

Sorrentino, Van C. Stone, John Strauts, Thomas H. Strossner, Edward L. Svadlenka, William Van Loan, Sr., Dennis J. Vodvarka, Richard P. Wherry.

Richard D. Whorton, Ronald Wiertz, Michael A. Wood, Dennis E. Zavesky, William D. Ziegler, Thomas A. Zilla.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on September 17, 2019, I was unable to be present for Roll Call Vote 532, on the Motion to Close Portions of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act Conference.

Had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAYMOND OSHANA

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my deepest condolences with the family and friends of Raymond Oshana. Ray was a dear friend of mine and my district office team for over two decades, and a prominent leader in the Assyrian community. Ray unexpectedly passed away earlier this week, and my heart breaks for his wife, Nadia, and his children Pierre, Ninos, and Mary, and everyone in the community who feels the weight of his passing, including me. His exuberant personality and generosity touched everyone he met, and anyone who knew Ray was better for it. He will be missed deeply.

Born in Baghdad in 1951, Ray came to the United States as a young man in 1970. Ray's story and contributions exemplify the fact that immigration makes our nation and our communities stronger and better. Shortly after arriving in the United States, Ray started the Assyrian Athletic Club. This club has supported thousands of Assyrian youth since its inception and next year, the organization will celebrate its 50th anniversary. During this same period, Ray helped found a group called the East Bird Band, helping create an iconic Assyrian Nationalist song, despite the fact that the band members didn't know how to play musical instruments in the beginning.

Ray was an active member of dozens of civic organizations including the Assyrian American Association of Chicago, and he was the Midwest Regional Director for the Assyrian American National Federation at the time of his passing. His name and contributions were known by everyone in the Assyrian community, and my office and I worked closely with him and the community in the 9th Congressional District on many issues and projects.

Ray Oshana had a smile and personality that brightened every room he entered. He was one of the kindest people I have ever met, and I looked forward to each opportunity that he and I had to sit down and talk about our families and what we could do to help Assyrians here in Illinois and back in the Middle

East, where they face many deadly challenges. Ray was a lifelong fighter for and an effective advocate on behalf of his community.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Raymond Oshana for his tireless work. We will miss him.

REMEMBERING UNDERSHERIFF STEPHEN B. McLOUD

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Undersheriff Stephen B. McCloud, a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and a devoted public servant, who passed away on August 29, 2019. For nearly 25 years, Undersheriff McCloud worked in law enforcement, selflessly dedicating his life to service of those in our community and nation.

A lifelong member of the Central New York community, Undersheriff McCloud graduated from Weedsport Central High School and from Cayuga Community College with an associate degree in criminal justice. After college, Undersheriff McCloud became the first full-time police officer for the Village of Weedsport. In 1983, Undersheriff McCloud joined the Cayuga County Sheriffs Office, starting as a patrol deputy. From there, Undersheriff McCloud was promoted to investigator in 1991 and again to Undersheriff in 2003. He held this position until retiring in 2006.

Along with Undersheriff McCloud's work in law enforcement, he was also a 35-year member of the Weedsport Volunteer Fire Department. Additionally, he served with the Finger Lakes Drug Task Force and as a Cayuga County Fire Investigator.

Following the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11th, Undersheriff McCloud bravely traveled to New York City to assist in search and rescue efforts at Ground Zero. Tragically, Undersheriff McCloud developed an illness stemming from his work to aid in the emergency recovery efforts.

Outside of his work in public service, Undersheriff McCloud was a member of the Weedsport Presbyterian Church, a former member of the Brutus Town Board, and owner of Oakland Acres Firewood, a family operated firewood and land management company. Undersheriff McCloud was also an avid outdoorsman, and a loving family man who cared deeply for his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the life of Undersheriff Stephen B. McCloud. A lifelong public servant and beloved member of our Central New York community, Undersheriff McCloud will be dearly missed. I ask my colleagues to keep him and his family in mind as we remember the selfless contributions he has made to our community and country.

HONORING ALISON CUNNINGHAM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COLUMBUS HOUSE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to join friends, fam-

ily, colleagues, and community leaders who have gathered today to celebrate Alison Cunningham as she bids farewell to Columbus House, the organization she has fearlessly and adeptly led for more than two decades.

There is no one reason why an individual becomes homeless and so there is no one solution that will end it. More than three decades ago a group of folks concerned with the plight of the homeless came together and began what has become one of the strongest, most respected advocacy organizations for the homeless in our state. For most of its existence, the mission of Columbus House has been guided by Alison Cunningham, whose unparalleled passion to make a difference is reflected in every success they enjoy. Alison's commitment is nothing short of inspiring and it has encouraged hundreds of supporters to volunteer their time and energy to support this extraordinary organization.

Under Alison's direction, Columbus House has continued to grow and expand to meet the ever-changing needs of our homeless population. Today, the small staff of ninety come from all walks of life—many are former clients themselves which provides them a unique perspective not only from which to provide services, but also to direct the organization's efforts. Columbus House also partners with a variety of local service agencies with the goal of ensuring that all of their clients receive access to every possible opportunity to transition from homelessness. With facilities in New Haven and Middletown and a presence in Waterbury, New Britain and elsewhere, programs and services that range from shelter and meal service to employment, recovery, and case management, Columbus House has touched the lives of hundreds of our most vulnerable citizens. Columbus House is a community effort in every sense of the word, and it is because of the strong leadership and vision that Alison has provided. I have been proud to work with her during my tenure in Congress and consider myself fortunate to call her my friend.

Over the course of her career, Alison has grown into a respected leader in her field with her expertise often be sought out by neighboring communities as well as elected leaders. In fact, over the last several years, she has been a member of the task force that directed a state-wide change to a successful approach to ending chronic homelessness, which combines providing permanent housing with the necessary social services on site for clients. To say her everyday presence at Columbus House will be missed is an understatement, however, I have no doubt that, though she is pursuing a new opportunity, Alison will remain a staunch and active supporter of Columbus House and the people they serve.

Though I will miss her leadership at Columbus House, I was excited to learn that Alison will be taking on a new and unique role at the Yale Divinity School where she will help guide students there interested in the kind of non-profit work to which she has dedicated her