

of their products but also their consistent commitment to enhance the Erie community. Their beliefs have not only upheld their business but have also contributed to a more unified downtown Erie.

Because of this, and as Co-Chair of the House Small Brewers Caucus, I am honored to highlight Mr. Chris Sirianni, as the PA-16 community champion. THE BREWERIE at Union Station, "Erie's Original Brewpub & Restaurant."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 22, 2025, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 20, No. 21, No. 22, and No. 23. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 20; NAY on Roll Call No. 21; YEA on Roll Call No. 22; and YEA on Roll Call No. 23.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER LOGAN SUTTON

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Logan Sutton of the Frankfort Police Department on being awarded the 2024 Medal of Valor for his bravery demonstrated while responding to a critical situation within Franklin County.

Without regard for his own safety, Officer Sutton played a crucial role in successfully resolving a life-threatening situation. Through his actions and support in the face of clear and obvious peril, Officer Sutton exemplified the highest standards of law enforcement professionalism and demonstrated extraordinary commitment to preserving human life.

His teamwork and decisive intervention reflected greatly upon himself and upheld the finest traditions of the Frankfort Police Department. Officer Sutton has earned the respect and support of Franklin County. Officer Sutton voluntarily performed extraordinary acts of bravery. His actions went above and have made him deserving of this fine honor. I am confident that Officer Sutton will continue to serve as an exemplary role model for law enforcement officers across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLONEL REGINALD L. BASSA, SR.

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the service and accomplishments completed by Colonel Reginald L. Bassa, Sr. Colonel Bassa dedicated his life to

service on behalf of the United States, with an extensive career of thirty years. Today, I invite us all to celebrate and reflect on the contributions of Colonel Bassa to our community.

Born in Hastings, Florida on March 4, 1933, Colonel Bassa attended Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1954. Upon graduating, Colonel Bassa was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. To further his knowledge and skills in preparation for his career as a Colonel, he attended flight training in Malden, Missouri and then Greenville AFB, Mississippi. Additionally, he completed Squadron Officer School and Basic/Graduate Supply Officer's Course.

Throughout his service, Bassa held various positions including the 305th Bomb Wing, McDill AFB, Florida supporting B-47's involving operations to Ben Greer AFB, North Africa; then assigned to the 72nd Bomb Wing, Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico involving hazardous refueling missions with B-52's and KC 135 Aircraft to Neu Assal AFB North Africa. Although he was able to come back to the continental United States in 1960, Colonel Bassa was then assigned to Albrook AFB, Panama during troubling times in the Canal Zone two years later due to his specialty qualifications (AFSC).

After a year abroad, Colonel Bassa was reassigned to the continental United States where he remained for the rest of his career. Once back in the States, his assignments included the 840th Combat Support Group, Lockbourne AFB, Ohio, transitioning to the Airforce Reserves supporting the Tactical Airlift Command, Strategic Airlift Command and Air Defense Command, the 934th Tactical Airlift Group, Minnesota, and then the 440th Tactical Airlift Command, Wisconsin.

During his assignment at Richards Gebaur AFB, Belton, Missouri, he was promoted to Colonel where he served as Deputy Wing Commander Logistics in the 442nd Tactical Airlift Wing. In 1979, Colonel Bassa was notified he was under consideration for a promotion to rank as a General. However, this promotion would require yet another move which led to the Colonel to retire as he realized how entrenched and happy his family was with living in Kansas City.

Colonel Bassa's career of three decades is clear evidence of his dedication to his community and country. On behalf of the United States Congress and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I thank Colonel Bassa for his work ethic and service throughout his career.

THANKING JOSEPH C. PICOLLA FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Ranking Member Morelle and myself, I kindly request that you join me in congratulating Joseph C. Picolla on his retirement from the position of House Inspector General. His retirement marks the culmination of 16 years of dedicated service to the House.

