

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF ILLINOIS
STATE POLICE TROOPER GER-
ALD ELLIS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Illinois State Police Trooper Gerald "Jerry" Ellis, who passed away Saturday, March 30, 2019, while on duty.

Gerald Ellis was born and raised in Colchester, Illinois, and in 2002, graduated from Colchester Highschool. It was clear early on that Ellis was destined for a career in public service. As a child, he was a member of the Macomb Police Department Explorers post. Ellis also bravely served in Iraq as a soldier in the United States Army. Ellis continued his schooling at Western Illinois University. While pursuing his education, he was selected to participate in the Illinois State Police internship program. This led to Ellis eventually deciding to become a full-time member of the force.

Trooper Ellis had always been committed to his work and his community. He had a tendency to put others before himself. In school, Ellis was known as a hard worker, great student, and to be the one to reach across social lines and bring different groups of people together. Ellis was injured by a distracted motorist earlier in his career while attempting to prevent a man from jumping from an overpass.

In honor of the sacrifice that Trooper Ellis made, it is my privilege to commemorate his life and service today. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Stacy, and their two daughters, who have lost a loving husband and father. We are all blessed to have those like State Trooper Gerald Ellis serving and protecting us.

HONORING PAULETTE LYNCH

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paulette Lynch for her 30 years of leadership to Monterey County's creative sector and to congratulate her on her retirement after 15 years as executive director of the Arts Council for Monterey County. The 20th District of California appreciates Paulette Lynch's dedication to the community and the great progress she has made over the past three decades.

Paulette Lynch spearheaded First Night Monterey in 1992 and successfully led the organization for ten years before becoming Executive Director of the Arts Council for Monterey County in 2004. She also reshaped the Arts Council's mission, creating a greater equity in funding for the arts throughout the

county, developing award-winning programs, and providing unifying leadership in the creative sector on the central coast of California. Further, Paulette restored county funding, diversified the Arts Council revenues, and created the annual Champion of the Arts Gala, an event which honors seven arts nonprofit organizations and individuals who have made profound and lasting contributions throughout Monterey County.

Paulette Lynch has been guided by the phrase "the Arts are the Answer," and demonstrated the transformational benefits of arts in the classroom, community, the juvenile justice systems, and health systems. 35 school districts and 20,000 students, as well as numerous communities, benefited from her dedication. Paulette was previously recognized for her work to improve the quality of life within California's 20th District. She has won several awards and honors throughout her tenure, including the 2008 Monterey County Weekly Editor's Pick for Community Leadership Best of Monterey County, the 2009 City of Seaside 25th Anniversary Award for Lifetime Support of Youth in the Arts, the 2013 Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women Outstanding Woman of Monterey County, the 2013 Monterey County Weekly Top 25 Game-Changing Leaders of Monterey County, and the 2015 National Association of Counties Award for Innovation program Art as Healing Intervention for incarcerated youth at the Monterey County Probation Department Youth Center.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking Paulette Lynch for her 30 years of service and leadership to Monterey County. Her tireless commitment to improving the lives of everyone in California's 20th District through the arts will not be forgotten, and her legacy in the community will certainly be long lasting. On behalf of Central Coast residents, I thank Ms. Lynch for her contribution to our community and wishing her a long and healthy retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMU-
NITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER
BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge with gratitude and admiration the Centennial Anniversary of the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, which since its establishment in 1919 has enhanced and encouraged long-term philanthropy in Western New York. Throughout the decades, visionary leadership, dedicated staff and giving donors have built on this Foundation's century of commitment to connecting people, ideas and resources to improve lives throughout our region. For 100 years, the

Community Foundation's proven record of accountability, sustainability and transparency has made the most of the generosity of individuals, families, foundations and organizations who entrust charitable assets to the Foundation's care. Currently, the stated goals of the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo are to improve educational achievement and workforce readiness for low-income residents, increase racial equity, protect and restore significant environmental resources and promote equitable access, and strengthen the region as a center for architecture, arts and culture.

This stalwart organization for local philanthropy proposes, plans, implements and supports many impactful collaborative initiatives. These include Say Yes Buffalo, working to remove barriers preventing Buffalo students from achieving academic success and Read to Succeed, helping children reach their highest potential and awards over two million dollars in annual scholarships to students in the area. Insistent on results-oriented outcomes that improves the health outcomes for families and neighborhoods remains a primary focus of this Foundation's award winning Green and Healthy Homes Initiative and the Wipe Out Lead program.

Racial equity is one of the primary community goals of the Community Foundation believing that we must ensure all members of our region can fulfill their highest potential. Through active support of the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable which includes more than 210 partners working together in different capacities to advance racial and ethnic equity and accelerate shared regional prosperity. Preserving and protecting the heritage of the Michigan Street Baptist Church, Buffalo's oldest African American church remains the life work of the Buffalo Freedom Station Coalition. Capacity building provided by the Community Foundation has helped enhance the efforts of this all-volunteer group dedicated to commemorating and deepening the understanding of the historical role Buffalo residents played in the civil rights and abolitionist movements.

Twenty percent of the world's freshwater runs through our region and the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo is playing a critical role in preserving and restoring Western New York's environmental resources. Convened by the Community Foundation, the Western New York Environmental Alliance, is now an independent, member-run coalition of more than 80 organizations working to protect and steward our natural assets. Our proximity to two Great Lakes and a series of rivers, creeks and streams is highly valued by the Community Foundation as they team with other similar foundations to form the Great Lakes One Water Partnership to advance a new era of water management to benefit people and businesses in the Great Lakes Basin. Cleaner water, remediated land and greener public parks help to foster stronger communal bonds and as such, it is imperative that it is truly accessible to all in our community, region and beyond our borders.

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