

RECOGNIZING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ONONDAGA THUNDER BOYS ICE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victory of the Onondaga Thunder Boys' Ice Hockey Team in the U14 Tier 3 New York State Championship on March 5, 2017. The Onondaga Thunder defeated White Plains by a score of 5–1 in the title game. With this win, the Onondaga Thunder took home the state title for the second time in three years.

Members of the state championship team include Jordan Joslyn, Brackton Bowler, Tanner Burns, Kaleb Benedict, Brett Collier, Zach Delaney, Ben Hammond, Josh Kuchinski, Tyler Murray, Brad O'Neil, Derek Shumaker, Luke Pinkney, and Dominick Tutino. The team is coached by Greg Burns and assistants Greg Murray and Tom Joslyn.

I am honored to recognize the teamwork displayed by the Onondaga Thunder and to congratulate the members of the team, their families, and the coaching staff. This is a historic win for Central New York and I am confident that the positive experiences from the 2017 season will yield continued success in both athletics and academics.

HONORING MRS. SHARON GIESE

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a great friend to Arizona, Mrs. Sharon Giese, who passed away on April 19, 2017. Sharon distinguished herself in our community as a thoughtful leader and respected advocate.

Sharon Giese served with distinction as Arizona's Republican National Committeewoman from 2002 until her retirement in 2016. She was President of the Arizona Federation of Republican Women (AZFRW) from 1992 to 1993; she was a supporter of and parliamentarian for the AFRW and National Federal of Republican Women for many decades; she served several years as the official professional parliamentarian for the Chairman of The Republican National Committee as well as the Arizona Republican Party Chair at various meetings and conventions for over a decade; she was a delegate to Republican National Conventions in 2008, 2012 and 2016, held multiple positions in the Arizona Republican Party, supported Republican Teens, was an elected precinct committeewoman, member for many years on AZGOP central committee and a Presidential Elector in 2016.

I am proud to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Sharon Giese for her tireless and devoted service to our country. I extend my condolences to all of her friends, family, and loved ones.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN RUSSELL OF CMS AND CONSUMERS ENERGY FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE JOHN G. RUSSELL LEADERSHIP CENTER

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Russell, Chairman of the Board of Directors for CMS and Consumers Energy, for the dedication of the John G. Russell Leadership Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Customer-focused and data-driven, John has inspired countless employees to accomplish extraordinary things, and with the opening of this center, his legacy will continue to train and motivate leaders for generations to come.

During his 35-year career in the energy industry, John valued leadership and was deeply committed to developing strong, capable leaders throughout the company. He challenged the organization to consistently deliver breakthrough results and leave Michigan better than he found it.

A longtime Grand Rapids resident, John was President and Chief Executive Officer of CMS and Consumers Energy from May 2010 to July 2016. He was named Chairman of the Boards of CMS and Consumers Energy in May 2016.

John also served on the boards of Grand Valley State University, Business Leaders for Michigan, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Hubbell Inc. and The Right Place Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Russell for his outstanding leadership and commitment to the state of Michigan.

HONORING MR. PHIL "HAMBONE" HAMILTON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to stand before you and my fellow colleagues today to recognize Mr. Phil "Hambone" Hamilton, as he celebrates the 50th Anniversary of his baseball and softball umpiring career. For his lifetime of devotion to the youth in the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, through the sports of baseball and softball, Phil Hamilton is to be commended.

Phil's love for umpiring began when he became a baseball team manager while attending Lew Wallace High School in Gary, Indiana. He was given the opportunity to umpire at a practice game, and from that day forward, Phil discovered his passion and skill for officiating.

After high school, while working at U.S. Steel, Phil began umpiring for the Gary Little League, Gary Babe Ruth League, the National Softball Association, the Amateur Softball Association, and high school games throughout Northwest Indiana. Upon retiring from U.S. Steel, after thirty-six years of service, he began officiating full-time.

As an umpire, he has called many games featuring future major league baseball players

LaTroy Hawkins, Kenny Lofton, Lloyd McClendon and Ron Kittle, to name a few. Players and coaches alike have observed Phil's enjoyment, pride, and passion for officiating. Consequently, he is highly respected for his dedication, knowledge, and the fairness he brings to the game.