Joe began his service with the House in the Office of the Inspector General in 2008 as a

Management Analyst. Over the years, Joe advanced to management and then leadership roles, initially serving as Assistant Director and Director of the Management Advisory Services team. He later became the Deputy Inspector General before assuming the role of Acting Inspector General in June 2021. On April 25, 2022, Joe was officially named the sixth Inspector General of the House of Representatives. During his tenure as Inspector General, the Office of the Inspector General completed numerous audits and advisories targeting high-risk areas within the House and identifying significant process improvements and efficiencies to benefit the institution in the future.

Prior to joining the House, Joe held positions in major financial institutions managing IT service operations, including Technology Help Desks, Availability Management, Incident and Problem Management, and Software Portfolio Change Management, targeting high-risk areas. In addition to his professional work, he dedicated 15 years to volunteering with local law enforcement in his community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Joe for his unwavering commitment to service, his dedication, and his leadership while serving the U.S. House of Representatives. We thank him for his contributions and wish him the best as he embarks on this new chapter in his life.

RECOGNIZING FLOYD B. SEVERANCE'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Floyd B. Severance of Concord, New Hampshire, on the occasion of his 101st birthday. A World War II Army veteran, loving husband and father, and lifelong New Hampshire resident, Floyd has exemplified the virtue of service to family, community, and country throughout his life.

Drafted into the Army at 18 years old, Floyd was deployed to Europe in 1944 as scores of Americans bravely fought to protect our freedoms during World War II. Floyd saw action in the battles of Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland, some of the defining conflicts in the eventual triumph of the Allied forces. His courage and selflessness in defending his country speak to the strength of his character. He was honorably discharged in 1945 as a Private, First Class. His service during one of the darkest times in world history is a model of the power of sacrifice and devotion for future generations.

Upon completing his service, he met his wife Judith Girard at the bowling alleys of Pembroke, New Hampshire. They settled in Allentown, where they raised their seven children. He continued to demonstrate his dedication to public service in a distinguished career with the United States Postal Service. After retiring from the Postal Service in 1986, he renovated his childhood home in Pembroke, where he lived with Judith until 2014.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Floyd B. Severance for his service to his community and Nation, and wish him a very happy

101st birthday. Granite staters will be forever grateful to Floyd for the impact he has made for our state, the country, and the world. I look forward to seeing what his next chapter holds, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LILLY LEDBETTER, EQUAL PAY CHAMPION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible life and legacy of a woman who never let anything dissuade her from fighting for what she knew to be right. My dear friend Lilly Ledbetter was a champion for women's equality and trailblazer in the fight for economic justice. Today, we honor her immeasurable contributions to our movement on the 16th Anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. This is the first anniversary we are commemorating since her passing last fall.

Her story begins in Alabama, where Lilly was born and raised, but it did not end there. Lilly was as passionate and fearless as anyone I have ever met. Underneath her genteel southern charm, she was an iron fist in a velvet glove. She never set out to be a hero, but she became one for me and millions of women whose struggles for equal pay and workplace fairness, which she elevated.

In 1979, Lilly accepted a job at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Gadsden, Alabama. She started there as the only woman in her position as an overnight supervisor. By the end of her career 19 years later, she was anonymously informed that over her decades of hard work for Goodyear she had been receiving 40 percent less pay than her male co-workers. Lilly left a quiet retired life behind to wage a righteous fight for the pay that she had earned and deserved.

Her lawsuit made it to the Supreme Court, which ruled 5–4 against her in a contentious decision that rested on a technicality. They reversed her jury award of over three million dollars, yet never reached the merits of her case. Reversing decades of settled law, they said she needed to bring her pay discrimination case when the discrimination began, two decades before, even though she didn't know about it. Many would have thrown in the towel then. But Lilly knew she was in the right, and as always, she refused to give up.

Lilly then came to Congress, where I had been leading the fight for equal pay for decades. She was an eloquent and powerful champion, and together we assembled a broad coalition of advocates in support of pay equity. In 2009, we passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. It was the first bill President Barack Obama signed into law, restoring the time period women have to sue for pay discrimination after receiving a paycheck tainted by discrimination.

