

support them for many years of his childhood, a glimpse of what life was like before the advent of Social Security.

In segregated Alabama, he navigated the obstacles required to receive an education. Hillard had to travel to a neighboring county in order to complete his high school education. This didn't faze Hillard. He finished as the valedictorian of his class.

After high school, he went to Tuskegee in search of work and the furtherance of his education. After seeing Black cadets march on campus and watching them fly airplanes, Hillard said that he just knew he would become a Tuskegee Airman. He loved the look of their uniforms and the promise of what kind of doors could be unlocked as a Tuskegee Airman.

Through advanced training, bombardier school, and navigation training, Hillard witnessed and experienced firsthand the obstacles and challenges that men of color faced, even as some of the most highly skilled members of our Nation's Armed Forces. Again, this did not faze him. He trained as a bombardier with the 477th Bombardment Group and was part of the remarkable history of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Following his military service, Dr. Pouncy earned advanced degrees in chemistry, obtaining a Ph.D. in organic chemistry. He enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a research scientist with Union Carbide, which took him all over the world.

In retirement, Dr. Pouncy and his late wife, Mrs. Mattie, retired to Austell, right in the heart of Georgia's Sixth Congressional District. As a beloved resident at Presbyterian Village, he always took time to give back to his fellow residents and schoolchildren in our community.

Dr. Pouncy passed away just before Christmas at the ripe age of 103. At his memorial service, I was struck by the stories that I heard of what a devoted public servant he remained long after he retired. Dr. Hillard Pouncy truly represented the very best of us.

Our Nation has come a very long way since the days of Jim Crow, and I marvel at the progress of our American life seen through the eyes of a truly original American citizen, a man like Hillard Pouncy.

Mr. SPEAKER. In 2014, Dr. Pouncy sat for an interview about his life. As he reflected on his pride watching his grandson graduate from one of the finest schools in the country, he chuckled and said, "Things are different now, for the better."

Thanks to the courageous service of Dr. Pouncy and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen, and Civil Rights Movement leaders like Dr. King and John Lewis, yes, things are different now, for the better. And though we face a great many challenges at this moment of our American story, we owe a debt of gratitude to a man like Dr. Hillard Pouncy. As we prepare to mark what would have been Dr. Pouncy's 104th birthday on February 8th, I rejoice that such a wonderful man was able to walk this earth for over a century. All Black History

Month long and beyond, I will continue to do all that I can to uplift the name of Dr. Pouncy and every man and woman who has made such significant contributions to the advancement of this great nation. We are truly better off because they were here among us.

#### RECOGNIZING 1984 WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 1984 Walla Walla High School girls' basketball team and to celebrate the long-overdue recognition of their State championship victory.

The 1979 and 1984 Walla Walla High girls' teams remain the only State basketball champions in Wa-Hi history. Yet, for more than four decades, the 1984 champions have had no victory cup to mark their achievement.

What began as a casual conversation last spring has turned into the long-awaited correction of that injustice. This Saturday, after 42 years, the 1984 team will finally be recognized with a ceremony and the presentation of a specially made championship trophy.

These remarkable women represent the best of our communities: perseverance, teamwork, and pride that will stand the test of time. Now, finally, they will have a victory cup to recognize their significant achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to give a shout-out to the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin for covering this story. It is a reminder that while we can sometimes be frustrated with the way media covers things politically, we always appreciate a local news source for these types of stories.

#### RECOGNIZING DRIVER AND LINDSEY FAMILIES OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Driver and Lindsey families of Pend Oreille County, whose century-long story tells the very best of rural America: perseverance, hard work, and renewal.

Their history stretches from a hand-built homestead in the 1920s, through decades of loss and reclamation, to today's 800-acre hay operation that continues to be an anchor in their community.

This year marks three remarkable milestones: 100 years since the original home was built, 80 years since the farm was reclaimed, and 20 years since the current operation began.

