

and reflects a lifetime of service towards the rights and well-being of fellow workers. None are more deserving of this honor than Stu Skauge, Tommy Spencer, and Shana Thornton. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated leaders. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Human Rights Council. Their exemplary efforts in defending and protecting human rights are worthy of commendation.

The American Human Rights Council (AHRC) was founded in 2014 as a non-profit organization committed to protecting, promoting, and defending human rights as defined by the U.S. Constitution and outlined in the United Nations' 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since its inception, the AHRC has worked tirelessly with community leaders and human rights advocacy organizations to intervene in situations where human rights are at risk. Through high-level legislative work, media outreach, and grassroots mobilization, the AHRC strives to protect individuals whose rights are being violated regardless of geographical or other boundaries.

The AHRC's Annual Community Forum and Dinner Reception exemplifies the council's continued commitment to protecting and uplifting human rights worldwide. The 2019 forum titled "Human Trafficking: Universal Challenge, Common Responsibility" will focus on the challenges of human trafficking and generate awareness of its prevalence on a local, national, and global scale. Human trafficking constitutes a serious human rights violation and must be handled with the utmost care and concern. Thus, the AHRC strives to use its platform to educate attendees further on the impacts of human trafficking and provide opportunities to learn about ways to combat this alarming human rights crisis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the American Human Rights Council. The AHRC's meaningful work plays a crucial role in protecting human rights worldwide, and we are grateful for the tremendous dedication to solving the world's toughest human rights challenges.

HONORING CALFIRE FIRE CAPTAIN PAUL ROTONDARO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CalFire Fire Captain Paul Rotondaro. Mr. Rotondaro served the State of California during his distinguished career with CalFire, until he was tragically killed in a head-on collision while on-duty on October 2nd, 2019.

Mr. Rotondaro began his career in 2006 as a Firefighter 1 at the Ahwahnee Firestation in the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit of CAL FIRE. He was promoted to a Firefighter II in 2011 and in 2012 was promoted to Lieutenant Fire Apparatus Engineer in the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit then transferred to the Riverside Unit as a permanent Fire Apparatus Engineer in 2015. In 2016, Mr. Rotondaro was made a permanent Fire Captain in the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit. In 2018, he was selected as the Merced County Firefighter of the Year.

In both his personal and professional life, Mr. Rotondaro was a lover of the outdoors. He was an avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed camping, off-roading, boating, and many more outdoor activities.

Paul is survived by his loving wife Jennifer, his daughter Kiersten and his son Wyatt Dune. He is also survived by his father, Vincent Rotondaro, parents, Michael and Toni McMillin, his siblings, grandparents and many family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Fire Captain Paul Rotondaro. His sacrifice in service to our community will always be appreciated and remembered. I ask that you join me and his family in celebrating his great life.

HONORING THE WORK OF ELVIRA RAMOS

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, there are people in every community who are the gears that make the entire engine run, and who make their homes better, stronger and more interconnected. On the precipice of her retirement, I wish to honor one of those people from my community, Elvira Ramos. For over a decade, Elvira served the Community Foundation of Boulder County in grantmaking, mentorship, and as co-director of the Leadership Fellows Program. We have been blessed by her service and commitment to all of us, and now it is our chance to honor her.

An experienced trainer and facilitator, one of Elvira's greatest gifts to the Colorado community is her willingness to mentor and further the leadership skills of others, focusing especially on those from communities that are too often overlooked. She has led workshops in board and leadership development, inclusive leadership, volunteer management and strategic planning. Elvira convenes thoughtful, thorough conversations that tackle critical subjects and empower others with knowledge and expertise which they can pay forward to create a more just and representative society.

Elvira has made inclusivity and diversity pillars of her work. As an activist and philanthropist, she has built beloved and vital local organizations, ensuring that these organizations were always reaching outwards and creating more space at the table. Elvira has worked to create permanent and positive change through civic engagement and has built a foundational legacy upon which new community leaders will stand. Each of us are truly fortunate to feel the effects of her life's work.

One of Elvira's favorite quotes comes from Lao Tzu: "A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves." Though for countless Coloradans Elvira has emulated this exact form of leadership, kindly and gently guiding so many of us on a righteous path, today I would like to shine a bright light on her myriad contributions and powerful influence for good. The Colorado community wishes Elvira happiness and relaxation in her retirement, and sends our endless gratitude for her many contributions.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER AMBASSADOR TO UKRAINE, WILLIAM GREEN MILLER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay respectful tribute to the gifted, compassionate, and persevering life of American diplomat William Green Miller, our nation's second Ambassador to Ukraine following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

A highly trusted advisor and valued friend to Members of Congress, and the diplomatic and intelligence communities, Ambassador Miller's distinguished service to our nation elevated the possibilities and promise of liberty to people living in nations that had never known freedom.

He dedicated his life at liberty's edge with great humility. His steady, unselfish, and tenacious nature allowed him to tackle infinitely complex situations— Iran, the Soviet Union, Ukraine—and advise ways forward. He never really retired and remained engaged and insightful during his golden years.

A renaissance man, Ambassador Miller's career spanned assignment in Iran, staff director of the Senate Intelligence Committee, senior Administrator and professor at Tufts University, chairman of the board of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation, and president of the American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations. Upon leaving Congress, the U.S. Senate recognized his leadership by passing a special resolution commending him for "contributions and for his dedication, loyalty, integrity, and service."

Simply, he was exceptional.

It is with deepest condolences that I offer sympathy to his beautiful wife Suzanne, their two sons, and extended family at this difficult time.

May the life he has lived continue to inspire a new generation of Americans to embrace his calling to scholarship, service, and patriotic commitment to liberty's cause at home and abroad.

[From the Kyiv Post Sept. 24, 2019]

WILLIAM GREEN MILLER, SECOND US AMBASSADOR TO INDEPENDENT UKRAINE, DIES AT AGE 88

William Green Miller, who served as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in the 1990s as the euphoria of national independence gave way to the misery of economic destitution for many Ukrainians, died in his home in northern Virginia on Sept. 23, according to friends. He was 88. He served as America's second ambassador in Kyiv, from 1993-1998, and is the first of nine American ambassadors to independent Ukraine to have died.