER OF OTIS T. BARKER, SR.

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Otis T. Barker, Sr. and his remarkable career of service to the City of Buffalo as he enters into retirement after many years of dedicated work. Mr. Barker is a lifelong resident of the City of Buffalo, raised in the Kenfield/Langfield neighborhood and received his education in the Buffalo Public Schools and at the State University of New York at Fredonia.

Mr. Barker's career began as a seasonal stock clerk for the Adam, Meldrum & Anderson department store, where he worked for 14 years. After several promotions, Mr. Barker became the company's first African American male to hold the executive title of buyer in its 125 year history. Soon after, Mr. Barker was hired by the former Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Arthur O. Eve, to serve as Chief of Staff from 1996 through 2002. This experience deepened his understanding of his community and the affairs of New York State.

After the retirement of Deputy Speaker Eve, Otis Barker joined then-New York State Senator Byron W. Brown's team as Director of Community Relations. When Senator Brown became Mayor of the City of Buffalo in 2006, Mr. Barker was appointed Director of the Division for Youth, where he managed the Mayor's Summer Youth Internship Program and the Mayor's Summer Reading Program. In 2011, Mr. Barker was promoted to Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Community Services and Recreational Programming, where he managed seven divisions, including Youth Services, Senior Services, Disabled Parking Permits, and Workforce Development. Later, in 2017, Mr. Barker was appointed Commissioner of Community Services and Recreational Programming, where his leadership and dedication continued to shape the city's services for the better.

Mr. Barker is a proud father of four children—Otis Jr., Jarred, Ondréa, and Peyton, and a grandfather to three—Destiny, Olivia, and Omeir. As he retires, Mr. Barker looks forward to spending more time with his family and finally getting some well-deserved rest.

Today, as Mr. Barker retires from his decades of dedicated service, we celebrate not only his professional accomplishments but also his dedication to mentorship, his commitment to his faith, and his tireless work to better the City of Buffalo. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Otis T. Barker, Sr. on a career well spent, and wishing him well as he enters this new chapter of his life.

HONORING LLOYD HENRY'S
DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Lloyd Henry for his 80 years of service to the Lampeter Fire Company.

Mr. Henry joined the Lampeter Fire Company on February 16, 1945, when he was 16 years old. His entry into the fire service came during an era where fire trucks consisted of Model-T Fords and when pumpers were still new to fire departments. From 1968 to 2002 he served as Fire Chief, where his penchant for adopting new technology and training transitioned the company into modernity. Throughout his many years of leadership, the Lampeter Fire Company became synonymous with reliability.

As a state master fire instructor, Mr. Henry traveled the Commonwealth to teach others, and he even assisted in writing the curriculum for a course at Penn State University.

Even when he left his role as fire chief, Mr. Henry continued to ride on fire engines until he was 80 years old.

Mr. Henry's son, Bob, characterizes his father as having his "heart and soul . . . in the fire service." As he hits a milestone 80 years with the Lampeter Fire Company, the community and I are beyond thankful for Lloyd Henry's dedication to keeping us safe.

CELEBRATING PHYLLIS
WHEATLEY COMMUNITY CEN-
TER'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center on its 100th anniversary. For a century, this incredible institution has been a beacon of hope, opportunity, and resilience for the people of North Minneapolis.

Since its founding in 1924, the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center has stood as a testament to the power of community-driven progress. It has uplifted generations through education, social services, and advocacy—ensuring that families, children, and individuals have access to the resources they need to thrive. This legacy of empowerment, equity, and inclusion is deeply woven into the fabric of our shared history and continues to serve as an inspiration for us all.

The center, originally created during the Jim Crow era as a settlement house, began as a lifeline for Black women studying at the University of Minnesota who were barred from living in university dorms. Over time, it evolved to serve the community in many other ways, offering social services, recreational activities, and a cultural gathering space for the growing Black population in North Minneapolis.

