

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 transformational 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.

HONORING THE NEW ZION
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1901 Charlestine Street in Texarkana, Texas on their 100th year anniversary. The church was organized under the leadership of Rev. Warner Brown. A group of believers met in the home of Bro. L. and Sis. Hattie Frazier. Through the years several ministers have served, and the church is still moving forward. Destroyed by fire in 1954, another building was purchased at the present location. We recognize this honorable achievement marking the 100th Diamond Jubilee church anniversary, November 24, 2019. We recognize Pastor Melvin and Nina Glover; the Chairman of Deacons, Deacon George Edwards; the Church Secretary, Sis. Melva Flowers; along with the New Zion Church Family. Give God all the glory for what he has done and what he will continue to do and provide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on November 20, 2019 during roll call No. 632, On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 713, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act; providing for proceedings during the period from November 22, 2019 through December 2, 2019; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call No. 633, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 713, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1309, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act; providing for proceedings during the period from November 22, 2019 through December 2, 2019; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call No. 634, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 737, Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call No. 635, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, S. 1838, Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call No. 636, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, S. 2710, To prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOS INTERNATIONAL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize SOS International LLC (SOSi) on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. Founded in 1989 to provide specialized analytical services to the U.S. law enforcement community, SOSi has evolved into an international solutions provider with experience in 30 countries worldwide. SOSi provides intelligence, technology and project-management solutions to large, government and private-sector organizations and is known for its innovation, flexibility and agility. SOSi is among the fastest growing companies in the Aerospace and Defense Services industry. The company has been recognized by Washington Technology magazine as one of the Top 100 Government Technology Contractors for 2019; and it was nominated by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce for this year's Large Business Contractor and Executive of the Year Awards.

What has struck me most about SOSi is not only its impressive growth and development as a company, but its continued commitment to our Northern Virginia community. SOSi is an ardent supporter of our Nation's active duty military and veteran population. Veterans make up 25 percent of SOSi's global workforce. SOSi is a Virginia Values Veterans (V3) certified company. It is an active supporter of the local USO chapter, as well as a number of organizations like Bunker Labs, Capitol Post, and Dog Tag Inc. that empower veterans, military spouses, and caregivers to pursue their entrepreneurial aspirations.

SOSi is equally committed to improving the lives of underprivileged and underserved people in our local community. They've been huge supporters of Cornerstones, a non-profit in Northern Virginia which provides critical support to those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services.

Earlier this year, SOSi President and CEO Julian Setian served as chairman for Cornerstones' Best of Reston Gala, which I attend almost every year. That gala raised over \$500,000 for individuals and families who are in need in our community. Every year, SOSi holds drives for coats, books and school supplies, benefiting the families in Cornerstones' shelters. SOSi employees cook Thanksgiving meals, build bookshelves, pack care packages, and sponsor a "night out at the movies" for children living in their shelters. SOSi employees participate in South Lakes High School's annual Ethics Day event, mentoring young people in Northern Virginia about the value of ethical conduct in their daily lives.

SOSi is also a strong advocate for immigrants who are victims of human trafficking and domestic violence through its support for a Washington D.C. based organization called Ayuda. SOSi provides free translation services and life coaching to this often overlooked segment of our community. Lastly, the company has become active in causes, such as Chance For Life, which raises money for pediatric cancer research, and the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, to which Julian and SOSi have become active contributors.

Through their involvement in Wolf Trap, they provide critical support to early youth education in music and art.

Madam Speaker, companies like SOSi and the employees who work there are proof of the commitment to public service that exists throughout Northern Virginia. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all of the employees and leadership of SOSi for their efforts to better our community and protect our country. I especially want to commend Julian for his leadership and vision. Under his guidance, SOSi has continued to grow and has become the standard bearer for progress and innovation in the government contracting industry. I thank them for their service and wish the SOSi Team continued success.

OFFICER LEO LOPEZ RETIRES
FROM THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding law enforcement career of California Highway Patrol Officer Leo Lopez, who will retire after 30 years of service.

Officer Lopez's promise to serve by the California Highway Patrol motto of "Safety, Service, and Security" began prior to his graduation from the academy. The Loma Prieta earthquake that struck the Bay Area caused officer Lopez to dive right into duties, driving patrol units from Sacramento to the San Francisco CHIP office on only his second day of the academy. Officer Lopez went on to receive badge #12972 on March 8, 1990, with his first station assignment in Barstow. He has since served in numerous capacities with the Inland Division Commercial Unit and the Inland Divisions Special Response Team. One of many of his deployments was to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I offer my sincere congratulations to Officer Leo Lopez for his 30 years of service as a member of the California Highway Patrol and wish him an enjoyable and relaxing retirement. A native to the High Desert and the second of three generations to serve the California Highway Patrol, I thank you for your service and your commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our community.

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. XOCHITL TORRES SMALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, this November, I am proud to join my colleague, Congresswoman DEB HAALAND in recognizing Native American Heritage Month. This House Resolution draws attention to our country's complex history and celebrates the many contributions Native Americans have made to our nation. Importantly, it affirms the need to strengthen our