

to replicate their success. I am proud that Spring Avenue Elementary School in La Grange has been honored as one of those exceptional schools.

Led by Principal Elizabeth Webb Peterman, the mission of Spring Avenue School is to empower students to pursue their interests and dreams. The teachers support and nurture the students while they work to empower these talented students to achieve their highest potential in every area. Each student at Spring Avenue School feels that they are a valued member of the school community and will be prepared for their future academic and career success. With the help of the community, the faculty and staff work to create a positive difference for each student.

The key to Spring Avenue School's success is their goal-based school improvement plan. Their professional development is focused around how to help each and every child advance at the expected rate of improvement and beyond. Together with the community, the faculty is helping create a safe, advanced learning environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Spring Avenue Elementary School for this significant achievement and congratulating the staff, parents, students, and community.

#### HONORING SHARON JOSEPHSON ON HER RETIREMENT

#### HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of my long time district staff assistant, Sharon Josephson.

After 24 years of service to me and the constituents of Minnesota's Seventh District, Sharon retired at the end of the 113th Congress.

Sharon began working for me when I was elected to Congress in 1990, and very ably served the people of Minnesota's Seventh District, handling nearly every issue and concern that our office faced. Over the years, Sharon drove countless miles through a geographically large and rural district to help constituents, communities and businesses navigate federal issues.

In the wake of severe flooding events, Sharon worked with community leaders throughout the Red River Valley as they dealt with the challenges of clean up, recovery and mitigation of future events. She was a steady presence at meetings of watershed districts, the Red River Basin Commission, the Fargo/Moorhead Diversion, the Red River Retention Authority and many others.

As a former educator, Sharon enjoyed speaking to classrooms around the district about the workings of Congress and the political process. She also coordinated the Military Academy nominations process, helping many high school students achieve their dreams of attending places like West Point, the Air Force Academy, and the Naval Academy.

Sharon was a trusted advisor that I called on for advice on a regular basis. It will be difficult to see her leave and she will be missed by so many.

After many years of dedicated public service, Sharon will now be able to enjoy more

time with her husband Roger, children Sarah, Dan, and Martha, granddaughter Sophia, and another grandchild who will be born later this month.

So again, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Sharon's service to the House of Representatives and her dedication to Minnesota's Seventh District. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 1 I was absent while attending the funeral of Governor Mario M. Cuomo in New York. Had I been present, I would have voted "present."

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF LEON HARE, SR.

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Leon Hare, Sr., who recently passed away at the age of 92.

A distinguished World War II veteran, Mr. Hare was born in Buffalo, New York to William and Lillie Hare on January 10, 1923. In his youth, he was an accomplished basketball player during his time as a student at Hutchinson Central High School.

In 1942, Mr. Hare was drafted into the United States Army, serving with distinction in Italy and Germany. He later returned to the U.S. and married Margaret Eileen Sealy, and began a career as a steelworker. He and Margaret had three children, Frances, L. Nathan, and Lorna.

Mr. Hare was an avid bowler as well. He worked at Ellicott Lanes, managing and administering the business, and becoming a father figure to thousands of young men and women, teaching and mentoring them not just in bowling, but also in life.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to take the time to honor the life of Leon Hare, Sr., and I ask that my colleagues join me in offering our deepest condolences to the Hare family.

#### HONORING JUDGE STELLA HARTMAN SAXON

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional career of Judge Stella Hartman Saxon of Karnes City, Texas.

Judge Saxon was born in 1948 in El Paso, Texas, to parents Pete and Helen Hartman. The eldest of six children, she graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government, and subsequently earned her law degree from the University of Houston.

Prior to becoming the 218th Judicial District Judge, Stella Hartman Saxon worked as an Assistant District Attorney. During that time, she was selected as the Aeri Jernigan Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for her successful prosecution of cases from a large undercover operation. Judge Saxon was first elected as District Judge in 1990, and has served admirably for over two decades, boldly advocating for the citizens and employees of Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, LaSalle and Wilson Counties. Throughout her career, she has been a shining example of kindness and fairness and an ever-present role model to those around her.

In addition to her exemplary career, Judge Saxon is a committed wife, mother, grandmother, Girl Scout leader, and breast cancer survivor.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Judge Stella Hartman Saxon. Her dedication to the citizens of Texas has truly made her community a better place to live and work.

#### HONORING SEVENTH AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

#### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Seventh Avenue Elementary School for receiving the prestigious 2014 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award.

In 1982, The Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools boasting high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify aspects of thriving American schools in order to replicate their success. I am proud that Seventh Avenue Elementary School in La Grange has been honored as one of those exceptional schools.

Principal Erin Hall is committed to ensuring success for her students. This begins at the start of the school year with fall tours of the school which give students and parents the opportunity to meet their new teachers. Students and teachers develop a mutual respect for one another which continues to develop until the 6th Grade Farewell event in which the community comes together to celebrate the year at an all-school picnic with families in the park. These and other events, such as service learning opportunities during the first few months of school, bring together students across all grades and backgrounds.

At Seventh Avenue School teachers are encouraged to use individual student data to create instructional groups in reading and math so that each student's needs are met. Students are pushed to think critically and overcome academic challenges through problem solving. Parents are thanked for their support and presence and encouraged to participate in assemblies, classroom presentations, and parent conferences. Ms. Hall recognizes that the Blue Ribbon award is due to the successes of the staff, students, and parents and would not be possible without any of them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Seventh Avenue Elementary School for this significant achievement and congratulating the staff, parents, students, and community.