The Driver and Lindsey families embody stewardship and resilience. They have tilled the same soil for generations, adapting through challenge and change, ensuring this family legacy. Pictured to the right of me today is one of the fifth generation of the Driver family, and we know that he has much to look forward to as he builds his community on this wonderful family farm.

#### CELEBRATING 145TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPOKANE TRIBE OF INDIANS

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 145th anniversary of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, a proud milestone honoring one of eastern Washington's oldest and most resilient communities.

The Spokane Tribe recently hosted its 1881 Powwow near Wellpinit, bringing together families, dancers, and community members to mark this anniversary with song, dance, and fellowship. The day was filled with vibrant drumming, traditional ceremonies, and shared meals that reflected the enduring spirit of the Tribe.

As the American flag and the Spokane Tribe flag flew side by side, this celebration stood as a powerful symbol of unity, resilience, and the living heritage that continues to enrich the inland northwest.

Mr. Speaker, I am not a Native Tribal member myself, but growing up in eastern Washington, I did have time to spend playing basketball with the Nez Perce Tribe of Indians in Lapwai, close to my family home. On several occasions, I was able to join and observe powwows.

Mr. Speaker, if anyone in Congress or watching at home has not had the opportunity to attend a powwow, it truly is one of the best celebrations of our shared culture and history. It is something that all Americans should attempt to do as we celebrate our 250th anniversary.

I close by again congratulating the Spokane Tribe of Indians on their leadership, tradition, and community pride.

#### SALUTING SCARSDALE

(Mr. LATIMER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, in the ever-changing landscape of community media, I am pleased to salute the 17th anniversary of the launch of Scarsdale10583, the online source for local news and information in the village of Scarsdale and in the neighborhoods of Hartsdale and Edgemont in the town of Greenburgh.

Joanne Wallenstein, an advertising and marketing professional with a background in magazines and internet experience, is the driving force for the team that includes Wendy MacMillan and Stacie Waldman. All three are committed Scarsdale volunteers for organizations like the local PTAs, the League of Women Voters, and numerous other community groups. This gives them the grassroots contacts and feel for what is happening every day that they report on regularly. They report on what is happening by being there in person at event after event.

The publication is truly local: high school sports stories, local meetings, recreational activities, and neighborhood associations and their activities.

We recognize the hard work of Joanne and her colleagues, and from the

floor of the House of Representatives, we salute this terrific effort to bring the whole of the community together.

RECOGNIZING VILLAGE OF DOBBS FERRY

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the outstanding programs provided by the village of Dobbs Ferry that benefit the senior citizens of that community.

Under the able leadership of Abby Connett, in a new center designed for their use, Dobbs Ferry Seniors serves hundreds of seniors annually with a daily nutrition program at lunchtime 5 days a week and activities and programs to engage seniors of all ages.

There are fitness classes daily, from tai chi and dance to chair yoga and mental fitness programs; my favorite, sports trivia; and a variety of board games, mah-jongg, bridge, Rummikub, along with the classic senior staple, bingo.

Abby and her talented crew host annual events, as well, such as an art show in May and the recent 20th annual Seniors Week in October with multiple activities. There are trips planned to shopping locales and tourist sites, as well.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute the work of the Dobbs Ferry Seniors and the active and energetic members who show that age is more than just a state of mind.

RECOGNIZING BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 10

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of the residents of the Bronx who labor tirelessly on behalf of their neighborhood, active in Bronx Community Board 10. Most of the area is represented by my colleague, Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, places like Throggs Neck, Pelham Bay, Westchester Square, and the like. However, Community Board 10 also includes the major complex of Co-op City in my 16th Congressional District.

Co-op City benefits from the leadership of Joseph Russo, chairman of the community board, and the excellent district manager, Matt Cruz. Co-op City residents on Community Board 10 include Board Secretary Nancy Rosario; Stephanie Woods, who chairs the Youth and Education Committee; and board members Janine Thomas, Stefani Hazell, and Maritza Fludd.

