

Voni became one of the most recognizable and influential citizens in York's history—a testament to his strength, character and faith.

Voni was one of the most uplifting, positive and life affirming people you'd ever have the privilege to meet. His infectious smile and his ever-present harmonica brought joy and inspiration to countless people.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I offer my prayers and God's blessings to the family, friends and admirers of Mr. Voni B. Grimes. Godspeed Voni—we're all better people for having known him.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAN JUDGE,
FORMER PRESIDENT OF WILDCAT
SKI AREA

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stan Judge for his decades of service to Wildcat ski area and skiing across New England.

In 2007 Stan was presented the Sherman Adams award, which is given to a person from an Eastern ski area who has significantly influenced the ski industry. This award, named after former New Hampshire governor and Loon ski area founder Sherman Adams, recognizes Stan's lifelong commitment to Wildcat and the ski industry at large. Stan also played a vital role in developing the American Standards Association Tramway Safety Code, and his leadership here brought standardized safety codes for all ski areas to use. This year as Wildcat Ski Area celebrates its sixtieth year in operation, I wanted to take the time to thank Stan for all of his work making Wildcat a safe and family-friendly place for winter recreation.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and all those who have benefited from Stan's work, I thank him for all his passion and dedication, and I wish him the best of luck in his next step.

HONORING LIVES LOST IN
AZERBAIJAN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives lost in January 1990 when interethnic violence broke out in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Dozens of people died. The flailing Soviet government ultimately sent troops into the city, killing more than a hundred people. Less than two years later, Azerbaijan would declare its independence, then the Soviet Union fell in December of 1991.

Sadly, independence would not bring peace in former Soviet Republics. Violence and war broke out in Eastern Europe. Men and women died alongside soldiers in places like Khojaly. But when the dust settled, democracy emerged victorious in many countries.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must not forget the cost of freedom. Across the planet, countless people died in fights for freedom. The men

and women who died in post-Soviet wars should be memorialized. They paid the ultimate price for peace.

As we enter a new era when it seems as if democracy is on the slide, the United States Congress must stand for freedom here at home and everywhere across our planet. The people who died in Azerbaijan, in Armenia, in the Balkans, and throughout the region should be honored and memorialized. Let us not forget that peace is preferable to war.

HONORING SANTO ANTHONY
SERGE OF RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I lift up the legacy of Mr. Santo Anthony Serge of Richland Township and join his friends and family in celebrating his life.

Mr. Serge was born in Carbondale, Pennsylvania and graduated Carbondale High School in 1940. Shortly after, he was drafted by the Boston Red Sox minor league baseball system, but was discouraged from carrying out his dream due to his mother's wishes that he "get a real job."

With the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Serge joined General Patton's Third Army, the 86th Black Hawk Division. He went on to serve as a Sergeant under Generals Patton, MacArthur and Bradley in both the European and Pacific theaters, and completed his service in 1946. Upon his return home, Mr. Serge enlisted as a Pennsylvania State Trooper and was stationed at the Butler, Quakertown, and Bethlehem Barracks. He finished his career as a detective in 1980 after more than three decades of service to his community.

His family notes that he had a natural athleticism, participating in softball and bowling leagues throughout his adult life. He enjoyed watching his children participate in sports and music during their school years, and many hours were spent in his vegetable garden surrounded by beautiful roses that he looked forward to cultivating each summer. Most of all, he shared a love of music with his wife and children.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife of 67 years, Althea, their children, Larry (Leslie, wife) Serge of Quakertown, Dennis Serge of Philadelphia, Diane Felicetti (Paul, husband) of Boyertown, and Anita Serge of Pennsylvania; their two grandchildren, Tony Serge of Quakertown and Nikki Mayette (Andrew, husband) of Sellersville; and step-grandchildren, Paul J. Felicetti of Bensalem and Nicole Felicetti of Philadelphia, Pa.

