

the Petosa brothers: Mario Sr., Joseph, Michael, and Angelo.

Mario Sr. served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1947, fighting in the Pacific theater during World War II from the Aleutian Islands in Alaska to Okinawa in Japan. Mario received numerous decorations for his service including two Purple Hearts and six Bronze Battle Stars. Joseph served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946, reaching the rank of Metalsmith Third Class and receiving the Asiatic Pacific Theatre Ribbon and 4 Bronze Battle Stars. Michael served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1946 and was awarded the American Service Medal for his actions during the occupation of Japan. Angelo's service in the U.S. Navy began after World War II and he remained in the U.S. Navy from 1952 to 1972, eventually achieving the rank of Lieutenant.

These brothers represent the best among us: a family dedicated to this country. They served America, fighting for our freedom during World War II and during the Cold War. With every day that passes, it becomes more and more important that we all work to recognize their accomplishments and preserve their stories for future generations. Our children and our children's children must know the sacrifices they made so many years ago so that we may be free today.

The Petosa brothers are proof not just of the greatness of our community on Staten Island, but of the entire country. They came here as immigrants from Italy, making tremendous sacrifices not just to call this country home, but to put their lives on the line to defend it. This is a testament not only to the character of these men, but to the country they chose to live in and serve. That spirit lives on in the United States military today, in men and women like the ones I served with in Afghanistan who were willing to risk it all first to become an American, and then to protect that right for others.

So Madam Speaker, during this Italian-American Heritage Month, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Mario Sr., Joseph, Michael, and Angelo Petosa, four Italian-American heroes who dedicated their lives to serving to this country and who represent the best of Staten Island.

IN RECOGNITION OF SCHROEDER'S
FLOWERS 120 YEARS OF SUCCESS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 120th anniversary of Schroeder's Flowers.

This family-owned flower shop began in 1899 when award-winning florist Carl Meier immigrated from Germany to Green Bay and opened his own flower shop. A few years after opening, Carl asked Otto Schroeder to leave Germany and help him grow his business. Schroeder stayed in Green Bay and later married Carl's daughter, Clara, and the business was renamed Schroeder's Flowers.

Schroeder's Flowers has always been a family business. In 1949, Otto's son, Otto Jr., took over the business and moved the location of the shop to Webster Avenue in Allouez. Today the business is run by fourth and fifth

generation owners, Charles and Peggy Schroeder and their son, Brian.

Schroeder's Flowers remains a pillar of the Green Bay community. Its prioritization of customer service has created a loyal customer base that depends on Schroeder's for its floral design expertise. Through the years, Schroeder's Flowers has fostered a strong relationship with its customers, who have showed continuous support for the family and their business. From a small shop that used to deliver flowers by horse and wagon, to one that has adapted to the changing economy and now processes orders online, Schroeder's Flowers continues to evolve and provide customers with quality service and beautiful floral arrangements.

Family-run small businesses are the backbone of the American economy. I am proud to have such a flourishing business in my district that puts the needs of the community and its customers first. It is encouraging to see a local business succeed across two centuries, and to continue to uphold the values of Northeast Wisconsin. Family's like the Schroeders are what make our district great, and I am proud to represent them.

Madam speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Schroeder's Flowers on 120 strong years in business. I wish the Schroeder family many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF DONALD L. VITNUM

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Director Donald L. Vittum, who is retiring after nearly 50 years of service to the citizens of New Hampshire. Throughout his distinguished career, Director Vittum has served as a Durham Police Officer, NH State Trooper, Chief of Police for Lebanon and Rochester, and, most recently, as the Director of the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council since 2006.

Director Vittum has always distinguished himself as a person of the highest integrity and a champion of law enforcement training. He has received numerous awards, including the 2018 New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Award for Career Service. A graduate of the 139th FBI National Academy, Director Vittum has not only helped keep our communities safe but he has also shared his expertise with the next generation of aspiring community servants by serving as an adjunct professor of criminal justice.

Law enforcement today looks very different than when Director Vittum began his career. But Director Vittum's high integrity and commitment to serving his communities have helped him adapt to the changing landscape and remain effective in every position he has held. This commitment has left a lasting impact on the law enforcement community—in nearly every police department across our state, one can find officers and officials who count Director Vittum as both a mentor and friend.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Director Vittum and his family for their decades of dedication to our community. I

congratulate him on his accomplished law enforcement career, and I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, October 15, I was not present for Roll Call votes 556 and 557. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yea" on Roll Call 556, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2385, to permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program, and

"Yea" on Roll Call 557, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 95, the Homeless Veteran Families Act.

CONGRATULATING ALICE DEAL MIDDLE SCHOOL, BLESSED SACRAMENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, JOHN W. ROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, KIPP DC HEIGHTS ACADEMY AND ST. PETER SCHOOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating five District of Columbia schools recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

For the past 37 years, the Department of Education has recognized schools for overall academic excellence or for reducing achievement gaps. Since 1982, over 40 schools in the District have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools. This year, Alice Deal Middle School, Blessed Sacrament Elementary School, John W. Ross Elementary School, KIPP DC Heights Academy and St. Peter School were selected as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

Alice Deal Middle School, located in Northwest DC, was established in 1982 and serves 1,506 students. As an International Baccalaureate School, the committed staff and teachers promote a global learning environment. Students study one of three languages—Chinese, French or Spanish—and have the opportunity to go abroad in 8th grade. I applaud Alice Deal for developing and encouraging students to be global citizens and for its recognition this year as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Located in Chevy Chase, DC, Blessed Sacrament strives to provide quality Catholic education through a caring community that promotes academic excellence and a life of service. This is the second time Blessed Sacrament has been named a National Blue Ribbon School. In 2012, Blessed Sacrament was also recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School under the category of Exemplary High Performing Schools. I applaud Blessed Sacrament for its recognition this year as a National Blue Ribbon School.