

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.