HONORING JOSEPH R. O'BRIEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I today say goodbye to a dear friend, Joseph R. "Joe" O'Brien, who passed away on February 7th, 2018 at the age of 79. Joe served as my Director of Public Affairs for

many years, and in that time, I came to know him as a warm, caring human being with a razor-sharp wit and tremendous sense of humor. I am going to miss him dearly.

A longtime resident of the Bronx, Joe was a newsman who later served as Deputy Press Secretary to Mayor Edward Koch from 1979 to 1985. For the next 11 years, he continued directing public relations for city and state government with the Special Services for Children agency of the Human Resources Administration, the city Department of Transportation, and the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority. He also served as Deputy Press Secretary for Yonkers Mayor Terrance Zaleski for two years before joining my office in May of 1996, where he worked until his retirement in 2013. Later he joined Bronx Community Board 8, where he served until September 2017.

Born May 26, 1938, Joe was the youngest of four children of Irish immigrants, Thomas and Margaret O'Brien (nee Coffey), and grew up in the Inwood section of upper Manhattan. He served in the Army Reserve and graduated from New York University in 1966. He worked for several newspapers in New Jersey and upstate New York. In 1967, he joined the United Press International wire service in New York as a reporter on the Local desk, and then as an editor on the International and General desks. Joe married New York Daily News reporter Cass Vanzi in 1975. The couple had two children together whom he is survived by; his daughter, Casey O'Brien Schwarz and son Scott O'Brien. Joe is also survived by his three beautiful grandchildren, Kaleb and Kaia O'Brien, and Leopold (O'Brien) Schwarz, and his brother Kenneth O'Brien of Crestwood, NY.

Everyone, who ever met Joe knew he was one of a kind. Though he was a tremendously talented writer and gifted communicator, it was his wonderful personality that really shined brightest. Nobody could light up the room with a joke or quick comment like Joe. My condolences go out to the entire O'Brien family. Joe will be greatly missed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R.
1892, HONORING HOMETOWN HEROES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I will vote no on H. Res. 727 because of my strong objections to the Republican majority's refusal to do Congress' work on time and their rejection of regular order for debate on critical national priorities.

H. Res. 727 makes in order H.R. 1892. This bill is entitled the Honoring Hometown Heroes Act, but in its current form this legislation has nothing to do with recognizing our first responders. I voted along with 410 of my colleagues for the original version of H.R. 1892 when it passed the House of Representatives on May 18, 2017. In fact, the version of H.R. 1892 the House will consider under H. Res. 727 denies our first responders the certainty they deserve by providing them just 43 days of federal funding.

Discord and delay is no way to run our government. Instead of playing political games, it is time that Republicans join Democrats to reach a bipartisan budget agreement that keeps our government open, protects our national security, and meets our commitments to hardworking families.

HONORING ANDREW J. NICKS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Andrew J. Nicks upon the occasion of being named Napa and Solano County Medical Society's Physician of the Year. Dr. Nicks is a renowned radiologist who has dedicated his life to the study of medicine and community service.

Dr. Andrew J. Nicks grew up in the state of Wisconsin where he attended the University of Wisconsin and received a bachelor's degree in zoology. He then graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin and began an internship at the Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he met his wife, Nancy. There he began an impressive medical career in the military, serving as a U.S. Navy flight surgeon, a medical resident and later Chief of Diagnostic Radiology at Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco, California.

After retiring from the military, Dr. Nicks was Chief of Radiology at the Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, California. He introduced several technologies that increased the quality of care, including CT, MRI, Nuclear Cardiac Scans, Radiation Oncology, and other forms of digital imaging. He also sat on the Board of Trustees and chaired several committees.

Throughout his career, Dr. Nicks has been repeatedly recognized for his outstanding work in the medical field. He was named as a Fellow of the American College of Radiology, an honor that is given to only 10 percent of radiologists based on service to profession, teaching and the community. He served as the President of the Radiology Medical Group and co-founded Radiation Oncology Centers throughout Northern California. His commitment to service extends beyond hospital walls. He served on the Boards of Directors of the Napa Valley Country Club, Collabria Hospice and Adult Day Care, Vintage Bank and Napa Valley Bancorp.