It took remarkable perseverance and a relentless desire to see justice done. Lilly was attacked in the media and suffered all the pitfalls of becoming the public face of an equal rights issue. But as long as there was still work to do, Lilly never let that dissuade her. Lilly kept traveling the country—speaking out

and championing the cause of equal pay, and the need for new tools to challenge discrimination going forward.

She did this not because she benefitted from it, but because the work is not done. This is a fight that I continue to this day, for her and the rest of American women who, on average, still earns only 78 cents for every dollar that a man makes, regardless of state or occupation.

This is what my bill, the Paycheck Fairness Act, is designed to fix. The House has passed this bill four times—it is past time for the Senate to act.

In a world where women continue to suffer from intense economic pressures, Lilly showed that the power of one woman's relentless commitment to justice can make a difference. Because she refused to be silent in the face of terrible injustice, and because she exhibited such strength and perseverance in seeing a wrong made right, she transformed the lives of millions of American women for the better. I was consistently inspired by her strength, courage, and selflessness.

Reflecting on her continuous and persistent efforts, Lilly said, "I told my pastor when I die, I want him to be able to say at my funeral that I made a difference." While our Nation lost Lilly last year, I know she is looking down on us while we continue our fight for economic justice. And we are looking up at Lilly and to say, yes, she made a difference.

Lilly Ledbetter was a remarkable woman, a good friend, and a true American heroine. We must complete her legacy by ending the gender pay gap once and for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 21, 2025, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 18 and No. 19.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 18 (H.R. 186) and YEA on Roll Call No. 19 (H.R. 187).

HONORING OFFICER ANTHONY CATANIA

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Anthony Catania of the Frankfort Police Department, who was named the 2024 Officer of the Year. This prestigious award recognizes his exceptional commitment to the safety and well-being of our community.

Officer Catania exemplifies the core values of courage, respect, integrity, service, commitment, and loyalty. His bravery in crisis situations has not only safeguarded our community but also inspired his peers. He consistently treats all individuals with dignity, fostering trust between the police department and citizens. Integrity is fundamental to Officer Catania's service; he upholds ethical conduct even when unobserved. His dedication extends beyond

law enforcement through community engagement and mentorship. Additionally, his pursuit of professional growth enhances both his skills and the effectiveness of the Frankfort Police Department.

Officer Catania's years of exemplary service make him a deserving choice for this honor. I am proud to recognize him as the 2024 Officer of the Year. I am confident that Officer Anthony Catania will continue to serve as a role model for law enforcement officers across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CELEBRATING THE MARRIAGE OF KURT DIETER AND ADDISON BREIDING

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the marriage of Kurt Dieter and Addison Breiding. As proud residents of Boca Raton in Florida's 23rd Congressional District, Kurt and Addison have not only enriched each other's lives but have also become cherished members of our community.

On March 1, 2025, this wonderful couple will begin the next chapter of their lives together as they exchange vows at the Baker's Cay Resort in Key Largo, Florida. Their love story began on May 15, 2020, when a mutual friend introduced them at Tin Roof in Delray Beach. Since that day, Kurt and Addison have built a beautiful life together, filled with love, laughter, and shared adventures.

Kurt, an adventurous traveler and University of Maryland graduate, fell in love with more than just Addison when they met in 2020. Through her, he discovered the beauty of Florida as she introduced him to her favorite towns, beaches, and hidden gems. Their shared love for the Sunshine State led them to settle in Boca Raton in 2021, where they have created a warm and welcoming home with their beloved dog, Homer. Together, they reflect the vibrant spirit of our community and the joy of building a life filled with love and adventure.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Kurt Dieter and Addison Breiding as they prepare for a lifetime of happiness. Their union reflects the values of love, dedication, and community that make our district and our Nation strong. I wish them endless joy and look forward to seeing the incredible contributions they will continue to make to Boca Raton and Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

WARWICK GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Warwick High School Field Hockey Team on winning the PIAA Field Hockey Championship on November 16, 2024.

The Warwick School District Warriors shut out their opponents 4–0 at the PIAA Class 2A