

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
SHARON ENOCH-HESTER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sharon Enoch-Hester, of Harrisburg, PA, who passed away on November 10, 2019 at the age of 63.

Sharon is the daughter of Ernestine Enoch and Vincent Wilson and was employed as a teacher in the Harrisburg School District in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She was a member of Zeta Phi Beta and a graduate of Shippensburg University. Sharon obtained her Master's Degree from the University of Scranton and participated in the Doctorate Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sharon is survived by her husband, the beloved Samuel Hester, by her mother Ernestine, her children Aaron and Michael Hester, a brother Warren Enoch, and her aunt Mary Louise Graves. Also, she is survived by a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

I am very blessed to have gotten to know Sharon's husband, Sam, who works in the Member's Gym. I am so sorry for this painful loss, and I hope he feels the support and love that we are sending him during this time. Sharon will certainly be missed by all whose lives she touched.

HONORING GARY MERVIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE ROCHESTER PROJECT EXILE ADVISORY BOARD

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Chairman of the Rochester Project Exile Advisory Board and Camp Good Days founder, Gary Mervis.

Gary has been the Chairman of the Rochester Project Exile Advisory Board since its inception in 1998. It is the longest running Project Exile in the country. There is a reason this program has withstood the sands of time—its success is abundantly clear and the statistics are staggering. I was fascinated by the facts and figures of this program's success—five hundred seventy-seven defendants indicted and fifteen thousand six hundred illegal guns removed from our streets. That last statistic is incredible, since Rochester had a homicide rating of seventy in the late nineties when this program began. The homicide rate qualified Rochester as having the highest per capita homicide rate of any city in New York State.

In developing this program, community leaders, officials and other community members stood up and said "No more!" Gary and his colleagues began meeting once a month to help battle the scourge of illegal guns and drugs in this community, doing what they could do to make things better. As it has been said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Gary and his fellow citizens of Rochester could have remained motionless and let guns

and drugs take over the neighborhoods—but they did not. Instead, they gathered together and created a really remarkable program that works—and it shows. Those statistics from the nineties have never recurred. I applaud Gary's leadership and the efforts of those involved with Project Exile and encourage these efforts to continue on into the future. This program has been a shining beacon for others throughout the country—and its success has allowed other programs to flourish as well.

Gary has clearly given much of himself for his community in service. I thank Gary for all that he has done and will do in the future.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to honor Chairman of the Rochester Project Exile Advisory Board and Camp Good Days founder, Gary Mervis.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CHARLOTTE WINELAND

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Charlotte Wineland on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Charlotte was born Lilian Charlotte Oheim on August 10, 1919, in Baltimore, Maryland to Christopher and Lilian Oheim. In 1923 her family relocated to Washington, D.C. where she was raised with her brother, Bill. As a child, Charlotte enjoyed playing Jacks and learned to play the piano. Her brother Bill earned money delivering the Evening Star newspaper. Like most people in the 1920s, the Oheims did not have a car. Young Charlotte walked all over the city, running errands and buying groceries for her mother, who would often send Charlotte back to demand the highest quality items. Charlotte became known as the "bring back girl" to the local grocers. Charlotte graduated from Eliot Junior High School and Eastern High School. She then attended business school before working for a local company and later she accepted a position in the Office of Congressman Fred Crawford on Capitol Hill.

Charlotte met her future husband, Lloyd Wineland Jr. while attending the circus in 1937. Charlotte and Lloyd married in 1939 and had four children, Linda, Christine, Nancy and Lloyd III. She was a devoted and doting mother and decided to be a stay-at-home mom until their youngest began school. They lived and raised their children on several acres in Southeast Washington, D.C. Lloyd became president of his family's movie theater business, Wineland Theaters, growing the chain to 20 theaters by the 1960's. They moved to Virginia in 1962.

Charlotte has always been an involved community member and was active in the Methodist church and her children's activities. She was a Girl Scout and Job's Daughters leader; and in the 1960s Charlotte led the Anacostia Lion Cell group in producing a cook book to raise funds for construction of Cafritz Hospital in S.E., D.C. In her spare time, she often delivered meals on wheels.

