

Peter has always believed deeply in our democracy and the power of public service. That's why he ran for Mayor of Hastings some 16 years ago. His slogan, "Hastings Forward!" spoke to his consistent commitment to progress. Though he took over during difficult financial times for the village, Peter was able to deftly navigate the choppy economic waters. Abandoned buildings from Hastings' industrial past were replaced with storefronts that our now local hot spots. The beautiful waterfront hugging the Hastings coastline has been revitalized. Parks that were once run down have been transformed. All of this happened under Peter's leadership, and all of it happened while the village's finances steadily improved. Peter grew the Hastings' rainy-day fund to \$2 million, which has meant investments in infrastructure and funding for first responders can be met. But beyond quality of life and economic development, Peter also managed to focus on growing affordable housing options for residents, encourages local sustainability initiatives, and even started a Deer Immunocontraception Research Program. How many local municipalities can say that?

After 16 successful years, Peter chose not to run for reelection as Mayor of Hastings. Though the village is now in the excellent care of new Mayor Nicola Armacost, we will all miss Peter leading the way in Hastings. As a partner in government, Peter was exceptional to work with across the board. I want to congratulate him on the years of hard work and thank him for his ceaseless dedication to the Hastings community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JERRY CUSTIN

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 15, 2019*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a local leader who has made a tremendous impact in the Tampa Bay area through a lifetime of public service. Colonel Jerry Custin USAF (Ret.) proudly served our nation in the United States Air Force during which he received advanced training, flew 130 combat missions over Laos and Vietnam, and conducted defense analysis. He earned both the Defense Superior Service Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross while serving in the United States Air Force. He also worked with the National Security Agency, and completed his thirty-year career in public service as the Director of the Office of Electronic Intelligence, and the Chairman of the National Electronic Intelligence Group.

After retirement, Jerry continued to serve our community. He worked as an Outreach Counselor for economically disadvantaged youth through the Pinellas Workforce Development Board. He then became the Business Assistance Specialist for the Oldsmar Chamber of Commerce, where he helped expand its footprint into Hillsborough and Pasco counties reconstituting the organization as the Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce. He later served as President/CEO of the Chamber and developed the Florida Suncoast Manufacturing Association (FSMA) which effectively serves Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas

Counties. Both organizations endeavor to enhance the regional workforce and ensure that students are trained for post-secondary success. With a fervent belief that the robust manufacturing sector in the community—comprising nearly a third of area jobs and tax base—could benefit by more technically oriented services addressing current manufacturing practices and standards, increasingly skilled workforce requirements and a more comprehensive understanding of the availability of the varied products and services offered across our local manufacturing base, Colonel Custin has been instrumental in meeting those needs through his work at FSMA.

On a personal note, Jerry is a trusted friend and advisor. Whether in the Florida Legislature or my time in the U.S. Congress, Jerry has been my go-to guy on issues related to workforce, manufacturing, and the federal budget among other subject matters. His unrivaled work ethic, strength of character and commitment to service is why he is held in such high esteem in his beloved Oldsmar community. I am honored to have him as a constituent.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 15, 2019*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today, I along with Representative BUSTOS, would like to recognize the 50th anniversary of the American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management (AAHAM).

The AAHAM was founded in 1968 and incorporated on February 20, 1973. The organization is dedicated to educating and advocating for revenue cycle professionals who work with healthcare patient accounts across the country. It has grown to represent thirty-one chapters with over 3,000 members and is one of the best healthcare administrative management organizations serving patients throughout the United States. Over its 50 years, AAHAM has grown from serving hospital patient account managers to representing professionals who serve across the healthcare spectrum. They have made great contributions to the welfare of patients and have fostered a sense of fellowship and work to enhance the quality of life for all patients navigating healthcare financing.

Their strong and dedicated leaders and membership have made the long tenure of AAHAM possible and we are proud to congratulate them on their 50th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS AT CONRAD WEISER HIGH SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS IN C-SPAN STUDENT CAM 2019

**HON. DANIEL MEUSER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 15, 2019*

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to honor Eriel

Gaylord, Sammy Saldana, and Melany Davila, from Conrad Weiser High School in Robeson, Pennsylvania. These students participated in the 2019 National C-SPAN Student Cam Video Contest, and out of 3,000 entries, their five-minute entry entitled, "America's Homeless," earned them an honorable mention.

This was certainly a profile in courage, as one of the students, Eriel Gaylord, bravely shared her experience with homelessness. In telling her story, Eriel helped to raise awareness and educate others on the many challenges faced by homeless youth—while encouraging other individuals and families, who face similar challenges, to take advantage of the resources available in our communities to help them obtain housing security.

Each American faces their own challenges and pursues their own passions; resilience, however, is a defining characteristic of Pennsylvania's Ninth District. No matter the challenges we face, the determination with which we rise to meet them defines us more than our trials themselves.

Eriel's story and the context in which it is presented should inspire each of us. Although it is troubling that such daunting challenges face young people in my own district, I am inspired by their engagement, advocacy, and passion. It is an honor to recognize Eriel's bravery, and the work of these students. May they continue to engage their passions, pursue solutions, and showcase American resilience.

HONORING MIKE GRECO

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 15, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to honor the life of a Bronx icon, Mike Greco, the longtime owner of the famous "Mike's Deli" on Arthur Avenue, who passed away in late March at the age of 89.

Also known as the "Salami King" and "Mayor of Arthur Avenue," Mike was a legend in the community. Born on May 8, 1929 to Luigi and Luisa Felice Greco, he came to America in 1947 from his home in Calabria, Italy with his twin brother, Joe, in a new suit and \$50 dollars to his name. He moved to the Bronx, began working in a butcher shop, and by the early 1950s had opened his very open deli on Arthur Avenue.

Mike worked seven days a week starting at 6 a.m. to build Mike's Deli into the huge destination it became. For six decades, people from all over made the pilgrimage to visit, for both the wonderful food and for Mike himself. As the New York Times wrote, "Mr. Greco was larger than life." The big personality, the singing, the friendly banter was all part of his mystique.

Of course, personality wasn't the only draw to Mike's Deli. The food was renowned. A well-earned reputation for quality preceded Mike's, with such favorites as the imported cheese, sometimes aged for as long as 36 months, leading the way. Mike's eggplant parm is so delicious that it beat all the competition on an episode of Food Network's "Throwdown With Bobby Flay." Mike's fame also extended to television, where he appeared in a Ronzi commercial filmed on Arthur