

Unions and represents approximately 25,000 members. The council has two divisions; the Council and Field Mobilization Department. Sheila was responsible for supervising six staff, running the day-to-day operation with oversight of all records and managing the financial operation that included a budget of approximately \$600,000 dollars. Further, under separate authority, the Milwaukee Area Labor Council houses The Labor Community @ Work a nonprofit, 501c3 charity organization that helps those in need. Some of the services provided under the auspices of The Labor Community @ Work include: operate food drives for Pathfinders, collect toiletries for the Health and Hygiene Drive for the Homeless, construction of "little libraries", cooks for the St. Ben's Community Meal grill out BBQ dinner, and provides funds for Laborfest and Wisconsin Election Protection. Sheila Cochran sits on the non-profit board The Labor Community @ Work as an at large member.

Sheila was hired at Delphi /Delco/E&S in 1979; she began her work in the labor movement while employed there in 1989, when she was elected as Recording Secretary of UAW, Local 438. In 1999, she was elected to the then Milwaukee County Labor Council. The Milwaukee Area Labor Council was formed in 2008 when it merged the Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Washington County Labor Councils.

Sheila has served on numerous boards, commissions, and councils over the years including: The Fair Lending Coalition, WTRP/ BIG STEP Board; Member Milwaukee Area Technical College Board of Directors, National Board of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Chair of Wisconsin Election Protection, and Elected Member United Way Board of Greater Milwaukee. In fact, she holds the position of the longest-serving member of the area United Way Board of Greater Milwaukee.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Sheila for over 25 years. She has provided invaluable counsel and advice over the years. I am so pleased to be able to join with friends and colleagues at her retirement dinner celebration on May 19, 2017, where she has asked that all the proceeds from the dinner are to be donated to The Labor Community @ Work. I wish her much success as she transitions into a different phase of her life. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sheila and I am proud to call her friend. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of her ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Sheila Cochran.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH AMENDMENT

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, May 5th marks the 25th Anniversary of the ratification of the Twenty-Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The Twenty-Seventh Amendment guarantees that the Members of Congress may not adjust their current salaries, and that any changes in pay

will not take effect until the next session of Congress. James Madison originally proposed this amendment in 1789. However, it would take 202 years for this amendment to be ratified by the states. Gregory Watson, a constituent of the 21st District of Texas, helped restart the push for ratification in 1982. Mr. Watson's involvement helped to ratify the amendment on May 5, 1992. This anniversary marks an important day for the nation and for Mr. Watson. His efforts exemplify superb civic duty and should inspire other to become active in our government. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing May 5th as the Anniversary of the ratification of the 27th Amendment and Gregory Watson for the important role he played in its ratification.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday May 2, 2017, I was unable to vote on roll call No. 244: Final Passage of H.R. 1180 "Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT FALLS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 75th Anniversary of the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department in Great Falls, Virginia. Established in 1942 and originally named the Forestville Volunteer Fire Department, the Department formed as an auxiliary to the McLean Fire Department to enhance Virginia's domestic readiness during World War II. The original membership of 29 volunteer firefighters has doubled, and the department now includes paid ranks, operational members, and administrative members, and today is a fixture of the Great Falls community.

Through exemplary leadership, community support, and working in coordination with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department has experienced immense growth since its inception in 1942. Originally, the Department only had a small barn, a single 1942 Chevrolet truck with a 500 gallon tank, and 29 volunteer members. But over the years the department expanded, and in 1961 the department moved to its current location to accommodate the additional firefighters and the overnight staff. After recent renovations, the department reopened their current station in 2011, and this state of the art facility is certified as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold building for its use of green technologies, making it the first of its kind among Fairfax County Government Buildings. The once one-truck department now has five emergency vehicles and was the first Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Station to have four-wheel

drive ambulances. And today there are 22 career firefighters on duty 24/7, and 40 volunteer members, serving in both operational and administrative roles.