In 1978, Charlotte and Lloyd moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland and began the next chapter of their lives. Lloyd expanded the family business and became an antiques ap-

praiser. They gave several gifts of fine paintings and antiques to the State Department for the reception rooms. Their collection of Native American and Western Explorative Literature is now a part of the Smithsonian Libraries collection. After Lloyd's death in 1985, Charlotte moved to Oakton, Virginia where she has remained active with organizations including the Oakton United Methodist Church, the Oakton Women's Club and the Friends of Oakton Library. An avid traveler, she has visited many countries both with her husband and following his death, with other family members and friends. Well into her eighties she continued traveling with Elder Hostel.

Throughout her life, Charlotte has enjoyed entertaining friends and family. She has always been known for her lavish meals, amazing cooking, and warm hospitality. Charlotte has had many other hobbies which she mastered—knitting both by hand and machine, crocheting, tatting, embroidering and china painting. Over the years she has hand painted over 7 sets of china for her grandchildren and countless exceptional pieces for family and friends.

It is remarkable to note that Charlotte has seen 100 years of Washington, D.C. politics. She was born in the year in which women finally got the right to vote and has witnessed tremendous demographic changes including the first African American President and record-setting numbers of women from all walks of life running for and being elected into office. In 2012 she participated in organizing, "Experience Speaking" which encouraged senior citizens to give testimony as to what one should consider when voting in an election.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Charlotte Wineland a very happy 100th birthday and in thanking her for her many decades of service to her community. May she enjoy this very special occasion surrounded by the warmth and love of her family and friends including her children, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE JOSEPH R. PETERSON JUSTICE BUILDING

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph R. Peterson and celebrate the dedication of the Joseph R. Peterson Justice Building. Joseph Peterson is an influential leader in Wyandotte and his contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Joseph Peterson is a cornerstone of Wyandotte. For nearly four decades, Peterson has been an active member of the community, striving to make the city a better place for all. Before beginning his career in public service, Peterson spent 27 years serving the city as a police officer in the Wyandotte Police Department. Upon his retirement, Peterson became active in public service and was elected to the Wyandotte City Council in 2005. By 2009, Peterson was elected mayor—a position he has held ever since.

The naming of the Joseph R. Peterson Justice Building underscores Joseph Peterson's meaningful impact on the City of Wyandotte and serves as tribute to his leadership as a police officer, councilman, and mayor. Throughout all his work, Peterson has displayed an overwhelming commitment to the people of Wyandotte and endeavors to effect real change. Peterson is recognized by many as a dedicated, compassionate, and effective leader who humbly strives for excellence without seeking praise or recognition for any of his significant accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the dedication of the Joseph R. Peterson Justice Building. Joseph Peterson has become a pillar of our community, and the naming of the new Joseph R. Peterson Justice Building serves as a testament to his important work. We are all grateful for Peterson's leadership and wish him continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF AMARJIT SINGH BUTTAR

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe and mourn the passing of an extraordinary American, Mr. Amarjit Singh Buttar of Vernon, Connecticut. Amarjit passed away surrounded by his loving family in Connecticut on Wednesday, November 20, 2019.

His life was a quintessential American story. Born in 1938 in the Punjab region of India, he was raised as a disciple of the Sikh religion. In 1965, he emigrated to the United States with his wife, Rajinder Kaur Thind, and immediately embarked on an epic, relentless effort to contribute and succeed in his new homeland. He was accepted to University of Michigan Law School in 1966 and after graduation used his degree to pursue a lifetime of work helping fellow citizens in need. He moved to Connecticut with Rajinder, his two sons, Gursimrit Singh Buttar and Angad Singh Buttar, and began a career applying his legal acumen at the State of Connecticut Workers Compensation Commission. This agency adjudicates all the work-related injury claims in the state, affecting thousands and thousands of on-the-job accidents and illnesses that can result in tremendous stress and hardship if not handled correctly. Amarjit assisted the quasi-judicial state Commissioners in the handling of claims, demonstrating total command of the law and its processes. His innate compassion for people was a huge help to workers and their families who often found the system frustrating and daunting. As a young lawyer who represented workers compensation clients years ago, I personally saw him in action, deftly resolving complex cases and issues before the Commissioners even needed to rule. His diligence and competence were respected and admired by all who came into contact with him.

Amarjit's other best known public service was his passionate dedication to our country's democracy. He valued the right to vote, to participate in elections, and to run for office. In Vernon, where we both lived, Amarjit and I met a long time ago as members of the local

Democratic Town Committee, and in every election, whether at the local level or for the U.S. Presidency, he was a stalwart volunteer showing up at every meeting, phone bank, "literature drop", or election night gathering to support the candidates. Sometimes I benefitted from his help, when I ran for State Representative from 1986 to 1992, and later for U.S. Congress 2006 to the present. But also Amarjit himself benefitted when he successfully ran for the Vernon School Board, where he served two terms, including a stint as Chair.

