

North America, which celebrates its 40th anniversary on October 21, 2017.

As a member of the Polish Highlanders Alliance, the lodge aims to organize Polish Highlanders in the Chicago area into a cohesive family. In addition to providing a meeting place for Highlanders across the Chicago area, the lodge cultivates Polish Highlander arts, customs, and traditions. The members also provide material assistance to the church and two schools in the village of Maruszyna in Poland.

The lodge, located at 4808 S. Archer Avenue, is an important pillar of the community on the Southwest Side of Chicago. Polish Highlanders come from all across the region for celebrations at Maruszyna Kolo. On the first weekend of August every year, the lodge hosts a picnic on the same day that the village of Maruszyna hosts a fair celebrating its annual parish holiday. The picnic is attended by over 400 guests annually. The lodge also hosts a celebration during the second week of January where members share Christmas wafers and mark the end of Christmas celebrations by wishing one another well for the New Year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing all that Maruszyna Kolo No. 35 does to bring together Polish Highlanders in the Chicago area and to support Poland. The lodge's dedication to community is admirable and I wish them the best as they continue their traditions and service for generations to come. One hundred years (Sto lat).

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WSRE

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of WSRE. WSRE-TV is viewer supported Public Broadcasting Station for the Gulf Coast. On September 11, 1967, WSRE began its over-the-air broadcast television station on UHF Channel 123 and today broadcasts four digital channels.

WSRE was an early pioneer producing national, quality programing beginning with Earl Peyroux's Gourmet Cooking to its most recent documentary *They Were Our Fathers*.

WSRE is licensed to the District Board of Trustees of Pensacola State College. Its 43,000 square foot facility includes three studios that are used to produce local programming. The facility houses a full-time staff, as well as volunteers who contribute thousands of hours of service on a regular basis.

The mission of WSRE is to open doors to a larger world with quality programming and educational outreach services for every person on the Gulf Coast who desires to be more educated, informed and entertained. WSRE helps people make informed decisions with a better understanding of the community and world in which they live. As a community-supported, outreach service of Pensacola State College, WSRE brings forth culture and ideas that enhance the quality of life and promote the joy of discovery and learning.

The vision of WSRE is to positively influence the daily lives of all on the Gulf Coast through broadcast programming and educational outreach services that encourage us

to engage more deeply in the world around us.

WSRE has always and continues to demonstrate an exceptional dedication to education and learning.

From the very start, WSRE has partnered with local school districts to provide educational resources that enhance learning in the classroom. Through community partnerships WSRE enriches the efforts of Pensacola in becoming "America's First Early Learning City" and launched the 24/7 WSRE PBS KIDS channel and mobile app. By utilizing the latest digital technology, the Imagination Station at Wahoo Stadium, provides exposure for thousands of children and guardians each year to the resources and value of early learning.

Television reaches a large number of persons from all walks of life and WSRE keeps the community connected through its various local and national programs. WSRE's commitment to the surrounding communities has proven to be deeply valuable and has endured throughout the decades.

By operating as a public television station, WSRE also encourages an informed electorate by producing RALLY candidate forums and Legislative Review to connect the community with lawmakers since the 1970s while also broadcasting The Florida Channel.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all who have served in any capacity with WSRE throughout its 50 years. WSRE has been and will continue to be a steadfast and invaluable contributor to the enhancement and growth of our community and to all who have benefited from its services.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate WSRE on 50 years of providing quality programming and educational outreach services to Northwest Florida.

HONORING MAYOR BARBARA SHARIEF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to recognize my good friend, The Honorable Barbara Sharief of Miramar, Florida, on her successful tenure as mayor of Broward County.

Mayor Sharief is the first African American woman, as well as the first Muslim, to serve as Broward County mayor. She was first elected to the nine-member County Commission in 2010, was elected mayor by her fellow commissioners in November 2013, and was re-elected in 2015. As mayor, she oversees Broward County's \$4.3 billion operating budget, which operates the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, Port Everglades, and a variety of regional services, such as parks, libraries, public works, and transit.

Mayor Sharief has focused her mayoralty on the theme of "Broward Means Business." Mayor Sharief understands that small business is the backbone of our economy and has steadfastly highlighted and promoted county programs to ensure they succeed and thrive. To that end, she has begun every commission meeting by recognizing the civic leadership of one business in Broward County.

As she concludes her second term, Mayor Sharief continues the county's tradition of hosting the Mayor's Gala to raise funds for the United Way's Mission United program, helping veterans transition from active duty to civilian life.

In addition to making Broward County a better place for all business, Mayor Sharief manages her own business, South Florida Pediatric Home Care Inc., which she built from the ground up. She holds both a Master of Science in Nursing and an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner degree from Florida International University, and is pursuing a Doctorate of Nursing Practice. In addition to her role as mayor, businessowner, and student, she is also the mother of five children—Amanda, Zach, Alyssa, Meia, and Hailey.

Mayor Sharief is an extraordinary public servant whom I am proud to have worked alongside for the betterment of the residents of Broward County. I thank her for her dedicated service, and I wish her much success in all her future endeavors.

HONORING NICK LARIGAKIS FOR HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE STRENGTHENING U.S.-GREECE RELATIONS THROUGH HIS WORK AT THE AMERICAN HELLENIC IN- STITUTE (AHI)

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the extensive and unique contributions that my friend, Nick Larigakis, has made in strengthening the strategic alliance between the United States and Greece throughout his impressive 30-year tenure at the American Hellenic Institute. The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) is a non-profit Greek American public policy center which Mr. Larigakis has led with his renowned passion for justice and the rule of law. He manages the day-to-day operations of AHI and its affiliated organizations. He is directly responsible for strategic planning, policy analysis, public affairs, government relations, financial development and communications—essentially a one man show.

During his many years of distinguished service, Mr. Larigakis has hosted 70 successful legislative conferences and two trade conferences. He has also hosted multiple Congressional fact-finding trips to Greece and Cyprus, and led nine summits on the Future of Hellenism in America. Through his tireless advocacy and unwavering commitment to Hellenic causes he has molded AHI into a premier organization that regularly makes meaningful contributions in the public policy arena. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Affairs, as well as Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic Israel Alliance, I, along with my colleagues have especially benefitted from Nick's counsel and from the support of AHI in fostering mutually beneficial relations between the United States, Cyprus and Greece. His effective and respected political advocacy work has educated and informed the U.S. Congress about the protection and promotion of Hellenic-American interests. Furthermore, his efforts have helped