

the hard work and dedication of all members of this year's Roanoke Valley Christian boys basketball team, and congratulate the administrators, teachers, coaches, parents, students, and fans. In particular, I would like to recognize the contributions of the team's seniors, and their head coach Todd Mann. Congratulations on a great end to the season.

IN HONOR OF ZORICA PANTIĆ,  
OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF ONE  
OF BOSTON'S TOP UNIVERSITIES—WENTWORTH INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Zorica Pantić, the first woman president of Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston and first woman engineer to lead an institution of technology in higher education in the United States.

President Pantić is leaving her position at Wentworth at the end of May, following a 14-year-tenure that can only be described as transformative and historic in scope. Dr. Pantić's contributions to this 115-year-old institution have earned her respect far and wide. Just recently, while saluting Dr. Pantić during his keynote remarks at Wentworth's graduation on April 28, 2019, Charlie Baker, the esteemed Governor of Massachusetts, characterized President Pantić as, "a gift to Wentworth and blessing to Massachusetts."

Born in Serbia, Dr. Pantić first became interested in electrical engineering as a young girl, while watching her father work on repairing a radio. She went on to earn her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Niš, Serbia, and became the founding dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Texas at San Antonio; director of the School of Engineering at San Francisco State University; a Fulbright fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and an associate professor at the University of Niš.

As Wentworth's President, she has been an important role model and tireless advocate for traditionally underrepresented students, particularly young women wishing to pursue a college education and career in the STEM arenas. Under her leadership, Wentworth has introduced its first seven graduate programs, becoming a master's degree-granting institution and achieving "university" status in 2017. Dr. Pantić has overseen the introduction of 10 new undergraduate programs (seven in engineering), a \$300 million investment in state-of-the-art facilities, and a 20 percent enrollment increase on the school's campus.

During her presidency, Wentworth has enhanced its experiential-learning educational model by implementing EPIC Learning (Externally-collaborative, Project-based, Interdisciplinary Culture for Learning), and is focusing on innovation and entrepreneurship. The Institute continues to earn annual recognition in the top national and regional college rankings.

Applauding her "energetic, entrepreneurial, and ambitious leadership style," the Council

for the Advancement and Support of Education, District 1, in 2017 honored Dr. Pantić with its Chief Executive Leadership Award. That same year, Dr. Pantić was inducted into the National Academy of Construction. In January 2018, Governor Baker appointed her to serve on the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Strategy Council. And more recently, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce honored her as one of its Pinnacle Award winners for 2019.

President Pantić has served on various boards and professional organizations, including the board of directors for the World Association for Cooperative Education, the American Association for Presidents of Independent Universities and Colleges, the New England Association for Schools and Colleges, the Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board, and the Presidents Council for the NCAA Division III.

Madam Speaker, Zorica is known for her love of students and for helping to guide and serve thousands of young women and men who have attended Wentworth since she became president in 2005. She is the proud mother of one son, Daniel Tanner, who graduated from Wentworth and is busy building his own career.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to thank Zorica Pantić for her incredible leadership over these past 14 years at one of Boston's oldest and most venerable educational institutions, and to salute her for her many contributions to higher education in the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH  
BIRTHDAY OF WORLD WAR II  
VETERAN RAYMOND BURRELL

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th birthday of World War II Veteran, Mr. Raymond Burrell.

In the winter of 1944–45, Raymond Burrell was a member of the famous 761st Tank Battalion, the Black Panthers. The 761st Tank Battalion was the first to consist of African-Americans and saw extensive action at the Battle of the Bulge. Raymond Burrell demonstrated bravery and a cunning military mind on multiple occasions. Despite experiencing seemingly hopeless situations, Raymond persevered along with the other members of the 761st Tank Battalion and held their vital positions on the battlefield. Our nation is lucky to have had someone like him risk his life to protect us all.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments, bravery, and dedication of Raymond Burrell. Words alone cannot express our gratitude. May God bless Raymond Burrell, and I look forward to seeing his excellence in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE  
OF THE HONORABLE SERGIO  
AMARAL, AMBASSADOR OF  
BRAZIL TO THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Brazilian Ambassador to the United States, Sergio Silva do Amaral, whose invaluable commitment to the bonds of friendship between Brazil and the American people has left an indelible mark on our bilateral and hemispheric relations. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Brazil, I have worked on numerous occasions with Ambassador Amaral to deepen our bilateral relations, and build upon the great history of partnership between Brazil and America.

