

I would also like to honor him for his dedication and commitment to our nation's firefighters, for his unwavering support for the family members of our fallen heroes, and for his many contributions to the bipartisan work of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. Serving as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I have seen Chief Compton's tireless efforts up close.

Prior to his role as Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Board of Directors, Chief Compton served in the Phoenix Fire Department for twenty-eight years. He also served as Fire Chief in Mesa, Arizona, for six years. Chief Compton also served as Past Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) National Advisory Council and Co-Chairman of the Fire Service-Based EMS Advocates Steering Committee.

Our nation's fire service owes Chief Compton a debt of gratitude. On behalf of my fellow Co-Chairs of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I extend my thanks and appreciation to Chief Dennis Compton for his outstanding leadership as Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER
SCHLECHT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jennifer Schlecht, a beloved and internationally recognized public health expert. She worked tirelessly to ensure that women and girls—especially those living in crisis situations—had access to medical care, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care. Ms. Schlecht was an incredible mother and friend in addition to being a true leader in the reproductive health space.

Ms. Schlecht was committed to bringing about a world where all women and girls could exercise control over their bodies. She worked in Africa before returning home to New York in 2001, where she earned a master's degree from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. After graduating in 2004, she began working at Harlem Hospital. Later, Ms. Schlecht joined the Women's Refugee Commission; where she gained a reputation as both a women's health expert and as someone who was razor sharp, fun, and unfailingly kind. Mrs. Schlecht joined the UN Foundation (UNF) Family Planning 2020 team as Senior Advisor for Emergency Preparedness and Response and quickly became a go-to expert on addressing the needs of women and girls in crisis. Her leadership in the field was recognized by her colleagues at UNF and professionals from partner organizations around the world.

Beyond her expertise, she was a treasured colleague, bringing her warmth and generosity to work every day. Amidst all her commitments, she somehow found time to also become a certified counselor, get married, buy a home in Harlem, and have a daughter, Abaynesh. Her energy and her clear-eyed drive to improve the world around her were boundless.

The same warmth that engendered her commitment to women and girls globally was

evident in her dedication to protecting and nurturing her much loved daughter. She worked from New York to spend more time with Abaynesh. This September, to Ms. Schlecht's immense pride, her daughter began kindergarten at Hunter College Elementary School. Abaynesh was the center of her life.

On November 6th, Ms. Schlecht and Abaynesh were killed by their husband and father in a tragic act of domestic violence. There are no words to express the profound devastation faced by those who loved them; there is no meaning to be found in this tragedy. One out of every three women will experience violence in their lifetime, most likely at the hands of someone they know. Ms. Schlecht's courage to leave an abusive situation should never be forgotten. The best way to honor her memory is to keep fighting to realize Ms. Schlecht's dream of ensuring safety, dignity, and choices for all women and girls. Ms. Schlecht, her light, the way she cared for her daughter, and all of the things that made her a beautiful human being will be deeply missed. We cannot rest until the violence stops.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Jennifer Schlecht, remembering her deep dedication to the rights of women and girls around the world, and mourning the unjust and tragic loss of her and her daughter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavailable due to delays in travel and missed Roll Call Vote 655 and 656.

Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call No. 655 and 656.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present for them, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call No. 655 on H.R. 4761—DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019—YEA, and Roll Call No. 656 on H.R. 4739—Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act—YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, December 9, 2019 due to an important meeting with constituents in my District.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 655, and YEA on Roll Call No. 656.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN LYONS ON HIS 11TH BIRTHDAY AND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize Brian Lyons for his incredible dedication and the many contributions he has made and continues to make to local first responders.

Upon discovering that his local fire company, Elm Hill Hose Company No. 3 in Plymouth, did not have a Jaws of Life, Brian jumped into action and began selling lemonade to raise the necessary funds needed to purchase the life saving equipment. After selling over 7,500 cups of lemonade and receiving a \$2,000 donation, Brian purchased the Jaws of Life and was on hand to donate the equipment to his local fire company in August.

Brian's dedication to supporting our community's first responders, especially his local fire company, is a tremendous example to us all. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Brian Lyons for his dedication to our first responders.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT M.
RECHNITZ

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Robert M. Rechnitz. Mr. Rechnitz, a longtime resident of the Locust section of Middletown, New Jersey, passed away on October 12, 2019 after a vibrant life filled with numerous professional and personal accomplishments.

Robert (Bob) Rechnitz was a prominent member of the community and a fixture of the thriving arts and humanities landscape in Monmouth County. As co-founder and executive producer of Two River Theater, Bob was committed to providing an outlet for creative expression and a preeminent institution for the public to enjoy. In addition to his extensive background and work in theater, Bob was an esteemed educator, stalwart preservationist and dedicated philanthropist. He lived his life in service to his community and his achievements and generosity have been recognized by many awards and tributes over the years.

His love of nature and the theater and his commitment to social and humanitarian causes left an indelible impact on the community. From his support of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation and Monmouth University to his contributions to Monmouth Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center, to name just a few, his philanthropic endeavors will benefit generations to come.

Bob leaves behind a loving family, including his devoted wife and partner Joan, their children Emily, Adam and Joshua, son-in-law John Paladino, daughter-in-law Elizabeth Fordi, grandchildren Max and Flora Paladino