In addition to their efforts to keep our community safe, the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department provides support at community events all over Fairfax County, including parades, festivals, and fundraisers, and throughout the years, the Great Falls community and its leaders have offered continuous assistance to the Department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department for their years of selfless service and heroism and to again congratulate them on this historic milestone. I would like to personally express my gratitude to the men and women who selflessly put themselves in dangerous positions on behalf of their neighbors, friends, and community, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. STEVENSON'S 3RD GRADE CLASS

HON. DAVID A. TROTT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bright young artists in Mrs. Stevenson's 3rd grade class at Deerfield Elementary in Novi, Michigan.

I know that artists get their start long before high school and college, learning to expand their imagination and foster their creativity in classrooms just like Mrs. Stevenson's.

In an effort to highlight young artists from across Michigan's 11th Congressional District, this year, I announced the 1st Annual "Color my Capitol" Program.

Brimming with talent, Mrs. Stevenson's students were eager to showcase their amazing artistic skills and take part in this one-of-a-kind program.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Stevenson's 3rd graders did not disappoint. Their creations are unique, innovative, and imaginative. Their colorful artwork embodies our country's bright and promising future with these sharp young minds leading the way.

It is my utmost honor to have their artwork displayed in my Congressional district office in Troy, Michigan for everyone who visits to enjoy. Each and every time I walk into my office, I am reminded of their talent.

Congratulations to Mrs. Stevenson and the young artists she has the pleasure of teaching.

HONORING SEAN MACKIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a businessman, a humanitarian, an advocate for Irish American Causes, but most importantly, a dear friend. I have known Sean Mackin for many years and I cherish the friendship he and I have forged over that time. I am honored to be able to recognize his many accomplishments.

Born in Belfast, County Antrim, Sean joined the Irish republican movement at age 11. He was arrested and imprisoned several times by British security forces, starting at age 12, but was never found guilty. In 1978, Amnesty International cited Sean's cause as one of the five most serious cases of torture in Northern Ireland. Following his release from prison, he met and married Philomena Devine, and the two immigrated to New York in 1983. Shortly after relocating, Sean was detained at the behest of the British government. As a Member of Congress, I heard about Sean's case, and knew that if he were to be deported his life would be at grave risk. I decided to get involved on Sean's behalf, and we soon became fast friends. After our prolonged and hard fought legal battle, the Mackin family won a landmark decision. His wife and daughter became the first Irish women to be granted political asylum in the United States, and Sean's deportation order was denied as he would go on to become an American citizen. He has been very involved in the Irish peace process and has worked with elected officials in Washington D.C. promoting peace and justice in Northern Ireland.

Sean is also a cofounder and chairman of the New York Irish Center known for its outstanding services to the senior Irish generation and suicide prevention assistance for the Irish community. In 2014, Sean was honored by the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform for his work on behalf of undocumented Irish.

Of course, Sean's true love is his family. He and Philomena have three children, Jennifer, Sean Og and Ciaran, and four grandchildren, Gavin, Tyan, Ella and Pierce. They all live in Eastchester, NY.

This year, Sean will serve as Grand Marshal for the EIASC's 13th Annual Eastchester St. Patrick's Day Parade. I cannot think of a more fitting Grand Marshal. Congratulations to my friend Sean Mackin on receiving this wonderful honor.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AMEDEO
"ARMIE" MEROLLA

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of General Amedeo "Armie" Merolla—a dedicated patriot, a passionate legal mind, a community leader in Rhode Island, and someone who I was proud to call a dear friend.

Armie Merolla was a man of service in every aspect of his life. He spent much of his time giving back to his community, serving his state and his country with distinction.

Armie's time in uniform began when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps while still a student at Brown University. After graduating in 1951, he enlisted in the Rhode Island Army National Guard (RIARNG) and received a direct commission as a First Lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General Corps. His long and distinguished military career included posts in the Military Police, JAG, Field Artillery, and Military Intelligence, during which he earned numerous decorations, such as the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Rhode Island Cross for Valor. Among

his commissions with RIARNG, he served as State Inspector General, State Staff Judge Advocate, Brigadier General, and Assistant Adjutant General and Deputy Commanding General—Army. In his retirement, he was appointed as Commander of the Rhode Island State Defense Force and attained the honorary rank of Major General in the Rhode Island Militia.

