

In 1998, Mike became a partner at the prestigious accounting firm of Pattinson, Koskey, & Rath P.C. In a short three years, Mike was named Treasurer and equity owner in the firm. During that time, the firm voted to be renamed Pattison, Koskey, Howe and Bucci, CPAs, P.C. Under his leadership as Managing Shareholder, the firm amassed ten partners, eighteen CPAs, and six offices in the Hudson Valley.

Mike is also a dedicated and active member of his community who is always willing to lend a hand. He has served on several local boards including the Twin County Vikings, the Hudson Little League, and the Hudson Boys and Girls Club. Currently, Mike is a member of the Columbia County Sons and Daughters of Italy No. 659, serving as a trustee and was named its "Positive Image Award" recipient in 2005.

Mike's service to Columbia County is greatly appreciated, and I congratulate him for being honored as Person of the Year by the Columbia County Association in the City of New York.

CONGRATULATING PHILLIPS PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2018*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate PHILLIPS Programs for Children and Families on its 50th Anniversary. I also want to recognize the outstanding faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees for the extraordinary impact they have had on the education and lives of thousands of youth in the communities surrounding our Nation's Capital.

The growth of PHILLIPS Programs from their humble beginnings is astonishing. Years before the first federal laws were enacted to require all public schools to provide a free and appropriate education for all students regardless of disabilities, in 1967 PHILLIPS began in a two-bedroom bungalow in McLean teaching four students. The PHILLIPS Programs now include special education schools on four campuses, a vibrant home-based support program (Family Partners), and its newest career and technical education initiative, Career Partners, which launched in 2016. While all of these programs teach important job skills, they also teach employability skills (general skills in the areas of applied knowledge, effective relationships, and workplace skills) that are necessary for success in the labor market at all employment levels and in all sectors. In tandem with academic and technical skills, employability skills are crucial to career readiness.

At PHILLIPS Programs, the core of their philosophy and practice is the ethos that with the right support and commitment, all of its students will reach their full potential. PHILLIPS offers special education day school programs for students in elementary through high school in nationally acclaimed facilities for students for whom public or other specialized schools were not successful.

PHILLIPS serves a diverse group of youth from Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

The lives of the youth served by PHILLIPS have been affected by a variety of personal and neurodevelopmental circumstances, so PHILLIPS staff tailor their approach to each unique individual. PHILLIPS provides these youths a fresh start. They address each student's needs honestly with acceptance, respect, compassion, and a creative plan to make a better tomorrow. PHILLIPS focuses on the students' behavioral health needs, their emotional needs, communication needs, and beyond that their family and community needs. PHILLIPS builds a program around each child, rather than fitting that child into a particular program.

Mr. Speaker, for five decades PHILLIPS Programs have provided youth and families in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area with the opportunity to achieve their dreams through education, combined with a full menu of support services. PHILLIPS is continuing its tradition of support for youth with a focus on students transitioning from school to work through the expansion of career and technical education and workforce development, serving those others cannot. On behalf of the citizens of the 11th Congressional District, I congratulate each and every member of the PHILLIPS community on this momentous anniversary and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued success and growth.

PARK MANOR BEE CAVE AND GULF POINTE PLAZA RESIDENTS BAND TOGETHER

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, not far from the beach in Rockport, Texas, lies the Gulf Pointe Plaza, a community providing care for the elderly.

Their serene world was overturned when Hurricane Harvey bore down on the southeastern coast of Texas. Mobilizing quickly, the care center successfully evacuated all of the 90-plus residents and transported them to sister facilities, out of harm's way, before the storm hit. The fire departments of both Rockport and Travis County played a significant role in their successful evacuation.

Since September, the residents of Park Manor in Bee Cave have graciously played host to their displaced visitors, heartily welcoming them into their communities while the future of the facilities in Rockport remained up in the air. Current residents doubled up in rooms, and the staff converted the physical therapy room into a makeshift dormitory that slept 14 people.

The Rockport crew received support from well-wishers outside of Texas. Residents of the South Shore Care Center in Worthington, Minnesota, gathered together and painted signs with messages of support, including "Stay Strong Texas" and "God Bless You," that they mailed to Texas to bolster the spirits of the uprooted Gulf Coast residents.

Just recently, the Gulf Pointe Plaza residents and employees, who relocated with their patients, received the good news that renovations on their new facility have been completed and that they will soon return home. In addition to those returning from Bee Cave, the

facility will also take in new residents once it is reopened.

To celebrate their return to their original home, the residents and staff at Park Manor threw their visitors a Texas-themed goodbye party, complete with food, drinks, and, naturally, country music. While the folks from Rockport will be glad to return home, their farewell to their hosts was bittersweet. Despite the stress of being displaced from their home, they take fond memories from their eight months spent in Bee Cave with them.

Mr. Speaker, the generosity, support, and helping hand provided by the Rockport and Travis County Fire Departments, the South Shore Care Center, and of course the Park Manor in Bee Cave are yet another example of the tremendous benevolence shown to the victims of Hurricane Harvey, and they represent everything that is good about America. This is truly a country whose citizens will provide for each other in a time of need, even if it does mean going without a fitness area for eight months.

And that is just the way it is.

SHARING STUDENTS' 'MARCH FOR OUR LIVES' REMARKS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2018*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, I came to the Floor and spoke about the March For Our Lives on March 24 and the nine extraordinarily poised students in Morristown, New Jersey, who spoke at the rally there, which I attended. Because they were too long to insert into the RECORD together, I am submitting them individually. I hope my colleagues will read them and internalize the sense of fear in which our nation's students are living every day—and our responsibility as Members of Congress to do something to address this crisis of gun violence.

'MARCH FOR OUR LIVES' REMARKS

(By Bella Bhimani)

Hi, everyone. Before I begin, I would first like to thank everyone for coming today to support such an important cause. The overwhelming support we've received has made all the difference. And to everyone who donated, whether it be your time, money or even knitting hats, I cannot thank you enough. I would also like to thank both the mayor and the Morristown Police Department for all the help they have provided and doing everything possible to make this march happen. We also have four sponsors, Blue Wave NJ, Moms Demand Action, NJ-11 for Change, and League of Women Voters. These organizations are all truly amazing and have done so much for us. Lastly I would just like to say how grateful I am for the incredible group of students that we have. These students have worked so hard and without them none of this would have been possible.

One of the questions I've been asked a lot is "what makes this shooting so different?" I can't speak for everyone else, but I know at least for me, when the last major school shooting happened, (Sandy Hook) I had only just turned eleven. It's not that I didn't care, because I was obviously upset, but I knew that as a fifth grader I didn't have the power to do anything. Because we live in a world where we are taught growing up that "the