

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT ONTARIO EMERGENCY REFUGEE SHELTER

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 6, 2019*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter located in Oswego, New York. Fort Ontario holds historical significance as the only shelter for European Holocaust victims in the United States during World War II. At the time, the Fort was America's first exposure to the damaging extent of the Holocaust and today serves as an important reminder of our nation's responsibility to defend the freedoms and rights of all individuals.

On July 17, 1944, 982 European refugees from 18 different countries boarded the USNS *Henry Gibbons* in Naples, Italy to cross the Atlantic Ocean as they fled Nazi persecution. The refugees arrived at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter on August 5 following the 19-day journey, which marked the beginning of their ten month stay at the fort.

Fort Ontario, which was also known as Safe Haven, shielded the refugees from violent persecution and tyranny in Europe. The shelter was closed in June 1945 and many refugees became American citizens, while some returned to Europe. Although it was open for less than a year, the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter played a critical role in saving the lives of the 982 refugees who resided in the fort.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter's 75th anniversary. Since serving as a shelter for European refugees, Fort Ontario has been recognized as a significant site by the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Thousands of visitors travel to Fort Ontario each year, and they are reminded of the Holocaust victims who took refuge there and America's role in protecting these vulnerable individuals.

CONGRATULATING BERNARD J. STANAWAY, JR. FOR BEING NAMED 2019 U.P. VETERAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 6, 2019*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Bernard J. Stanaway, Jr., for being named the 2019 U.P. Veteran of the Year. Through his dedicated service, exceptional leadership, and steadfast devotion to his community, Bernard has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The U.P. Veteran of the Year is chosen annually by a selection committee consisting of

past commanders of various service organizations throughout the peninsula. It is given to recognize Yooper Veterans who go above and beyond in their service to their local communities and fellow Veterans. None are more deserving of this honor than Bernard. During his military career, Bernard served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps, where he was decorated with the Korean Defense Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, SCR Service Deployment Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. His devotion to the people of his country and community has not wavered since he returned from military service.

It is impossible to fully list all the ways in which Bernard works to better the lives of U.P. Veterans. He is an active member and has served in a variety of leadership positions at the American Legion, AMVETS, DAV, VFW and the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Additionally, Bernard serves Veterans as the Marquette County Trust Fund Agent, aids Veterans at the D.J. Jacobetti Home on outings at AMVET picnics, visits homebound Veterans, transports Veterans to appointments to Iron Mountain with DAV, attends Veteran funerals, plows snow for homebound Veterans, and helps Veterans in need with service claims and medical bills. Bernard has devoted decades to the people of Michigan, and his tireless efforts have directly improved the lives of thousands of U.P. Veterans.

Outside of his work with Veterans organizations, Bernard is active with the Boy Scouts of America, where he has served Troop 372 as the Charter Organization Representative, Assistant Scout Master, Den Leader, and Troop Committee member. He is also an active member of the NRA, Masons, Knights Templars, Project Evergreen, and No Barriers. As a servicemember, a Veteran, a volunteer, and a Yooper, Bernard consistently puts the needs of others before his own. He will be honored as the 2019 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year at a ceremony during the U.P. State Fair in Escanaba on August 15th.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Bernard J. Stanaway, Jr., for his decades of service to fellow Michigan Veterans, and for being named the 2019 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless and devoted individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Bernard all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT MANAGER MONTE MARTI FOR 20 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO CONSERVATION IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. SUZAN K. DeLBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 6, 2019*

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Monte Marti, the district manager at

the Snohomish Conservation District and valued member of our community, in honor of his retirement on August 9th, 2019. Mr. Marti has a long history of active participation in the betterment and support of Snohomish County in Washington state. Raised on a farm in the Columbia Basin in Eastern Washington, Mr. Marti's interest in agriculture and our environment began early in his life. He pursued this path academically, achieving a Master's degree in Agriculture Economics with an emphasis on natural resources from Washington State University. That was certainly not the end of Mr. Marti's work in conservation. In 1983, Mr. Marti began volunteering at the Snohomish Conservation District, becoming a volunteer board member. Almost a decade later, he took on another volunteer position as secretary-treasurer for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. His illustrious career continued as he served on the WACD Plant Material Center Advisory Board, and finally as the district manager at Washington's own Snohomish Conservation District. I cannot fully express how much his dedication to our state and our community means to all who have the pleasure of meeting him.

For the past 25 years, Mr. Marti has never ceased his conservation efforts. As district manager he worked tirelessly to build strong relationships between with environmental groups and his reputation as a collaborator is well deserved. Thanks to Mr. Marti's interest in agriculture and natural resources, he brought passion to his work that will not be forgotten, and will be greatly missed. Thank you, Mr. Marti, for your unwavering love of our state, our region, and the importance of conservation.

CELEBRATING JIM MONKEN

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 6, 2019*

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Jim Monken, a loving father, football coach, and mentor who helped young men in East St. Louis become champions on and off the gridiron.

Youth coaches serve not only to help players win games, but to teach them responsibility and accountability as they grow into men. Coach Monken will be remembered by those who played under him as a father figure who did everything in his power to ensure they succeeded in life. If you played for his team, you were a member of his family for life. In fact, before his recent passing, Coach Monken was visited by many of his former players, a testament to his life-long impact on those who played for him.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Coach Jim Monken, one of the most successful youth football coaches in Illinois history and an even better human being.