The board has vibrant citizen committees engaged in every aspect of neighborhood life: economic development, housing and zoning, municipal services, parks and recreation, planning and budget, youth services, education, health and human services, and veterans services, with board members and community volunteers engaged together in dialogue and action to serve the overall region.

I am pleased that Co-op City is a major contributor to the work of this board.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute Bronx Community Board 10 and its crew from Co-op City, serving the Boogie Down Bronx.

RECOGNIZING EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN

(Mr. LAWLER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary service and well-earned retirement of Cardinal Timothy Michael Dolan, whose leadership has profoundly shaped the Catholic faith in New York and across our Nation.

Since becoming archbishop of New York in 2009, Cardinal Dolan has been a steadfast advocate for religious freedom, Catholic education, and the dignity of every person. He has led with conviction, compassion, and humor, reminding us that faith must also always be lived out through service.

Under his leadership, the Archdiocese of New York was strengthened in meaningful ways, including the reopening of dozens of Catholic schools, ensuring that families across our State continue to have access to education rooted in faith, values, and community.

Beyond New York, Cardinal Dolan has become a respected national voice for the church, guiding conversations with clarity, humor, and grace, and bringing people together in moments of challenge and celebration alike.

I am honored to call Cardinal Dolan a friend. While he will be deeply missed as the leader of the Archdiocese of New York, I wish him the very best in his retirement and have no doubt that his voice and his witness will continue to inspire for years to come.

□ 1030

HONORING LIFE OF ALFRED "AL" MAGNATTA

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alfred "Al" Magnatta, who passed away just a week before what would have been his 101st birthday.

At a young age, Al answered the call to serve his country during World War II, enlisting in the U.S. Air Force. Serving as a B-17 aerial gunner with the Eighth Air Force was an experience that forever shaped his life.

After returning home to New York, Al continued to serve his community by joining the Congers Fire Department, eventually serving as their fire chief, becoming the oldest fire chief in the department's history and its longest serving member.

Al continued to serve his community by providing leadership at the county level, helping guide emergency response efforts, mentoring future firefighters, and shaping fire service standards. Throughout his decades of service, he responded to countless emergencies and earned the respect of all who served alongside him.

Al represented the very best of our community, and I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

COMMENDING CHIEF DANIEL HYMAN

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary act of courage and public service by Ramapo Town Police Chief Daniel "Dan" Hyman, whose quick actions saved the life of a fellow neighbor.

While off duty, Chief Hyman noticed smoke coming from a home. After seeing a resident attempt to escape the fire, he immediately sprang into action.

Without hesitation, he secured a ladder, climbed to the window the resident was attempting to escape from, and calmly coached the individual to safety. His quick thinking, bravery, and selfless action helped save a life from what would have been a tragedy.

Chief Hyman joined the Ramapo Police Department in 1989 and has served his community with integrity, valor, and professionalism for more than three decades.

His actions represent the very best of public service and our community. I commend Chief Hyman for leading by example and for reminding us what true heroism looks like in our communities.

RECOGNIZING ROBI SCHLAFF

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Robi Schlaff, a devoted public servant who has spent her career protecting women, children, and families across Westchester County.

Since 2013, Robi has served as director of the Westchester County Office for Women, overseeing critical programs that support victims of domestic and family violence. She also serves as executive director of the Westchester County Family Justice Center, where she helped build a coordinated, victim-centered model that has become a statewide example.

Earlier in her career, Robi practiced family law, representing children and survivors of domestic violence and served as a mediator in family court. She has been instrumental in developing initiatives such as the Domestic Violence High-Risk Team and the Pace Women's Justice Center, earning national recognition, including the End Violence Against Women International Game-Changer award. In addition, she worked alongside Pete Grannis in the New York State Assembly and the Department of Environmental Protection.

As Robi retires from her role, I am proud to recognize her unwavering commitment to protecting our communities. Having worked with her in County Executive Astorino's administration, I am deeply grateful for her public service and her friendship. I wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement.

CELEBRATING PARADISE GYM

(Mr. CISNEROS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, as every local businessowner knows, every