In September 2016, Sergio Amaral was appointed Ambassador of Brazil to the United States in Washington, D.C. Since then, Ambassador Amaral has worked tirelessly to promote a closer U.S.-Brazil friendship, as well as to promote the expansion of our economic, political, defense, and cultural relations, bringing a message of friendliness and cooperation during his travels through our country in furtherance of his mission to spread Brazil's message of peace and prosperity for all people. On June 1, when he retires from his Ambassadorial role in the U.S., he will conclude nearly 45 years of service to Brazil. His time as Brazil's Ambassador is thus an appropriate capstone to his long and distinguished career.

Born in São Paulo, Brazil, and as a graduate of the University of São Paulo and the University of Paris, France, Ambassador Amaral has served in a number of senior official posts in the Brazilian public service over five decades. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to the U.S., he served as Ambassador to London and Ambassador to Paris, as well as Minister of Development, Trade and Industry, and Chief-Minister for Social Communication of Brazil's Presidency. His other notable positions include Vice Minister of Environment and the Amazon, Secretary for International Affairs of the Ministry of Economy, President of the Council of Brazil's Chamber of Foreign Trade, and President of the Brazil-China Business Council.

Ambassador Sergio Amaral has continuously reminded us of the great potential that lies ahead of Brazil and the United States as two of the largest democracies and economies in the Western Hemisphere. We must build upon the common beliefs that have historically connected the peoples of Brazil and America: our commitment to democracy, our commitment to the rule of law, and our commitment to the dignity of all people in our own countries and around the world. Today, I thank Ambassador Sergio Amaral for his service to these ideals, and wish him a long and happy retirement.

RECOGNITION OF SHEIDA  
SAHANDY

**HON. DENNY HECK**

OF WASHINGTON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Sheida Sahandy for her extraordinary and unwavering dedication to the people of Washington state and efforts to restore Puget Sound. For over five years, Sheida served as the Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership, the state agency leading the coordination of Puget Sound recovery.

Sheida received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and then went on to study law at Columbia University. After working as an attorney for several years, Sheida returned to the classroom and earned her master's degree in Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Back in Washington state, Sheida used her notable background and legal expertise to spearhead programs and initiatives as Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Bellevue, where she created the City's first citywide environmental stewardship initiative.

In January 2014, Governor Jay Inslee appointed Sheida to serve as Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership, where for years she demonstrated her commitment to sustainability and conservancy issues in Washington state. The Puget Sound Partnership works with hundreds of partners and stakeholders to coalesce around a common goal: accelerating the collective effort to recover and sustain the Puget Sound. On federal-level issues, Sheida worked with the Congressional Puget Sound Recovery Caucus—which I co-chair along with my friend and colleague, DEREK KILMER—to convene key decision-makers here at the Capitol for the annual Puget Sound Day on the Hill. This event brings people from across the political spectrum to Washington, D.C. to advocate for increased federal attention to Puget Sound. Sheida also worked tirelessly with the Congressional Puget Sound Recovery Caucus to successfully craft and garner support for the PUGET SOS Act, which would increase federal and state coordination on recovery efforts.

Whether it's leading efforts at the state level to revitalize the salmon and orca populations, or working with legislators in Washington, D.C. to enact critical legislation, Sheida has always been an effective leader and the driving force behind the Puget Sound Partnership's success.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Sheida Sahandy, and I wish her and her family happiness as Sheida proceeds to the next chapter in her remarkable career.

COMMEMORATING THE 213TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANEY FORK  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. JOHN W. ROSE**

OF TENNESSEE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Caney

Fork Baptist Church in honor of their 213th anniversary.