In addition to umpiring, Phil volunteered at the College Football Hall of Fame at its previous location in South Bend, Indiana, where he enjoyed greeting visitors and assisting with assembling exhibits and displays. An avid sports enthusiast, Phil is a devoted fan of the Chicago Cubs, Bears, and Blackhawks and spends the offseason rooting for and attending Notre Dame football games.

I must also add that I have known this wonderful gentleman since we started first grade together at Saint Mark's Grade School in Gary, Indiana. I have been blessed by his friendship my entire life and consider him a most generous soul who has served the youth of our state his entire life. His is a life we should all seek to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of our fellow colleagues to join me in commending Phil "Hambone" Hamilton for his 50 dedicated years of serving the youth of his community. I applaud his distinguished officiating career and passion for the game, and I am pleased to honor him today.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SKANEATELES GIRLS VARSITY ICE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victory of the Skaneateles Girls Varsity Ice Hockey Team in the 2017 New York State Public High School Athletic Association Championship on February 11, 2017. The Skaneateles Lakers defeated Orchard Park by a score of 5–1 for their second state title.

The Lakers, who never trailed a game and had nine shutouts, finished out a perfect season with a 19–0 record. They scored 109 goals this past season, while only getting scored on 13 times. Members of the undefeated state championship team include Sophie Kush, Alison Weiss, Maria McLean, Johna Halko, Lauren Jones, Kat Lindgren, Katie Halko, Emily Cox, Grace Schnorr, Abby Kuhns, Cecily Kawejnsza, Katrina Harter, Anne Rubel, Megan Teachout, Heather Tanzella, Jessica Smith, Sophia Burns, Ioanna Christou, Grace Kush, Campbell Torrey, and Caroline Corbett. The team is coached by Andy Rozak.

Not only did the Lakers play hard this season, but they studied hard as well. The Lakers were also a New York State Scholar Athlete team due to their academic accomplishments.

I am honored to recognize the teamwork displayed by the Skaneateles Lakers and to congratulate the members of the team, their families, the coaching staff, and teachers at Skaneateles High School. This is a historic win for Central New York and I am confident that the positive experiences from the 2017 season will yield continued success in both athletics and academics.

IN APPRECIATION OF JAMES LIEBERMAN'S CAREER AT U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION AGENCY

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fine constituent and public servant, James Lieberman. After thirty years, Mr. Lieberman will be retiring from a prolific and significant career at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency.

Between 1985 and 2005, Mr. Lieberman's career blossomed as a U.S. Customs Service Contract Specialist. During this period, he served as a Procuring and Administrative Contracting Officer on many of the highest-visibility, highest-priority and highest-impact acquisitions within the agency. From 2005 to 2007, Mr. Lieberman was asked to serve as Chief of the Business Management Branch of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency supervising contracting professionals who provided acquisition services to support the Offices of the Commissioner, Chief Counsel, International Trade, Internal Affairs, Congressional Affairs, Public Affairs, Finance, Training and Development, and Human Resources. Between 2007 and 2012 James served as the Director of the Border Patrol Contracting Division. His division was responsible for acquiring all supplies, equipment and services for Office of Border Patrol. After an exemplary demonstration of skill, Mr. Lieberman was asked to serve as the Director of the Border Enforcement Contracting Division from 2012 to 2017. His career crescendoed during his time as the Acting Executive Director, Procurement Directorate, from 2016 to 2017. His department is comprised of seven divisions authorized for 166 full-time employees.

We appreciate Mr. Lieberman's profound commitment to public service and honor his long and successful career.

HONORING DR. THOMAS E. STARZL

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Thomas E. Starzl of Les Mars, Iowa. A pioneer in the world of science and medicine, Dr. Thomas E. Starzl will forever be remembered as an extraordinary member of our community. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Starzl revolutionized medicine by successfully performing the first ever human liver transplant. Dr. Starzl's work saved thousands of lives, and he became known as "the father of transplantation." On March 4, 2017, Starzl passed away peacefully at his home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Thomas Starzl was born in Les Mars, Iowa to a family of first generation Americans. As an undergraduate, Dr. Starzl attended Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri and eventually went on to complete an M.D. and Ph.D. in neuroscience at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Starzl would spend a majority of his early ca-

reer working at the University of Iowa and the University of Colorado until his move to University of Pittsburgh, where he remained until his retirement. In 2006, President George W. Bush awarded Dr. Starzl the National Medal of Science for his pioneering work in transplantation. He has also received awards from the National Institute of Medicine, the American Liver Foundation, the National Kidney Foundation, and the American Medical Foundation, among others.