Throughout the decades, the center has weathered challenges with determination, adapted to evolving community needs, and remained steadfast in its commitment to justice

and opportunity for all. It is a pillar of strength and a cornerstone of progress for our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to celebrate the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center for its 100 years of service and to recognize the leadership, staff, volunteers, and supporters who have contributed to its legacy. The center's ability to provide sanctuary, build community, and uplift generations is a true testament to the resilience and spirit of the people it serves. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center on its remarkable achievement, and 100th anniversary.

CELEBRATING 27 YEARS OF NA-
TIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN
IN CONSTRUCTION—BUFFALO NI-
AGARA CHAPTER 388

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the National Association of Women in Construction, Buffalo Niagara Chapter 388, as they reflect on their remarkable journey since being organized in September 2020. Founded by Jillian Penkin, who had been an active member of the NAWIC Greater Rochester chapter for over a decade before relocating to the Buffalo area, the chapter was quickly established with the help of twenty-five other women in the construction industry.

The National Association of Women in Construction began in 1953 as "Women in Construction of Fort Worth, TX," founded by sixteen women working in the construction sector. At a time when women were a minority in the industry, the founders sought to create a supportive community for women in a male-dominated field. The organization's success led to its national charter in 1955, officially becoming the National Association of Women in Construction.

Today, the National Association of Women in Construction has expanded to more than 115 chapters across 44 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam and continues to grow. Dedicated to professional development, education, networking, leadership training, and public service, the organization has been a strong advocate for women in the construction industry. In 2019, it awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving individuals pursuing education in construction-related fields.

Women in Construction Week aims to spotlight women as a crucial and visible force in the construction industry. It also provides a meaningful opportunity for local chapters to contribute to their communities. During Women in Construction Week, the National Association of Women in Construction's thousands of members across the country come together to raise awareness about the wide range of opportunities for women in construction and emphasize the expanding role women play in the field.

Today, as we celebrate the National Association of Women in Construction Chapter 388 for their ongoing efforts to advance women's roles in this vital field, let us continue to uphold the vision of its founders, ensuring that

the contributions and impact of women builders, professionals, and tradeswomen are acknowledged across every facet of the construction industry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on March 24, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 72, and YEA on Roll Call No. 73.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DANIEL ROVERO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of an eastern Connecticut legend and public servant, my friend, Danny Rovero. Danny sadly passed away on March 5, 2025, at age 87.

Danny's life was a testament to unwavering dedication, leaving behind a legacy that will resonate for generations. His journey, marked by service, entrepreneurship, and a deep-seated love for his community, stands as a beacon for all who aspire to make a lasting difference.

Danny Rovero was more than a public figure; he was an integral part of the fabric Connecticut's northeast corner, the towns of Killingly, Putnam, and Thompson. His roles as Vice Chair of the Killingly Board of Education, State Representative for the 51st District, and Mayor of Putnam were not mere titles, but expressions of his profound commitment to the people he served. To understand Danny Rovero, one must look beyond his accomplishments and see the heart of a man who genuinely cared.

Danny served as Mayor of Putnam from 1991 to 2005, the longest tenure in the town's rich history. Under his leadership, Putnam experienced a period of significant progress and stability. He understood the unique challenges faced by small towns and worked tirelessly to ensure their voices were heard—an approach to public service he took with him to the Connecticut General Assembly on behalf of the constituents he represented in the 51st District of the Connecticut State House of Representatives, where he served from 2011 to 2019. As a State Representative he was a voice for the overlooked and a champion for the underserved. His deep understanding of the region's needs, coupled with his pragmatic approach, earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Beyond his political achievements, Danny Rovero was a successful businessman and entrepreneur. For 35 years, Rovero's Amoco gasoline station stood as a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to providing essential services to his community. His business acumen, honed through years of hard work and perseverance, provided him with a unique perspective that he brought to his public service. He understood the chal-

lenges faced by small businesses and worked to create an environment where they could thrive.

His commitment to service extended beyond his professional and political life. As a Korean War Army veteran, he served his country with honor and distinction, spending 16 months in Korea. This experience shaped his character, instilling in him a sense of duty and a deep appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who serve.

