

Joined by her close friend and co-founder Ada Edwards Laughlin in 1919, Mrs. Banning officially formed the Assistance League of Southern California as part of the first wave of American nonprofits that empowered ordinary citizens to serve their communities through long-term volunteerism. As the organization expanded in the coming decades, Mrs. Banning and Mrs. Laughlin founded the National Assistance League in 1935, which today supports over 120 individual branches with the Assistance League of Los Angeles as the founding chapter.

Over the last century, the Assistance League of Los Angeles has responded effectively and compassionately to national, state and local issues, staying true to Mrs. Banning's original vision, acting "as a friend at any and all times to men, women and children in need of care, guidance and assistance, spiritually, materially and physically." The League began by providing food and clothing to families severely impacted by World War I and the Great Depression, before moving on to organize blood drives supporting the Red Cross and holiday gift exchanges for soldiers during World War II. Closer to home, the League formed auxiliaries that tackled a diverse array of issues and broadened the scope of the organization's assistance. Among their many achievements, these auxiliaries organized day nurseries and preschool programs, counseled families in need, provided clothing and supplies to underserved schoolchildren, and raised funds through theater performances, fashion shows, thrift stores, and other efforts.

Today, the Assistance League of Los Angeles continues its commitment to helping the Los Angeles community, with eight auxiliaries conducting six significant services. These services include The Preschool Learning Center, Foster Children's Resource Center, Theatre for Children, Hollywood Children's Club, and Operation School Bell support children and families, giving future generations resources they need to succeed and grow. Additionally, the Court Referred Volunteer Center enables adults and youth convicted of infractions, misdemeanors, or felonies to serve the community they have wronged as a more meaningful and beneficial alternative to fines and incarceration.

I am honored to recognize the Assistance League of Los Angeles for 100 years of outstanding service to the greater Los Angeles community. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Assistance League for its remarkable achievements.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS J. COLLINS
OF COLLINS ENGINEERS, INC. ON
THE COMPANY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Thomas J. Collins, founder of Collins Engineers, Inc., on his company's 40th anniversary. Tom has been a longtime constituent and resident of La Grange, Illinois.

Born and raised in Chicago, Mr. Collins is a Vietnam War veteran, a professional engineer,

and a certified diver. He pioneered the use of engineers as diving inspectors for underwater bridge infrastructure that eventually became the basis of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) program mandate for underwater bridge inspections. Additionally, Mr. Collins developed and carried out several DOT training programs for infrastructure assessment and management, including teaching best practices to ensure public safety.

Mr. Collins played a significant role in Vietnam as part of the 39th Detachment, setting up operations at Cam Ranh Bay in the then-largest military quarry in the world, operated by the 864th Battalion. During this time, he joined the local Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Post and continued to advance his noteworthy military career. In February 1967, he became the quarry officer and supervised drilling, blasting, and crushing to produce aggregate. In July 1967, he was assigned as the Battalion Civil Engineer before leaving active duty to return home with an honorable discharge.

Mr. Collins' expertise led him to found Collins Engineers, Inc. in 1979, a civil and structural engineering firm with a concentration on infrastructure that supports a safe and efficient transportation system. Under Mr. Collins' leadership and with innovation as a guiding principle, Collins Engineers, Inc. pioneered the use of underwater inspections. Today, the company is using underwater imaging, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and partnerships with technology firms like Google for mobile work platforms and asset management.

Mr. Collins is a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a diplomate of the Academy of Coasts, Ocean, Port & Navigation Engineers, a member of the Standing Committee on Structure Maintenance of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), Chair of the Underwater Inspection and Maintenance Subcommittee of the TRB, and was elected a permanent member of the Ports & Harbors Committee of the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute, among many other notable distinctions. He is a mentor to generations of engineers, including his five children, three of whom are currently in the business, and a devoted husband to Roxanne Horswell since 1966.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Collins and Collins Engineers, Inc. as they celebrate 40 years of hard work and innovation. I look forward to their continued success for many years in the future.

RECOGNIZING WHITING AMERICAN
LEGION POST 80'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today to honor one of America's finest organizations, the American Legion, and to recognize one of its local posts, Whiting American Legion Post 80, on its 100th anniversary. Post 80 came to be shortly after the founding of the national organization. In honor of this momentous occasion, the members of Post 80 will be celebrating with dinner

and entertainment on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at the legion hall in Whiting.

For the past one hundred years, Whiting Post 80 has been an extraordinary example of the ideals and mission of the American Legion. Overall, the American Legion boasts nearly 13,000 posts, and remarkably, consists of nearly two million members. In their communities, American Legion posts are a source of pride for their many contributions made to aid and honor veterans and to better their communities.

Throughout the years, Whiting Post 80 has taken heed of the American Legion's mission. They have been well known in the Whiting—Robertsdale area for their many activities aimed at honoring veterans, which have included an honor guard and drum and bugle corps, but also for their many programs that serve the youth and families in their community.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge the elected officers, committee members, and delegates for 2019–2020 who have dedicated their time and efforts to Whiting American Legion Post 80. They include Commander Harry Triplett, First Vice Commander William Montanez, Second Vice Commander Kevin Fuller, Adjutant and Finance Officer Bill Palmer, Chaplain Bob Downey, Sergeant-at-Arms Johnathan Hernandez, Judge Advocate Mike Wooden, Historian Dan Scott, Service Officer Brian Humenik, and Executive Finance Officer Harry Nee. The executive committee nominees include Bob Downey, Art Peschke, and Moe Davila, and the delegate nominees include Commander Harry Triplett, Mike Wooden, and Bill Palmer.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing American Legion Post 80 and its members on its 100th anniversary. I also ask that you join me in honoring its membership for their service to their community, its veterans, and their commitment to the ideals of the American Legion. Their efforts have played a major role in elevating the quality of life in their community.

HONORING LOUISE JEAN SIGNORE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize today Co-op City's oldest resident, Louise Jean Signore, who this year is turning a remarkable 107 years old.

Louise, or Jean as she is also known to her friends and family, was born on July 31, 1912 in Manhattan. One of five siblings born to Theodore and Marie, the family moved to the Bronx in 1926, where Louise's father worked as a custom tailor to the rich and famous. Louise's mother was very social, and would host open houses on Sundays, serving waffles.

Louise worked for the Mass Transit Authority for 34 years as an Administrative Assistant and retired in 1977. As a retiree, Louise loved to swim. She'd pack a lunch bag and head to Orchard Beach during the week days early in the morning. Louise did this, incredibly, into her 90's. On weekends, Louise and her sister would go dancing. In the 1940's they frequented the Essex Ballroom, Roseland Ballroom, the Savoy Manor and the ABC Club.