Dr. Nicks believes in the importance of dedication and diligence. His consistent application of these principles throughout his life, accompanied by his quick wit, sense of humor, loyalty, high level of professionalism and exemplary leadership has resulted in nearly 50 years of professional excellence.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Andrew J. Nicks is well deserving of the honor of Physician of the Year.

It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

AVIATION SAFETY IN THE CROSS-STRAIT BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention that China's civil aviation authority unilaterally announced on January 4, 2018 that it would activate four air routes along its southeast coast near the midline between Taiwan and China without prior consultation with the Taiwanese authorities. These routes, which are critically close to the median line of the Taiwan Strait, are very likely to endanger aviation safety and security and to interfere with flight services in the Taipei Flight Information Region.

This unilateral move by China without any prior consultation with the Taiwanese government is an irresponsible act that not only seriously affects aviation safety but is also a violation of longstanding cross-strait status quo. Moreover, with this irresponsible act, the potential of military crisis could emerge in the Taiwan Strait, becoming a major threat to the peace and security of the East Asia region.

As ensuring aviation safety and maintaining peace and stability in the region remain the common concern of all relevant parties, I urge my colleagues and the House as a body to exhort China to give priority to restoring negotiations with Taiwan on the flight paths as soon as possible. The safety, security and stability of the region are at stake and the United States shall not turn a blind eye against Chinese coercion.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH ELMA CUMMINGS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Ruth Elma Cummings, mother of our colleague, Congressman Elijah Cummings, who passed on Monday, February 5th in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mrs. Cummings was born on July 7, 1926 in Manning, South Carolina, in the Sixth Congressional District, to the late Willie Cochran and Gussie Johnson Cochran. She was one of seventeen children.

She was educated in the public schools of Clarendon County, South Carolina. She and Robert Cummings were married on June 23, 1945. After the birth of their first child, Robert

Cummings, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Cummings made the decision to follow other family members and move to Baltimore in search of a better life for their growing family. There, they were blessed with six additional children, Cherethia "Retha," Elijah, James, Diane, Carnel, and Yvonne.

In Baltimore, both Robert and Ruth were called to the ministry and led worship services, prayer meetings and "Second Sunday" family dinners. Their church created a food pantry, clothing drives, a prison ministry and a nursing home ministry. Robert passed away in 2000, and the church established the Elder Robert Cummings Sr. Scholarship Fund at Victory Prayer Chapel, which has allowed a number of church youth to attend and earn their college degrees, including one with a PhD.

The personification of the life and legacy of Mrs. Ruth Elma Cummings is encapsulated in the fourth chapter of II Timothy, verses seven and eight, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day . . ."

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Cummings was beloved by her extended family, many of whom still reside in the Sixth Congressional District of South Carolina which I proudly represent in this august body. I ask the House to join me in celebrating this life well lived.

WISHING SUCCESS OF THE 2018 PYEONGCHANG WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, from February 9–25, 2018, the 23rd Winter Olympic Games will be held in PyeongChang of the Republic of Korea. The motto for these Games is, "Passion. Connected.", which is expected to be a new horizon for Asian winter sports as a compact Olympic team. The Games will be held roughly thirty miles south of the demilitarized zone, which separates North and South Korea. Due to a number of recent nuclear missile tests by the Kim regime, tensions on the Korean Peninsula are very high. However, the PyeongChang Winter Olympics could be a first step towards a solution to relax these tensions. It is encouraging that delegations from the two Koreas will march together under a single flag and athletes will compete as a single team in some events at the Winter Games. I hope this step forward will result in positive momentum toward achieving peace and prosperity on the peninsula. I wish the Republic of Korea all the best in hosting the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games.