As an attorney, Armie experienced great success and took on many roles after receiving his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1954. At the time of his passing, he was a senior managing partner at Merolla, Accetturo & Lough, where he practiced alongside two of his children, Katherine and Steven. He served as Judge Advocate General and Assistant Providence City Solicitor, and contributed his legal expertise to the Rhode Island Secretary of State, the Rhode Island Public Buildings Authority, and the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Administration. The Rhode Island Supreme Court appointed him to the Alternating Dispute Resolution Task Force, the Rules of Evidence Committee, the Committee for Admission to the Bar, and the Committee on Clerkships. Armie also held leadership positions in several legal associations, including the Rhode Island Trial Lawyers Association.

In his community, Armie demonstrated an even deeper commitment to others. He was a Chairman of the Warwick School Committee, Chairman of the Warwick Bicentennial Committee, President of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Warwick, trustee of his church, president of the alumni association of his class at Brown, Commodore and Perpetual Member of the East Greenwich Yacht Club, and Co-Founder of Warwick Figure Skaters. He also held leadership positions in local chapters of the United Way, the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Charities Fund, and John F. Kennedy's 1960 presidential campaign.

Armie devoted himself to a large and loving family, and is survived by his wife, Norma, his brother, John, his four children, Katherine, Julie, Sandra, and Steven, nine grandchildren, four nieces, one nephew, and seven grandnieces and grandnephews.

It is an honor to remember Armie on the Floor today, just as it was to consider him a trusted friend and advisor. He made a difference, and he will truly be missed.

REMEMBERING STAFF SERGEANT
CHRISTOPHER W. SWANSON

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a very special event taking place next week in my district.

Maryland's Fifth District lost a number of brave and extraordinary military personnel since 2001 in Iraq and Afghanistan or in support of our operations there. One of them was U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Christopher W. Swanson of Rose Haven, in Anne Arundel County, who fell in action on July 22, 2006, in Iraq's Anbar Province. Staff Sergeant Swanson gave his life to save his fellow soldiers when insurgents ambushed their patrol. He had been serving there with the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division.

On Friday, May 12, family, friends, neighbors, and state and local officials will gather in Edgewater, Maryland, to rededicate the South River Bridge in Staff Sergeant Swanson's memory, a moving tribute to a young man from our area who lived by the highest ideals of our country and made the ultimate sacrifice under our nation's flag. His parents, Kelly and Gary Swanson, and his brother Kenny and his family, will be on hand to witness the renaming of the four-lane bridge, which connects southern Anne Arundel County with the state capital of Annapolis across the South River—a major thoroughfare serving commuters and commerce in the area. While so many in Rose Haven and its surrounding communities have known for years about what Staff Sergeant Swanson did for our country, now thousands of Marylanders will pass by the sign each day bearing his name and noting his extraordinary service and sacrifice. I hope they will take a moment each time to remember him and all those who were killed in action wearing our nation's uniform.

Staff Sergeant Swanson was proud of his roots in Southern Maryland. He graduated from Southern High School in 1999, where he had been captain of its soccer team, and enlisted that summer in the U.S. Army. It just made sense to him to serve, particularly given that both of his parents worked in law enforcement. Throughout his youth, he had often volunteered with the First Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro to go on service missions to Florida, Ohio, and West Virginia to help communities in need. At school, he gave his time to help out in the administrative office, and his teachers and peers alike saw him as a natural leader. It surprised no one at all that Staff Sergeant Swanson was on his third tour of duty in Iraq when, after being injured by an improvised explosive device, he insisted on going back into combat with his fellow soldiers instead of taking medical leave. As soon as his wound was stitched and he was given permission, he was right back with his unit, on the front lines.

It was less than two weeks later that Staff Sergeant Swanson was killed in action. He had served with distinction in Kosovo as an Army paratrooper and was later among those who participated in the initial stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Now, he rests among heroes in Arlington National Cemetery. His parents and brother launched a service organization in his memory, the SSG Christopher W. Swanson Support Charity for Veterans and their Families, which, among other projects, funds scholarships for the children of local fallen, wounded, or active duty soldiers to attend summer camp.

I hope my colleagues will join me in remembering Staff Sergeant Christopher W. Swanson, in thanking his Gold Star family for their sacrifice and charity work in tribute to him, and in paying tribute to all those from Maryland and across the country who gave their lives in service to our nation.

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