

HONORING WILLIAM H.
ROBERTSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 2, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a symbol of American integrity in our community, William H. Robertson. Mr. Robertson celebrated his 90th birthday on Saturday, March 10, 2018.

Bill Robertson was born to Henry and Mae Robertson on February 29, 1928, in Bronx, New York. He grew up in Edgewater Park in the Bronx, and attended P.S. 72 Elementary School and Evander Childs High School.

After graduation from high school in 1946, Bill followed in his father's footsteps and joined the electrician's union, the IBEW, Local 3. He was deeply involved in community service, including social and athletic events sponsored by the Edgewater Athletic Association. Bill was also an organizer of the annual Edgewater Labor Day festivities, a unifying event for the Bronx.

Answering a call to duty, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1950. After completing his Basic Training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, he returned home on leave, and married his long-time sweetheart, Helen. Bill was deployed to serve in the Korean conflict as a member of the 7th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. He served proudly in difficult combat engagements, and was wounded in July, 1951, though he returned to the battlefield for the duration of his enlistment. Bill was awarded the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal. He was given his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on June 26, 1952. Bill's love of country never wavered, and to this day, he is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In 1963, the Robertsons moved to Crestwood, Yonkers, where Bill found new ways to contribute. He was an active member of the Annunciation Parish and the Hillcrest Lakers Community Club. He taught, coached, and helped run a men's softball league, and was president of a bowling league in the Bronx.

In 2009 Bill and Helen moved north to Yorktown Heights, New York. He is now enjoying retirement with his wife of 67 years, and his wonderful family, including his 10 grandchildren.

Bill is an inspiration to us all and it is my honor to recognize him. Congratulations to him, and I want to wish him a very happy birthday.

HONORING BETSY BERNSTEIN

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Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge a pillar of the Westchester Jewish Council community who has been instrumental in WJC's success now for many years, Betsy Bernstein.

Betsy's involvement with WJC began when her husband, Julian, took some time out of his day to get involved in the community. Fol-

lowing Julian's tragic passing in 2005, Betsy joined the WJC Board. Betsy co-chairs and works annually with her sons Michael and David to coordinate the Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards, honoring member organizations and their dedicated leaders who have enriched our Westchester community.

Betsy is a founding committee member of the Council's Leadership Development Institute, and has served on numerous other Council committees over the years. Betsy and her husband, Keith Satter, are members of both the Jewish Community Center in Harrison and Congregation Beth El in Norwalk, CT. Betsy has served as a JCCH trustee and Keith currently serves as JCCH President.

Outside of her WJC commitments, Betsy founded the Bernstein Research Group which provides marketing research and consulting services to help companies identify ways to make products and services better fit users' needs. She earned her MBA from the distinguished Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from Goucher College in Towson, MD.

This year, WJC is honoring Betsy at their 42nd Anniversary Gala for all of her incredible work to make the WJC community stronger. They could not have picked a more deserving honoree. Congratulations to Betsy on receiving the wonderful recognition, and I thank her for all her hard work.

HONORING ANNE ANDERSON

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Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have the pleasure of meeting many different Ambassadors from across the globe, and today I would like to recognize one who is being honored this week in Yonkers.

Anne Anderson, the 17th Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, was born in Clonmel, County Tipperary in July 1952. She graduated from University College Dublin with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and from King's Inns, where she earned a Diploma in Legal Studies. Anne joined the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in 1972. She was Third Secretary and then First Secretary in the Department's Economic Division from 1972 to 1976. Later, Anne moved to Geneva where she was First Secretary of Ireland's Permanent Mission to the United Nations from 1976 to 1980, including a six-month assignment in Belgrade. She was also First Secretary of the Political Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs from 1980 to 1983.

In 1985, Anne was appointed Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, where she served till 2001. While there, she was named as chair of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights from 1999 to 2000, the fourth woman to earn the honor. She moved on to Brussels to act as Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union from 2001 to 2005, where she was named Diplomat of the Year by European Voice. Anne was then named Ireland's Ambassador to France from July 2005 to 2009, then moved from Paris to New York City when

she became Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations from September 2009 to 2013. Anne was appointed as the first female Ambassador of Ireland to the United States by the Irish Government.

Anne has had a remarkable career, and this year is being honored at the Annual Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade Dinner Dance. She is most deserving of this wonderful recognition and I want to congratulate her on receiving this honor.

HONORING LOUIS A. PICANI

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Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true community servant, a long-time pillar of labor organizations in my district, and a good friend, Louis A. Picani. This year, Lou is being honored with the MPAC Trailblazer award by MPAC at their Third Annual Gala and I too would like to honor him on the occasion.

Louis A. Picani has been a dedicated Union member since he joined Teamsters Local 456 over 30 years ago. Starting in 1992, he was appointed Shop Steward for the City of Yonkers Department of Public Work. Lou was elected as a Teamsters Local 456 Trustee and appointed as a Teamsters Local 456 Business Agent in 2005. Lou was also elected Grand Marshall for the annual City of Yonkers Columbus Day Parade, in recognition of honoring Italian-American Heritage.

In 2016, Lou was elected President and Principal Officer of Teamsters Local 456. He serves as Vice President of the Westchester Putnam Central Labor Body. For many years, Lou has been a member of Joint Council 16's New York Teamsters Political Action Committee. He is also a licensed drug and alcohol counselor. Lou has spent his entire career as a visionary, fighting for workers' rights, fair wages and benefits, workplace safety, and the right to organize.

Lou's history of Union involvement has been an inspiration and the breadth of the roles he has served is a testament to his personal commitment to helping others. MPAC could not have chosen more of a Trailblazer to honor than Lou, and I want to congratulate him on receiving this wonderful recognition.

HONORING MICHAEL KARNES

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Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize a key member of the Westchester Jewish Council community, Michael Karnes, who has been instrumental in WJC's growth for the last 26 years.

Michael joined the Board of WJC at the urging of a good friend in 1992. He has served as a board member, Secretary and most recently as Treasurer of the Council. Michael is a lifelong member of Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown, where he celebrated his Bar Mitzvah. Michael has gone on to become the