

the World War II Campaign Medal with four bronze stars, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and a World War II Victory Medal—awards that are long overdue. Throughout his years of service in the United States Military, Corporal Kroll dutifully earned these honors. He bravely defended and made sacrifices for our nation to ensure freedom would persevere for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Corporal Henry Kroll for his exemplary service. We are grateful for his commitment to America, and I am proud that he is finally receiving the recognition he deserves.

REMEMBERING JIM GORDON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and service of Jim Gordon, a committed organizer who devoted over 49 years of his life to fighting for the American worker.

Jim worked as a building serviceman, installer, switchman, repairman, and systems technician. While he was committed to his trade, he knew the importance of collective action and quickly became involved in his Communications Workers of America (CWA) local, serving in several positions including being elected by his peers to lead CWA Local 9412 as their President. In 1984 Jim joined the staff of the Communications Workers of America, serving many years as Legislative/Political Director for California, Nevada and Hawaii, headquartered in Sacramento, California. In that role, he used his deep devotion and experience to get the best deal for his members and was awarded the union's Maxine Lee Award in 1990 for excellence in his work.

Jim understood the importance of public service outside of the union serving in the United States Army in Turkey and as an elected member of the Fremont City Council. Jim also served as a member of the California Democratic Party Central Committee, Chair of the CDP Labor Caucus, and as the Vice President of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Jim's legacy is of a tireless union organizer, devoting countless hours to fighting on behalf of American consumers and workers in the U.S. and abroad. Jim's service to his country and work in the labor movement will continue to help the lives of countless people and his spirit will be missed. Please join me in celebrating his life and his memory.

RECOGNIZING THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna on the occasion of their 21st anniversary and to thank them for their many con-

tributions to the Northern Virginia community. Organized in 1998, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is a non-profit that provides services to help older adults continue living independently, and it offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization.

Every year, approximately 200 volunteers provide invaluable services in support of older residents who want to age in place in their homes and stay engaged in social activities. Services are available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

Last year, volunteers provided 9,922 hours of service to the Northern Virginia community. Volunteer drivers provided more than 900 round-trip rides for medical needs and other errands. Volunteers also made regular contact with individuals who may have limited interaction and may feel isolated in their homes. "Handy Helpers" made minor home repairs to help older adults keep their homes safe and livable. The Health Team provided individual health counseling, referral to community resources, and blood pressure readings. Volunteers also run programs such as Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and caregivers' support groups.

The services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through the promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use and share their experience, training, and skills. In 2014, SCOV was recognized for these efforts as an Outstanding Volunteer Caregiving Program by the National Volunteer Caregiving Network.

I also want to give special mention to a new series of programs begun by SCOV this year, focused on veteran outreach. Volunteers from SCOV who are veterans themselves reach out to fellow veterans with either a call or an in-person visit or both. The men and women who serve our nation in uniform, especially in combat, are just as vulnerable, if not more so, to the dangers of isolation and depression as our senior population and I commend SCOV for taking this important action to help address that.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna on its 21st anniversary and for its work to enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are truly deserving of our highest praise.

PALMDALE CITY MANAGER JAMES PURTEE RECIPIENT OF 2019 LARRY CHIMBOLE PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Palmdale City Manager James "Jim" Purtee, who will be presented with the Larry Chimbole Public Service Award by the Cali-

fornia League of Cities Desert/Mountain Division. Jim has announced that he will also retire at the end of 2019, after 31 years of public service.

Jim began his diverse public service career with the City of Simi Valley in 1988, where he worked in multiple department and on issues including community services, affordable housing, planning, economic development, and city administration. He was named Simi Valley's Assistant City Manager in July 2012 and was formally appointed to be Palmdale's City Manager on October 5, 2015. Under his leadership, Palmdale's Part I crime rate has decreased to its lowest in a quarter century. Palmdale has also maintained a strong general fund reserve and credit ratings from both of the leading ratings agencies, which is a credit to Jim's strong and strategic management skills. Jim has been very involved with the League of California Cities, where he has served as the Desert/Mountain Division's representative to the League's Administrative Services Policy Committee and Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee.

As a former city councilmember, I know that replacing Jim will be an incredibly tough task for the City of Palmdale, and I wish their councilmembers the best of luck in finding a successor. Jim Puttee embodies all of the qualities of the Larry Chimbole Award, and I congratulate him on this prestigious honor as well as a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LINDA ORANGE

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 long-time Connecticut State Representative Linda Orange who passed away on November 20, 2019 after a difficult battle with pancreatic cancer that she met with bravery and grace, which characterized her overall approach to the challenges and vagaries of her life.

At the time of her passing, Linda was in her 23rd year of service as a state representative in a district that she shared with me in eastern Connecticut. I can personally attest to her unstinting focus on advocating for her constituency in ways both big and small. Whether it was her committee work, work on the House floor where she rose to the position of Deputy Speaker, or taking a call from a constituent at any time of day, she kept complete and total fidelity to the people who sent her to the State Capitol in Hartford.

I had the privilege to see Linda at work at another time in her life, when she worked in my Committee room during part of the time I served at the State Capitol from 1991-1994. She clerked for me and my colleague then State Senator Ken Prysbyz when we co-chaired the Joint Committees on Human Services and Public Health. The two of us were a handful for Linda, partly because of the volume of the bills that passed through our doors, but also because the sometimes frenetic pace that could make it a real pressure cooker. To say that we tested her patience at times is an understatement. Her natural good humor and kindness always overcame any