

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Assad for his distinguished service to our country and in wishing him a fulfilling and enjoyable retirement.

GABE SIMON

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gabe Simon for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Gabe Simon is a student at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gabe Simon is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Gabe Simon for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE EDDIE DAY PASHINSKI, THE WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS' MAN OF THE YEAR

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pennsylvania State Representative Eddie Day Pashinski, who will receive the Man of the Year Award at the Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons' annual St. Patrick's Day celebration on Friday, March 15, 2019. Eddie has been a dedicated public servant for more than four decades, first as a music teacher, then as a state representative.

Eddie is a native Northeastern Pennsylvanian. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in music education from Wilkes University and has a master's equivalency. For 38 years, Eddie served as music teacher and choral director in the Greater Nanticoke Area School District. He was an active member of the union, the GNA Education Association, where he advanced the profession of teaching and ensured that students receive a quality education from highly qualified and equitably treated educators. Always motivated to serve at the highest level, Eddie took on leadership roles such as chief spokesperson, vice president, and president.

Driven by his civic minded sensibility, outgoing personality, and desire to create sustainable change for the community at large, Eddie ran for the 121st Legislative District seat to represent Wilkes-Barre City, Fairview Township, Wilkes-Barre Township, Ashley Borough, Hanover Township, and Laurel Run Borough

in the state house in Harrisburg. He handily won the 2006 election and has held the office since.

Eddie found great success as a state legislator. He is an ardent supporter of health care reform and has spearheaded a task force of regional experts to offer recommendations to improve our health care system to make it more affordable and accessible. In the wake of the devastating flooding in 2011, Eddie introduced a legislative package to help homeowners and small businesses rebuild and recover. His exceptional efforts on behalf of Pennsylvanians have earned him the title of Legislator of the Year from several organizations.

Though no longer a music teacher, Eddie Day continues to bring the joy of music to the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania with his band, The Starfires. With his late wife, Millie, Eddie is the proud father of four children and grandfather to seven grandchildren.

It is an honor to recognize State Representative Eddie Day Pashinski as he accepts the Man of the Year Award from the Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons. His public service career is admirable and unparalleled, and I thank him for his leadership in our community and in Harrisburg. May he continue to be extraordinarily successful in his work for greater good of our commonwealth.

CELEBRATING THE FIRST ANNUAL HARRIET TUBMAN DAY HOSTED BY THE NEW YORK STATE EQUAL RIGHTS CENTER

### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the first annual Harriet Tubman Day hosted by the New York State Equal Rights Center (NYS Equal Rights Center) in Auburn, New York. Harriet Tubman is an American icon, whose courageous activism helped strengthen civil and women's rights. Her legacy runs deep in Central New York and still influences the local community today.

Born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland, Harriet Tubman escaped to freedom in 1849. She arrived in Philadelphia but quickly returned to Maryland to rescue the rest of her family. Successful in guiding her family and many other slaves to their freedom, Harriet Tubman became a well known figure on the Underground Railroad. Notably, she never lost an escaped slave she was guiding to freedom during her service as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

Harriet Tubman joined the Union when the Civil War broke out in 1861, first serving as a nurse and then as a scout. She possessed knowledge of stealth travel from her time on the Underground Railroad, a skill she passed along to Union scouts to evade detection by Confederate forces. This skill proved extremely helpful during the Combahee River Raid, when she and her fellow Union scouts sabotaged Confederate supplies. This raid was also significant because Harriet Tubman became the first woman to lead an armed assault during the Civil War. After the war, Harriet Tubman moved to Auburn to care for her family who settled there.

Women's suffrage became a priority for Harriet Tubman during her later life. She became very active in the movement, traveling throughout the northeast to participate in demonstrations and working alongside suffragist leaders like Susan B. Anthony and Emily Howland. While Harriet Tubman passed away in 1913, her role in the suffrage movement helped pave the way for full women's voting rights in 1920.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating the first annual Harriet Tubman Day hosted by the NYS Equal Rights Center. Harriet Tubman's contributions to civil and women's rights in our society is unparalleled. The NYS Equal Rights Center pays tribute to her activism, serving as a reminder for Central New Yorkers to treat everyone in the community equally and respectfully. I ask my fellow Representatives to honor Harriet Tubman's legacy and never forget her role in creating a more equal America for all.

KILYN STEWART

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kilyn Stewart for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Kilyn Stewart is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kilyn Stewart is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kilyn Stewart for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, and strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and for other purposes:

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, H.R. 1, the "For the People Act of 2019" addresses many significant challenges to our democratic institutions and the conduct of federal elections. The very foundation of our democracy depends on ensuring that our elections are fair, accurate, and freely accessible to all American citizens. We have witnessed in the last few years the roll back of voting rights to