

Deputy Chief Barrette has remained an active member of the Syracuse community while on and off-duty through his role as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Syracuse Model Neighborhood Corporation, President of the Syracuse Police Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors, and Vice-Chair of the Onondaga County Chiefs of Police Association.

Deputy Chief Barrette holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management from LeMoyne College and a Master of Criminal Justice degree from the University of Alabama. He is supported by his wife, Patty.

Deputy Chief Barrette has proudly served our nation and Central New York, reflecting the courage and loyalty ubiquitous in Central New York law enforcement. I wish Deputy Chief Barrette well in his retirement and would like to thank him for his years of hard work, dedication, and service to our community.

HONORING EDWARD GARDNER
HALEY

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend, Mr. Ed Haley for an outstanding career of public service that has spanned over 30 years, encompassed numerous roles, and helped countless lives. An advisor to the powerful, a mentor to the many, and smiling face for those he served, Ed Haley's life has exemplified what it means to be a servant leader.

Following graduation from Millington Central High School, Mr. Haley joined the Air Force and served as a radioman for four years before he was honorably discharged. Then, he embarked on a 15 year career with the Dupont Company before joining the Shelby County Government in 1973. During the next 27 years, Mr. Haley worked for the citizens of Shelby County, Tennessee as the Assistant Director of Safety, the Administrator for the Shelby County Automotive Facility, and ultimately the Director of the Shelby County Road Department. While most people would be looking forward to retirement, Mr. Haley energetically signed on to help the small town of Arlington as Town Superintendent and managed Arlington's explosive growth over the last 15 years until his well-deserved retirement on March 1, 2015.

Of course, knowing only Mr. Haley's public work contributions would be to miss the massive impact he has had through volunteer service during his tenure. Growing up in Millington, Tennessee and returning after the Air Force, Mr. Haley won a seat to the Board of Alderman in 1972. Throughout the 1970's and 80's he was active in the Jaycees, Optimist Club, Rotary Club, PTSA, Scottish Rite, and Gideon International. In 1990, he was elected to the Tennessee General Assembly as a State Representative serving north Shelby County until 1998.

In Matthew's Parable of the Talents, each servant has been entrusted with resources for which they are held accountable. Mr. Haley has used his life's work for the betterment of others and truly deserves to hear his Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

On behalf of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate and wish the best of luck in retirement and for all future endeavors to the family and friends of Mr. Ed Haley.

HONORING MR. H. DWIGHT WEAVER FOR RECEIVING A MISSOURI HUMANITIES AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mr. H. Dwight Weaver. Mr. Weaver will be receiving one of the Missouri Humanities Awards, Exemplary Community Achievement—Lake of the Ozarks Preservation, on Saturday, May 2, 2015. Mr. Weaver has contributed to the betterment of the state of Missouri for many years.

H. Dwight Weaver worked for 15 years at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. During his time there, he wrote about Missouri's air, land and water quality resources and these writings aided in policy-making. Mr. Weaver was awarded with two regional and two national awards for his article contributions to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources magazine, Missouri Resources.

During his 50 years living in the Lake of the Ozarks region, Mr. Weaver, has developed a passion for Missouri caves and a profound interest in the history of that region. From his time exploring and working at caves, he gained the knowledge to publish six books. H. Dwight Weaver treasures the various places of mystery and beauty that caves offer.

For a period of 40 years, H. Dwight Weaver has assembled a rare collection of vintage images and memorabilia that is reflective of the cultural heritage of the Lake of the Ozarks region. This collection has contributed to his ability to publish seven books and ultimately be the most prolific and best-selling author of the Lake of the Ozarks. Mr. Weaver contributes his time to the Miller and Camden County historical societies and serves as a source of historical information for anyone who requests information about the Lake of the Ozarks region.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing Mr. H. Dwight Weaver on receiving this award for his dedication to the Lake of the Ozarks region and the entire state of Missouri!

HONORING PEOPLES' SELF-HELP HOUSING

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Peoples' Self-Help Housing, which has served my constituents on the Central Coast of California since its incorporation on August 6, 1970. Since its inception Peoples' Self-Help Housing has provided vital affordable housing and self-sufficiency programs for low-income families, seniors, and other special needs groups in our local community.