When he was first elected in 2001, it was an exciting moment, since he was the first Sikh-American in Connecticut to achieve the milestone of elective office and one of the first nationwide. It's important to note that as strong a Democrat as Amarjit was, in office he demonstrated total respect and comity for his Republican colleagues and was always focused on advancing the best interests of the school children of the town, not a partisan agenda. His other notable electoral highlight was when he was selected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2004 in Boston, Massachusetts. There, he witnessed in person Barack Obama's famous keynote address, a 20-minute speech that introduced him to the country, and that began his journey to the White House in 2008.

As busy as Amarjit was with his public service, he always found time for his family. They are a close-knit group, sharing time and activities (including volunteering at Democratic Headquarters). In August of this year his family celebrated 50 years of marriage to Rajinder. Amarjit was also intensely devoted to his two sons. His son Angad shared a story of his dad's devotion: "Though not a sports fan himself, he raised two sons who are avid fans. When he would take his oldest son to Hartford Whalers games when he was a child, he would playfully cheer for the opposing teams such as the rival Boston Bruins or the Montreal Canadiens, while his son would vigorously cheer for the hometown team." Madam Speaker, showing your playful love of your children in the middle of hostile hockey fans I believe is the ultimate proof of familial devotion! Both boys today are now grown and graduates of the University of Connecticut, pursuing successful careers—Gursimrit in New York and Angad in Virginia where he lives with his wife, Simmi Bhuller. Amarjit also found time for his fellow Sikh community in Connecticut and across the country. My casework staff in Connecticut can amply attest to his high volume of calls, asking for assistance for his many many friends—which we always welcomed.

Madam Speaker, I believe Amarjit's life can be summed up with a simple phrase: "He made a difference." For his family, his Sikh community, his Vernon community and his American community, Amarjit created a transformatory legacy that touched thousands of lives, for the better. That is a proud legacy, and I ask that the entire House join me in expressing our deepest condolences to his family and saluting his groundbreaking life.

RECOGNIZING JANYCE "JAN" HEDETNIEMI

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to announce the passing of a titan in Fairfax County, Janyce "Jan" Hedetniemi. I had the great privilege of knowing and working with Jan for many years and I was proud to call her a friend.

Jan was born and grew up in Sewickley, Pennsylvania and received her bachelor's degree in psychology and English literature from the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University) followed by her master's degree in psychology and counseling and guidance from Indiana University in 1963. She moved to the Washington, D.C. area where she served in the early part of her career as assistant dean of women at the University of Maryland and director of development at Mount Vernon College.

Jan embarked on a long and illustrious career of Federal public service, first as a social science analyst with the President's Biomedical Research Panel and thereafter in a series of progressively responsible positions at the National Institutes of Health in program planning and development initiatives, including the NIH Research Agenda on Women's Health and the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer. She was appointed in 1994 as the first director of the NIH's newly established Office of Community Liaison, serving in that position until her retirement from the NIH in 2002. Jan's service there was recognized with two NIH Director's Awards.

Jan had an unquenchable passion for community service and civic leadership. She served as president of her homeowner's association for many years and as co-chair of the Braddock District Democratic Committee from 2009 to 2013. She served as a member of the Boards of the Fairfax County Park Authority and Park Foundation and was appointed to the Planning Commission where she served from 2013 to 2017. Jan also chaired the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Committee and four separate Bond Referendum Committees. In recognition of her countless contributions and dedication to our community, Jan was named the Board of Supervisors' Lady Fairfax for the Braddock District in 2004, Braddock District Member of the Year for 2013, and the 2014 Citizen of the Year by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations.

Jan was also an avid outdoors sports-woman, both as a tennis player and as an equestrian. She served as captain of two United Tennis Association Adult Women's Teams. As a horse owner, she participated for many years in dressage training and competition and served as a member of the Fairfax County Equestrian Services Task Force.

Jan was loved by many and respected by all. I was proud to name her to serve as Presidential Elector of the 2012 Electoral College from the 11th Congressional District of Virginia for the re-election of President Barack Obama. Her service to her community and country is expansive and commendable and her presence will be deeply missed.