HONORING GREGORY P.  
MONTANARO

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor The Union League of Philadelphia and the 69th President of this patriotic organization, Hon. Gregory P. Montanaro.

Founded in 1862, the Union League has been one of the leading supporters of our nation and of our Constitution.

Its 3,600 members pledge "support of the United States Constitution", and are leaders in business, education, medicine and the arts. The Foundations of the Union League, three non-profit charities that provide constitutional and leadership education, college scholarships, and the opportunity to research and explore one of the most important Civil War collections in the United States.

In December of 2014, the League elected my friend Gregory P. Montanaro as its 69th President. Mr. Montanaro embodies the qualities that the League stands for today: leadership, patriotism, service to the community, and a dedication to preserving the promise of liberty and freedom embodied in our constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring The Union League of Philadelphia and its president Mr. Gregory P. Montanaro for its 153 years of service to the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF FRANK CIMINELLI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Frank L. Ciminelli, who passed away on December 26, 2014 at the age of 80. A highly respected member of Western New York's business and construction community, Mr. Ciminelli's contributions to our region were many and varied.

Mr. Ciminelli was born in Buffalo, New York on October 6, 1934, and grew up on the city's East Side. As a curious young man, he would assist with his father's concrete business, learning the trade as he was completing high school. Mr. Ciminelli graduated from Erie County Technical Institute in 1954.

An extraordinary businessman, Mr. Ciminelli started his own concrete company in 1960, the Frank L. Ciminelli Construction Co., which grew steadily and ultimately became the largest general contractor & construction firm in Western New York. This company was sold to his son Louis in 1987 and is now known as LPCiminelli. Like his father, Louis continues to

expand the company based on the values of honesty, integrity, and commitment to excellence.

In 1981, Mr. Ciminelli founded a real estate company, the Ciminelli Real Estate Corp, which expanded to four states and manages over 12 million square feet of real estate. The company is now owned by his son Paul, who was inspired by his father's business acumen, and possesses similar strengths as a business leader within our community.

Mr. Ciminelli was a dynamic figure in the region, dedicated to his business, and behind many well-known construction projects including expansion projects at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital and Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the General Motors Tonawanda Engine Plant, the Ford Motor and the Natural Sciences Building on the North Campus of the University of Buffalo, as well as numerous others.

An active philanthropist, Mr. Ciminelli was also involved with the Roswell Park Alliance, the Sisters Hospital Foundation, Catholic Charities, the University at Buffalo Foundation, St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, Business Backs the Bills, and countless other causes.

Mr. Ciminelli was a hardworking and loyal family man, and he leaves behind his loving wife, Rosalie G. Savarino Ciminelli, his six children, Louis, Gary, Paul, John, Susan, and Mary, eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, as well as a host of friends and associates.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor Mr. Frank Ciminelli. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest condolences to the Ciminelli family and our gratitude for their contributions to Western New York.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, regrettably, I was unable to attend the opening session of the 114th Congress yesterday, January 6, as I joined many of my colleagues and friends to memorialize the life of former New York Governor Mario Cuomo.

Had I been present at the opening session, I would have voted for my friend and colleague from California, Rep. NANCY PELOSI, to serve as Speaker of the House.

As the Speaker in the 110th and 111th Congresses, and the first woman to hold this position, Rep. PELOSI accumulated an unparalleled record of accomplishments to support the middle class and hardworking American families, and I would have been proud to support her election to a third term as Speaker.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF  
FORMER REP. HERBERT HARRIS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise with the members of the Virginia delegation to inform our colleagues of the passing of a former Member of this Chamber, Herbert Harris.

Herb died at the age of 88 on Christmas Eve at his home in the Mount Vernon neighborhood of Fairfax County.

He served three terms in the House from 1974 to 1980, representing what was then Virginia's 8th District.

Like his predecessor, Stan Parris, my predecessor, Tom Davis, and me, Herb served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors prior to his election to Congress, and that experience served him well here. He was a champion for the region, helping secure the necessary federal funds to complete construction of the Metro system and to expand the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

He stood out as an outspoken liberal at a time when most of Virginia, even Northern Virginia, was still largely conservative. During his tenure on the Fairfax County Board, he fought for community infrastructure investments, particularly for transportation and sewer system modernization. He also helped with Inova Health System's expansion to Mount Vernon. It was during these years that he served on regional transportation boards, including the Metro Board of Directors, and became one of its chief regional advocates.

Upon his election to Congress, he pushed to secure the necessary federal funds to complete the regional Metro system, and he was an early proponent for expanding the system further into Virginia to reach Dulles International Airport and other communities. A veteran of the Navy, Herb fought the Carter Administration on proposed cuts in national defense and military pay. And based on his experience in local government, he became an advocate for granting full voting representation in the House for the District of Columbia. After narrowly losing his bid for re-election in 1980 and then a rematch in 1982, Herb put his political career aside, telling one confidant that the time required by today's Members to raise campaign funds put too much emphasis on chasing money rather than exchanging ideas.

He returned to private law practice after leaving the House.

Our former colleagues, Representatives Moran, Davis, and Wolf collaborated in 2001 to name a new Post Office building in the Mount Vernon area to honor Herb's service.

Many of us attended funeral services for Herb yesterday, and flags were flown at half-mast at the Fairfax Government Center and the capitol in Richmond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join us in extending our gratitude for his public service and sympathy on his passing to Herb's family and friends by standing with us to observe a moment of silence.