Over the past 45 years, Peoples' Self-Help Housing has developed nearly 1,600 affordable rental units at 45 properties throughout San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Their home building program utilizes a collaborative group method known as "sweat equity" to build homes for limited income families. This valuable program has resulted in over 1,200 new homes constructed by individuals as owner-builders under the supervision of Peoples' Self-Help Housing.

Furthermore, Peoples' Self-Help Housing provides safe and attractive shelter for 4,400 residents throughout the Tri-Counties. The organization has also received numerous national, state and local awards in recognition of their significant contributions to revitalizing our neighborhoods and communities, ensuring stable housing for veterans and those who were formerly homeless, and for their innovative work in educating our youth population.

I congratulate and offer my sincerest thanks to Peoples' Self-Help Housing for 45 years of successfully providing affordable housing and vital community services to the people of the Central Coast.

COMMEMORATING THE 67TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 67th anniversary of Israel's independence. On this day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, we celebrate Israel's establishment as a sovereign state and as a homeland for the Jewish people.

Rising from the ashes of the Holocaust, Israel has come to embody the true meaning of perseverance and resilience. Since its declaration of independence in 1948, Israel has overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges, defending itself time and again against enemies seeking to destroy it. Today, Israel stands proudly alongside the world's most developed nations and as the Middle East's sole true democracy—one rooted in equality and freedom of speech and religion.

However, this prosperity has come at a high price, as over 20,000 brave Israeli men and women have given their lives in service to their country. That is why this week we also observe Yom Hazikaron, to pay tribute to the Israeli service members who made the ultimate sacrifice and to thousands of Israeli civilians who lost their lives in senseless acts of terror.

Sadly, in the post-9/11 world, the United States has also grown familiar with the threat of terrorism and we have watched our own men and women give their lives to defeat it. This common struggle has created yet another bond between our nations, as we both understand the indiscriminant, unjustifiable evil of terrorism, the irreparable pain it causes, and the swift, unequivocal response necessary to destroy it.

So today, we celebrate more than just 67 years of Israeli independence—we celebrate 67 years of strong and unwavering U.S.-Israeli relations.

I am proud to have visited Israel as a citizen of the United States, and I look forward to returning this summer as a member of Congress representing New York's fourth district, which is home to many people of the Jewish faith and has a special bond with the State of Israel and the Israeli people. During my time in Israel, I saw firsthand the prosperity that this great nation has built, as well as the fear that accompanies the daily threat of terrorism. On Israel's 67th year of independence, I want to congratulate the Israeli people and assure them that the U.S. will forever remain committed to their security, their survival and their prosperity.

THE AGING OUT CRISIS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Autism Awareness Month and a huge yet largely invisible crisis that begs serious focus and a concerted national effort.

Every year, 50,000 young people on the autism spectrum transition into adulthood and are in the process of losing access to the vital educational, therapeutic and other services which enable them to live full, independent and successful lives.

Individuals with autism in the aging out generation find themselves entering into a system unprepared to meet their needs, and as a result face shrinking opportunities—and in many cases even regression.

As co-chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Autism Research and Education, Congressman MIKE DOYLE and I hosted a briefing called "Autism and the Aging Out Crisis." We brought together prominent researchers, parents of autistic children and self-advocates to discuss how to best respond to the needs of this growing demographic.

Jonathan Kratchman, a 17-year-old with Asperger's from New Jersey, spoke and stated that "many people with autism can be contributing, tax paying citizens of society. We just all need some level of funding for the support services that we were entitled to before graduation."

High school students are given services and supports to help prepare them for young adulthood. However, when they graduate, they face a support cliff—their services end and limited options remain available to continue development.

Many of us view high school graduation as a proud accomplishment—when hard work pays off and we become participants in an adult society. For adolescents on the autism spectrum like Jonathan, a diploma can represent the end of an era without a new beginning. The support that allowed them to continue their development and remain in the community is quickly and dramatically reduced. The challenges ahead can seem overwhelming.

According to a report released this week from Drexel University researcher Dr. Paul Shattuck—who participated in the briefing and whose work was prompted by my recent law—40% of autistic youths do not receive mental health therapy, speech counseling, case man-

agement, or even medical services related to their disability once they reach early adulthood.

26% of young adults on the autism spectrum received no services whatsoever to help them become employed, continue their education, or live more independently.

