

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

penny counts, especially during the holiday season. Elsa Duenez, owner of Paradise Gym in San Dimas, took this busy and valuable time to use their business to give back to the community by organizing a month-long fundraiser and toy drive to support the children and families of the City of Hope, one of the largest cancer research and treatment hospitals in the United States.

Paradise Gym encouraged patrons and community members to donate new toys to children and their families, sharing the message that donating toys not only gives joy but offers hope to those navigating cancer treatments and care for their loved ones.

The support and community of southern California is unlike any other, and I am so proud to see our neighbors come together and give back. This is a true testament to the character of Paradise Gym and the power of community and service.

I thank Elsa and the staff at Paradise Gym for their commitment to service. We are so grateful for them.

CONGRATULATING RORIMER ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an outstanding accomplishment by Rorimer Elementary School in La Puente, California, a part of the Rowland Unified School District in California's 31st District.

Rorimer Elementary has been designated as a 2026 Seal of Excellence School by the California Association for Bilingual Education, one of only four schools in California awarded this designation after undergoing an extensive review process.

This award recognizes schools for their strong vision for biliteracy, multicultural competency, and educational equity.

As a Spanish dual language immersion school, Rorimer Elementary has demonstrated notable gains in academic achievements and bilingual proficiency among English learners using effective research-based instructional strategies.

Rorimer Elementary's success has been built through creation of a school-wide culture that embraces and celebrates developing students' bilingual language proficiency and cultural awareness in grades TK-6.

The strong relationship built between Rorimer's teachers, staff, and families has been central to the school's success.

Congratulations to the team at Rorimer Elementary for setting an amazing example for bilingual education.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER NIGG ON HIS
RETIREMENT

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former La Verne Fire Chief Christopher Nigg for his distinguished time of service with the La Verne Fire Department.

While in service at the department, he led significant operational and organizational advancements, strength-

ening emergency response, workforce readiness, and regional integration.

Chief Nigg worked collaboratively with regional partners to enhance service-and-response delivery, fostering a culture of professionalism, trust, and shared accountability focused on serving the community.

Notably, he led the department to streamline emergency response with an efficient ambulance operator program and established a comprehensive succession plan for long-term organizational stability.

I am so grateful for his leadership and service, promoting safety for the community in California's 31st District. He will be remembered as a team player, fierce advocate for fire prevention, and an innovative leader. We wish him the best in the next chapter of his life.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ROUTE 66

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the most famous road in the country, Route 66, and it travels right through the 31st Congressional District in California.

Last month, the city of Azusa unveiled its Route 66 centennial monument and mural at the newly designated Route 66 Tribute Corner in honor of this historic highway. This new mural and monument are part of a series of monuments that will be unveiled from Chicago to Santa Monica as part of the official project organized by the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission.

Mr. Speaker, we are excited that many will continue to get their kicks on Route 66, as we celebrate this historic highway that connected our community to the rest of the country and opened up a pathway for migration, tourism, and development in the San Gabriel Valley and the great State of California.

NATIONAL SCOUTING DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an organization that is near and dear to my heart, Scouting America.

February 8 is National Scouting America Day, which recognizes the legacy of the organization and the young Americans who have gone from Scouts to leaders in their communities.

On May 17, 1977, I became an Eagle Scout myself, as a member of Scout Troop 52 in Walker Township, Pennsylvania. Over the years, I proudly held various leadership roles with Scout troops in Pennsylvania, including two separate stints as Scoutmaster for Troop 353 in Howard.

During my time as a Scoutmaster, I was honored to see many young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Since the rank's inception, close to 3 million Scouts have earned Eagle Scout status.

Scouting America—formerly known as the Boy Scouts of America, and ac-

tually that is still the name of the movement as chartered by Congress—was established in 1910 by William D. Boyce. The mission of the organization is to prepare children for lives of impact and purpose. Since it was founded, more than 130 million young men and women have participated in Scouting America's programs.

Mr. Speaker, at its core, Scouting encourages its members to leave our country and the world a little better than they found it. Scouting America has helped build future leaders by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. Scouting founder, Lord Baden-Powell of England, defined Scouting as a game with a purpose. Through over a century of experience, we know that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

I am proud to co-chair the Congressional Scouting Caucus. This past summer, we welcomed dozens of Scouts from across the country to Camp Capitol Hill and Eagles on the Hill. This was an opportunity for Scouts to meet with Representatives and showcase what they have learned or built as a Scout. It was an honor to see the various projects Scouts have completed. All of them demonstrated the important values of service, community, and character.

Scouting demands physicality, innovation, curiosity, and for participants to enjoy the outdoors. It gives Scouts the opportunity to try new recreational activities like mountain biking, kayaking, and camping. All of these activities are an ode to the beautiful landscapes across our Nation and experiences that a Scout will never forget.

Scouts explore their interests and improve their skills while working toward Scouting's highest rank, Eagle. By first imagining, planning, then doing their own service projects, Scouts learn the value of hard work and experience the thrill of seeing it pay off.

Scouts are known as leaders within their communities, and approximately 15 percent of all military academy cadets and midshipmen across the United States' service academies are Eagle Scouts.

I am grateful for the longstanding partnership between Scouting America and the Department of War. I can think of no better recruitment tool for our military than the lessons learned through Scouting.

Mr. Speaker, Scouting has touched the lives of so many. I am proud of the way it has shaped our youth. I wish a happy 116th birthday to Scouting America.

CHANGES AT THE KENNEDY
CENTER

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of something deeply