

he served as president during the group's centennial year. He dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort liaising with the Secret Service and the Office of the Vice President to secure Vice President Joe Biden as the principal speaker at the organization's centennial celebration. Edward also instituted the recitation of St. Patrick's prayer to begin every meeting—in order to honor the group's patron saint.

Edward has been married to his wife, Natalie Amico Hart, for 25 years, and they have three children, Edward IV, Alexandra, and Emma. Edward is actively involved in his community as a youth sports coach for basketball, baseball, football, and soccer. He is a member of Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish in Pittston and a 4th Degree Knight of the Knights of Columbus Assembly No. 948 and JFK Council No. 372.

It is an honor to recognize Edward as the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons 2019 Man of the Year. I thank him for his dedicated service to our community and wish him the best this St. Patrick's Day.

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF BETTY  
CONNER

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a longtime Pittsburg resident, Ms. Betty Conner.

Betty was born on May 20, 1936 in Sondheimer, Louisiana to parents Maggie and Ray Frost. She soon made her way to Contra Costa County, and Betty spent 73 years as a resident of Pittsburg and graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1964. For 29 years, Betty served the community and worked as a nurse for Contra Costa County Social Services.

For a decade, Betty and her husband of 50 years, Douglas, used their retirement income to cook lunches for children in downtown Pittsburg. After Douglas' passing in 2009, Betty continued serving meals with the help of her granddaughter, Tania Currie.

In 2014, Betty's community efforts were officially established as a non-profit organization called Branches of Community Service. Now, Betty's annual backpack and toy drives service over 125 children and her free Saturday lunches continue to be a trusted and important resource for Pittsburg youth.

Betty and Douglas' contributions to the Pittsburg community have been celebrated. Douglas was honored by the City of Pittsburg with a cement plaque at the local park across from the Conner residence and Betty was recognized as a Woman of the Year for Contra Costa County.

Betty is survived by her five sons and many relatives. She will be sincerely missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing her, and will be remembered for her endless service to the community.

HONORING SYLVIA LASK

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my great and distinct privilege to honor one of my dearest friends, the incomparable Sylvia Lask, as she celebrated her 85th birthday this year on February 25th.

Born in 1934 to Vera Lask and Max Lask, Sylvia was one of three children in the family, which included her brothers Ronald and Robert. She grew up in Detroit, Michigan and later moved to New York City, where she became certified as a dietician. Sylvia and I first met when we were both living in Co-op City. I had knocked on her door while gathering petition signatures, and she began asking me all kinds of questions pertinent to both our community and the political world. After we had a long chat, I asked if she was a member of the local political club, and suggested she join us at the next meeting. She did, and we became fast friends.

Sylvia and I were both heavily involved in the club's work from there on out. She went on to serve as Democratic State Committee Person, was also a delegate at two democratic conventions, for Ted Kennedy and Bill Clinton.

Sylvia is a fierce advocate for her community and always a strong voice on the issue of mental health. Her lobbying trips to Albany have become the stuff of legend. Among other things, her efforts led to the passage of the Mental Health in Education Act, which requires Mental Health to be taught in all public schools in New York State. Even at 85, Sylvia still makes those weekly trips to Albany and continues her advocacy work on behalf of the Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS).

When not saving the world, Sylvia enjoys listening to folk music—specifically The Weavers, Pete Seeger and Peter Paul and Mary—and taking long strolls. Her spirit is indomitable; she never sits down, never spends too much time celebrating a victory, and is always planning the next steps needed to advance patient rights. Sylvia's drive has always been fueled in large part by her family and friends. She was married to Sam Hershkowitz and has two beautiful children, Vicki and Marc, and one grandchild, Ron. They are the light in Sylvia's life.

Madam Speaker, I count myself fortunate every day to know Sylvia Lask, and I'm not alone in feeling that way about such a special individual. Her list of friends, from elected officials to community activists and everyone in between, is too long to list. She has done incredible work to help the people of New York over many decades, and her contributions cannot be overstated.

Sylvia is like a family member to me and my entire family. I am so honored to recognize her achievements, and I am so thankful to have her in my life.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF REV-  
EREND DOCTOR MYRON  
PANCHUK

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, and as a Chicagoan, to honor the memory of Reverend Doctor Myron Panchuk, a widely respected religious leader and community activist whose sudden passing on March 9th brought tremendous sadness and reflection to the Ukrainian-American community in Chicago and beyond.

A pillar of Chicago's Ukrainian-American community, Father Myron served countless parishioners throughout his 37 years of Priesthood for the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Diocese of Chicago. In addition to assisting thousands of Chicagoans from all faiths and backgrounds, Fr. Myron was actively involved in more than half a dozen community organizations, including during his tenure as Vice President of the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation.

After decades of community service, Fr. Myron turned to academia and activism. In 2017, he earned a Ph.D. researching the effects of intergenerational trauma on ethnic Ukrainians. He was committed to building coalitions to fight for ethnic and racial justice, especially in the area of genocide prevention.

In recent years, as Ukraine's sovereignty has been challenged and outside interference appears unrelenting, Fr. Myron, as an example to us all, continued to pray, and to work, to end the violence and corruption that has marred his ancestral homeland.

He will be especially remembered for his optimism and courage, and for his faith in a young, new wave of Ukrainian-Americans who face the challenge, and opportunity, of healing the scars of the past and building the future of the Ukrainian-American community. While the City of Chicago and Ukrainian-Americans everywhere mourn his loss, Fr. Myron's legacy is sure to live on in the hearts of all those who knew him.

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IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM J.  
WILLIAMS, RECIPIENT OF THE  
GREATER PITTSBORG FRIENDLY  
SONS' SWINGLE AWARD

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 18, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize William J. Williams, who will receive the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons' Swingle Award. William was honored on Sunday, March 17, at the Friendly Sons' annual St. Patrick's Day event.

William was born to William and Susan Rudick Williams on May 25, 1955. He is a graduate of Pittston Area High School (class of 1973), and he earned an associate degree in industrial electronics from Luzerne County Community College and a real estate license from Penn State University.

William found success in a variety of fields throughout his career, in the medical field as