Further, the consequences of the cliff are tangible and profound. One third of young adults with autism did not continue their education or get a job in their early 20s, compared to less than 8% of young adults with other disabilities. Individuals with autism from low-income households were almost twice as likely not to continue their education or find meaningful employment.

The study found individuals with autism who transition into adulthood continue to struggle with communication, social skills, and decision making; confront behavioral challenges; and face co-morbid medical conditions and co-occurring mental health disorders related to their diagnosis. When the services which help them to address these challenges evaporate, not only do these individuals fail to progress in these areas, they are profoundly impacted by the loss of their routine, and many regress.

Mr. Speaker, autism does not end when a person reaches adulthood—and our commitment shouldn't either. Support should transition along with the individuals, bolstering the promise and realization of self-sufficiency.

My Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2014 or the "Autism CARES Act" (Public Law 113–157) began this conversation by tasking multiple federal agencies with producing a comprehensive study on the special needs of autistic young adults and transitioning youth.

As researchers, parents, and advocates indicated in the briefing today, we need a holistic approach—one that looks at healthcare, housing, employment, education and public safety, among other needs. With the assistance of Chairmen FRED UPTON and JOE PITTS, last year I also requested a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report evaluating existing programs for effectiveness and making recommendations—in consultation with key stakeholders—on how the public and private sectors can advance initiatives to ensure a better transition.

The briefing is the first in a series the Caucus will host—building on my recent hearing "The Global Challenge of Autism"—to highlight the aging out crisis and explore remedial action. In addition to the importance of transition planning, there is evidence that with specialized support, employment is feasible even among individuals with high levels of impairment.

At my hearing, Jose Velasco, Vice President of Product Management at software giant SAP discussed their process of actively recruiting and hiring over 700 young adults on the autism spectrum. Management at SAP has recently told me that SAP's diligent young employees with autism are extraordinarily effective workers, and the corporation and the employees mutually benefit through this innovative alliance.

We have an obligation to help individuals with disabilities grow into adulthood. It is not only the right thing to do; it's a smart investment of taxpayer dollars that lower costs in the long run. The University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities estimates that: "Diverting just one young person into liv-

ing-wage employment could save an average of \$150,000 in SSI benefits over their lifetime. According to the Social Security Administration, transitioning just one half of one percent of current SSDI and SSI beneficiaries from benefits to self-sustaining employment would save \$3.5 billion in cash benefits over the work-life of those individuals."

By investing in and harnessing the potential of young adults with autism, we as a society will benefit from the unique skills, abilities, and perspectives of the aging out generation.

HONORING THE SIMON RIVERA EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL RAIDERS, THE 2015 6A BOYS SOCCER UIL STATE CHAMPIONS FROM BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of the Simon Rivera Early College High School Raiders—the 2015 6A Boys Soccer UIL State Champions from Brownsville, Texas. Their undefeated 28 game season proved that the Rio Grande Valley is home to the best soccer team in the State of Texas, and one of the best in the nation.

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, the Rivera Raiders beat Katy Cinco Ranch 2 to 0 in Georgetown, Texas. The win cemented their state title and brought a third statewide championship to the Brownsville Independent School District.

From the onset of the 2015 soccer season, Coach Salvador Garcia knew the Rivera Raiders were a "Team of Destiny," and would rally the support of an entire community. Coach Garcia's dedication, tenacity and years of experience would transform the Rivera Raiders into an undefeated powerhouse. He knew the hours of practice and commitment would yield only one outcome—a chance to prove what he already knew—that the Rivera Raiders would be the best soccer team in Texas.

Their historic championship season serves as a reminder that through teamwork and perseverance, we are all capable of achieving great things. The entire team of dedicated student-athletes set an example to be emulated. Their accomplishments have earned them a place in the history of Rivera High School, and the legacy of their state championship will live on through the precedent set by an undefeated season.

To all those who supported the players, your efforts were critical to the strength of the Rivera Raiders. You drove them to practices early in the morning and picked them up late into the evening. On game days, you prepared them the nutritious meals that would give them stamina. You helped them balance the demands of athletics, studies, and home life, and you instilled the values of humility, sportsmanship and perseverance.

To the faculty and staff at Rivera High School: teachers, assistant coaches, counselors, principals, support staff and personnel, thank you for all that you do to help our children accomplish their goals. Your commitment to educating all students is vital as we prepare the next generation of Americans to lead our nation in the future. Keep doing the excellent job you do.