Dr. Starzl was considered a "force of nature" to those who knew and loved him. One of his former students remarked that he came to recognize Dr. Starzl's "work ethic and pragmatism as characteristics in many of my patients and think that his salt-of-the-earth values must have been instilled at an early age." I and other Iowans are proud to call Dr. Starzl one of our own.

BERNADETTE GRAY-LITTLE

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bernadette Gray-Little for her unwavering leadership and service as the 17th Chancellor of the University of Kansas. As her tenure comes to an end and we reflect on her eight years as Chancellor, we celebrate the work Bernadette Gray-Little has done to positively impact the university, the state of Kansas, and beyond.

Chancellor Gray-Little has championed initiatives for the University such as the implementation of new admissions standards, prioritizing retention and graduation rates, and succeeding at growing the freshman class for five consecutive years. She has overseen the physical transformation of KU's campuses by securing support for new projects as well as major renovations for the university.

Additionally, she has demonstrated courage and compassion by leading university conversations on matters such as sexual assault, diversity and inclusion, campus safety, and the living and working environment on the university's campus.

When it comes to the state of Kansas, Chancellor Gray-Little has made her imprint through undertaking university efforts that would help in creating new jobs to spur economic growth, launching startup companies, developing corporate partnerships, licensing new technologies, and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among faculty, staff and students alike.

Chancellor Gray-Little demonstrated national leadership as a member of the board of directors of the Association of American Universities and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. As a member on these boards, she played an important role on the national level as a strong advocate for higher education and the importance of research funding. We can see her impact as she led the university to new heights in research funding that will benefit people around the globe.

As Chancellor of KU, Bernadette Gray-Little made history as the first female and first African-American Chancellor in the university's existence. Chancellor Gray-Little has led the University of Kansas with strength and humil-

ity. She truly has been an inspiration to students, staff, faculty, and colleagues throughout the state and our nation.

I extend my deepest appreciation to Bernadette Gray-Little for her service and commitment to the University of Kansas and I wish her all the best in the years ahead.

HONORING MR. ROGER SHALALA

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the esteemed career of Roger Shalala following 50 years of dedicated service to the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company in Elbridge, New York.

On December 6, 1966, Mr. Shalala joined the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company to serve his community. He served as the Department's President during 1968 and then maintained a 24 year tenure as Secretary, where he gained a wealth of knowledge of the Department's history and background. As such, Mr. Shalala has become known as the resident historian of the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company.

During his time serving the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company, Mr. Shalala's passion for serving his community has never faltered. He regularly volunteers at events to benefit the Department, including parades, fundraisers, pancake breakfasts, and chicken and biscuit dinners.

It is my honor to recognize Roger Shalala's 50 years of devoted service to our community.

IN HONOR OF JESSICA MARK'S RECEIPT OF THE YAVAPAI COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Ms. Jessica Marks of Yavapai, Arizona. Jessica is an accomplished and respected educator whose distinguished career has inspired countless young people in Arizona to follow their dreams. Currently, she teaches Language Arts to the students of Glassford Hill Middle School in Yavapai. Her inspiring service to the youth of our district is deserving of all of our admiration. It comes as no surprise that she is being recognized as the Yavapai County Teacher of the Year.

Jessica's career in education began in 2011, where she taught at Liberty Traditional School and later became a founding teacher at Prescott Valley's Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center. On account of her teaching excellence, 100 percent of her students passed AIMS testing. Jessica has prioritized community engagement, leadership skills and well-rounded character in her pedagogical approach. Outside of the classroom, she has served as an adviser to the student yearbook, the community service organization Panthers in Action, the National Junior Honor Society, and the school newspaper, amongst other extracurricular responsibilities. Jessica also