

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING EUGENE P. VUKELIC FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eugene P. Vukelic, a business leader who has devoted his life to service, giving back again and again to the people of Western New York.

Gene joined the United States Marine Corps in September of 1955 and served active duty with the United States Marine Corps 3rd Marine Division. He was stationed in Japan, rose to the rank of Corporal, and continued his military service until his discharge in April of 1963.

Following his military service, Gene became president of Try-It Distributing Co., Inc. in 1960, when he took over the company from his father, Stephen. The company originated as a small beer distributor with 12 stakeholders in the late 1920s, and today has over 625 stakeholders and serves Western New York clients from a state-of-the-art sales and service center in Lancaster, New York. Try-It Distributing is the exclusive Western New York distributor of Budweiser beer and related Anheuser-Busch products, and now includes subsidiaries Balkan Beverage and Saratoga Eagle Sales & Service. Try-It is the largest distributor of Labatt products worldwide. Gene has now been with Try-It for more than six decades.

Gene and his wife Carole Rose were married in 1958, and are parents to eight children, including six sons: Gregory (who passed away in 1981), Paul, Tim, Matt, Jeff and Peter; and two daughters Mary Ellen Sullivan and Suzanne Mahoney. Four sons work for Try-It, continuing the company's family legacy that has now spanned three generations.

Gene's focus has always been to give back to our community. He has contributed an extensive amount of volunteer leadership over the course of his career. Not-for-profit agencies, institutions and charities including Muscular Dystrophy Association, Nardin Academy, Canisius College, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Our Lady of Victory Services, in addition to Father Baker Charities have all benefited from Gene's generosity.

Gene is the recipient of numerous professional and civic awards and recognitions for his leadership of Try-It and his civic endeavors. Gene was awarded the Caritas Award from the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation in 2003, recognized as Humanitarian of the Year from Hope of Tomorrow in 2008, and was the recipient of the Buffalo Niagara Business Ethics Award in 2018. In 2019, Gene was inducted into the Buffalo Business Hall of Fame. Gene has also served as president of several local organizations, including Mercy Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees and the Buffalo Executives Association.

Madam Speaker, I recognize an honorable military veteran and a pillar of our community, Eugene P. Vukelic, and I hope that you and our colleagues will join in honoring Gene for his lifetime of service to the people of Western New York.

HONORING MAJ. CARL A. NUNZIATO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maj. Carl A. Nunziato, for his continued work to assure veterans in the Youngstown area have access to the treatment they deserve.

Maj. Carl A. Nunziato proudly served his country during two tours in Vietnam. During his first volunteer tour he served as a senior lieutenant commander of door gunners over 300 men located in seven locations throughout Vietnam; Nunziato also secured air bases and camp perimeters during this first tour as an intelligence officer and commander. Nunziato went on to serve as an artillery battery commander with the 25th Division and then returned to Vietnam to assist infantry in Ku-Chi. In 1966, during his second tour, he fought in Operation Adelborough, but near the completion of this operation he was struck by a mortar which resulted in the amputation of both his legs and a 23-month stay at the Walter Reed Hospital in recovery.

Nevertheless, Maj. Nunziato did not allow this event to derail his life. Returning home a hero, he chose to pursue an education and graduated from Case Western Reserve University's School of Law in 1971. He went on to work in law and served nearly 30 years in the banking industry.

As a result of his injuries, Maj. Nunziato became an advocate for veterans with disabilities. His efforts to assure that all veterans received adequate care in the Youngstown Area helped lead to the establishment of the Veterans Outpatient Clinic on Youngstown's North Side in the early 1990s. This clinic now serves about 45,000 veterans annually, and to this day Nunziato continues to work tirelessly. The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced the construction of a new, larger, 35,000-square-foot clinic near the old clinic. In May 2018, the Veterans Resource Center on Wick Avenue in Youngstown was renamed in his honor and he also helped to establish the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Youngstown's Central Square which commemorates the 104 Mahoning County soldiers who lost their lives during the war.

I am proud that Maj. Nunziato is a constituent of my district. The work he has done has been invaluable to our community and he has contributed an immense amount to the people of Youngstown through his service in both military and in the community.

I thank Maj. Nunziato for his service to our community and wish him the best of luck in his future efforts to assure the veterans and residents of Youngstown with disabilities receive the attention they deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which will host its 43rd Annual Gala on Saturday, November 9, 2019, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award.

The Asian American Medical Association has been a tremendous asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have dedicated themselves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Northwest Indiana and have served their communities through many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Dr. William J. Pierce.

Dr. William Pierce's career in the medical field has been remarkable and noteworthy. After graduating from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Dr. Pierce joined the Medical Corps of the United States Army, where he served proudly and reached the rank of captain. Subsequently, in 1973, he opened his private practice, Pierce Medical Clinic, which has been very successful and remains in operation today. During his illustrious career, Dr. Pierce has remained active in the medical community throughout Northwest Indiana, practicing at Community Hospital, Methodist Hospital, Saint Mary's Hospital, Saint Catherine's Hospital, Saint Anthony's Hospital, and Pinnacle Hospital. He also played a major role in the establishment and development of Pinnacle Hospital in Crown Point. In addition, he has served on numerous hospital and medical boards, chairing many of them. Dr. Pierce's expertise and leadership is highly respected, and he continues to go above and beyond for the healthcare community throughout the region. While his commitment to medicine and to his patients is most impressive, Dr. Pierce has also given much of his time and efforts to numerous charitable organizations in Northwest Indiana, and he has been very active in the Rotary Club for many years. For his dedication and important work, Dr. Pierce is to be commended.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the members of the Asian American

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