His dedication to education was a hallmark of his later years. He understood that education is the cornerstone of a strong community and worked tirelessly to ensure that every child had access to quality education. His commitment to the Killingly Board of Education exemplified this dedication. His ability to listen, to understand, and to advocate for the needs of students and teachers alike made him an invaluable member of the board, where his presence was a source of strength and stability, and his contributions will be felt for years to come.

The outpouring of tributes and remembrance following his passing reflects the deep affection and respect that the community had for Danny. Friends, colleagues, and community members shared stories of his kindness, generosity, and unwavering dedication. His ability to connect with people from all walks of life was a testament to his genuine character. On a personal note, I was privileged to work with him during my time representing his beloved corner of Connecticut. He was a model to me of a public servant who listened to the people he represented and was always honest and ethical in his actions. He had a great sense of humor and never took himself too seriously. As the Irish say, "He never put on airs".

Danny Rovero was a man of integrity and compassion. He lived his life with purpose, always striving to make a positive impact on the world around him. His legacy is not just in the buildings he helped to build or the laws he helped to pass, but in the lives he touched and the hearts he inspired. He was a mentor, a friend, and a role model. He showed us the importance of service, the power of community, and the enduring value of integrity. His life was a testament to the belief that one person can make a difference.

In remembering Danny, we also remember the woman behind the public figure. He was a loving husband to his wife of 66 years, Judith, a devoted father to Ricardo, William, Jane, and Jill; a cherished grandfather to six, and a proud great-grandfather to two. His family was the center of his world, and his love for them was unwavering.

Today, I remember Danny as a dedicated public servant, an entrepreneur, a veteran who served his country with honor, and a family man who loved unconditionally. His legacy is etched in the hearts of the people he served and served with. His impact will be felt for generations to come. His life was a testament to the power of service, the importance of community, and the enduring value of integrity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Daniel Rovero as the quiet corner of eastern Connecticut mourns his passing.

CONGRATULATING NANCY GERMANSKY ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my staff member, Nancy Germansky, on her recent retirement from my office.

Nancy grew up in New York City and moved to South Florida with her late husband, Stuart, where they raised their son, Henry. Nancy started serving the constituents of South Florida in 2007 as a Constituent Services Representative for Representative Ron Klein, continued her service with Representative Ted Deutch, and joined my office as a Constituent Liaison when I was elected to Congress in 2013. Covering a wide range of issues, Nancy assisted thousands of constituents over her career. She helped Veterans get the benefits they earned, ensured seniors had access to their Medicare, assisted with IRS issues, and so much more. Her calming presence and dedication to helping others made her an amazing advocate for our office, touching the lives of so many.

While it is sad to have Nancy leave our office, I wish her a very well-deserved retirement, full of travel, relaxation, and many more years of enjoyment ahead.

CELEBRATING POLISH-HUNGARIAN FRIENDSHIP DAY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Polish-Hungarian Friendship Day, observed on March 23rd, an important occasion that honors the deep rooted historical ties and enduring friendship between Poland and Hungary. This day is a tribute to the centuries-long relationship between the two nations, built on mutual support, shared values, and a commitment to independence.

The bond between Poland and Hungary dates back over a thousand years, with moments of solidarity that have shaped the history of both countries. From the 13th century, when Polish and Hungarian royalty intermarried, to the shared struggles against foreign domination and the fight for independence, the two nations have stood together in times of adversity.

In the 20th century, the friendship between Poland and Hungary was again tested during both World Wars, where the peoples of both countries supported each other in the face of oppression. One of the most pivotal moments came during the 1956 Hungarian Uprising against Soviet control, which was met with strong support from the Polish people, solidifying the bond between the nations.

Polish-Hungarian Friendship Day was officially established in 2007 as a way to celebrate and strengthen these historical and cultural ties. On this day, both countries come together to celebrate their shared heritage through cultural performances, exhibitions, diplomatic meetings, and joint commemorations.