A longstanding pillar in the Cookeville community, the Caney Fork Baptist Church, originally referred to as "Brown's Mill Church," is Putnam County's oldest Baptist Church. Joshua Bartlett and his wife, Winnie Williams Bartlett, founded the church after relocating to Tennessee from Boonesborough, Kentucky, in 1806. They constructed a fort, and within it was the cabin first used to host worship gatherings for the Caney Fork Baptist Church. The congregation relocated in 1931 to Highway 70 East in Cookeville, which is where they remain today.

In the early days of Tennessee's statehood, churches far outnumbered preachers. As was common then, the Caney Fork Baptist Church hosted traveling "revival preachers" for their services.

Throughout its history, the congregation affiliated with the general tenets of the Baptist denomination. From 1865 to 1897, the congregation embraced the Independent Baptist Christian denominational beliefs; they affiliated with the Free Will Baptist congregation from 1897 to 1918; and in 1918, the congregation joined with the larger Baptist denomination. Today, the Caney Fork Baptist Church is affiliated with the Stone Baptist Association, the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

I hope my House colleagues will join me in recognizing the Caney Fork Baptist Church for their longstanding service to the community, commitment to strengthening family values, and unwavering faith.

RECOGNIZING TOM MORRISON

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life's work of Thomas Roger Morrison, who served as a trusted local reporter and staple on televisions in my district since 1982.

Tom was born in Oakland, California on January 7, 1936 to proud parents, Lozetta and John Morrison. Shortly after his graduation from Oakland High School in 1954, Tom joined the Army and deployed to Korea. He patrolled the newly established Korean Demilitarized Zone in 1956 and 1957.

Tom took on the role of a volunteer reporter for local Channel TV 30 in 1982. After reporting on local stories for a time, Tom joined the TV 30 staff and became the anchor of the 580/680 News. He served in this role for 10 years and received two prestigious Bay Area Television Association awards for his work during that time.

After budgets no longer allowed the 580/680 News program to continue, Tom kept our community informed on local news and developments through his bi-weekly "Mayor's Report." With this platform, he would meet with local mayors and county supervisors to ensure that local residents had access to information about upcoming events and what was happening in their local government.

Tom's connection to the community was deep. His voice became synonymous with the

annual Saint Patrick's Day parade in my hometown of Dublin, as he served as the announcer for so many years. Whether he was reporting from the tarmac at the Livermore Airshow, hosting an election special, or a segment of the Slice of Life show, Tom was a trusted and revered source of news in my district.

Tom's work on behalf of our community continued until just two months ago, very shortly before his passing. His passion and commitment were recently memorialized when the studio at TV 30 adopted the honorary title, "Tom Morrison Studio."

After a long and valiant battle with cancer, Tom Morrison passed away peacefully on April 18, 2019. He is survived by a large and loving family, including Kathy, his wife of 23 years, his two sons, Kevin and Michael, his step-children, Stacey, Kristin, Amy, and Bradley, his sister Jenean, and the eight grandchildren he absolutely adored.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JOHN  
K. VADAS

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. John K. Vadas, age 69, who passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

John's son Matt is one of my longest serving staff members. I very much depend on him to help me fulfill my duties and I am very proud of his service.

John was born on January 19, 1950, in Warren, Ohio to John and Margaret. He was a 1968 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Warren. I too am a graduate of JFK.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1972, where he was the radar operator on the USS *Wasp*. Upon his honorable discharge, John took a position working for Packard Electric. He retired from Delphi in 2001.

On April 11, 1970, John married the former Sandra Allen.

John loved the outdoors and found peace in the woods by carving out time to go hunting and camping. He was an avid fan of the Cleveland Indians and NASCAR, cheering on driver Kevin Harvick. He stayed in touch with his shipmates as a member of the USS *Wasp* Association. Most importantly, John was a patriot who loved his family and was a devoted husband and father.

After 49 years of marriage, John is survived by his wife Sandra, and also survived by his sons, (Jon) Kristopher, Jason and Matthew Vadas; his brother, Michael (Judy) Vadas; as well as many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, Kevin Vadas; his parents; and his brother, William Poppal.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Matt and all the family and friends whose lives were blessed by John Vadas.