

service has left a meaningful impact in the Monadnock Region and the Granite State.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I commend Kendall Lane and wish him all the best in the coming years. I look forward to our continued work together to support the Keene community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL ON ITS 170TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congregation Beth Israel on the 170th anniversary of its founding. Congregation Beth Israel, a Reform synagogue located in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. It is one of the oldest synagogues in the United States still housing its original congregation.

As immigrants from across Europe made their way to the United States in the mid-19th century, a group of German Jews settled in the Pocono Mountains in Northeastern Pennsylvania, drawn by the prospect of employment with the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. In the fall of 1849, a small group from that wave of settlers saw the need for a Jewish congregation in the recently-formed community of Honesdale. Together they formed the first Jewish congregation in the area—Congregation Beth Israel. Its beginning was humble; the group met in one of the member's homes to worship in the Orthodox tradition using a borrowed Torah.

The Congregation continued to grow and flourish under its first spiritual leader, Rabbi Kutner. In 1850, the congregation drafted a constitution, purchased its own Torah, Shofar, and Megillah, and started a cemetery that is still in use. By 1854, the Congregation had its own Hebrew school. In 1856, the Congregation dedicated its Colonial meeting-house style building. Despite its early reputation as the smallest synagogue in the United States, the building went on to undergo several renovations and restorations over its impressive history, including the addition of gothic style stained glass windows, a sanctuary decorated with a chandelier and Tiffany globe sconces, and an annex.

Between 1880 and 1890, the Jewish population in Honesdale declined, leaving the Congregation unable to maintain a full-time local rabbi after 1891. Congregation Beth Israel persisted in the face of these challenges and adapted to meet the changing needs of their community. The Congregation, which began as Orthodox, began to transform to reflect the German Reform or Classical Reform Tradition. The 1930s and 1940s saw an increase of Eastern European Jews, and the Congregation began to change from Classical Reform to a more mainstream Reform congregation.

Today, under the direction of Rabbi Elliott Kleinman and President Liza Roos Lucy, Congregation Beth Israel remains a thriving center for Jewish life in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Congregation continues to support a religious school, host a variety of Jewish cultural events for the community, and celebrate many B'nai Mitzvah and weddings each year. They

embrace a diverse and dynamic membership with members who can trace their lineage to the early founders of the synagogue and many others who have found and joined the community in the last 15 years. As a member of the Union of Reform Judaism, they are proud of their ability to embrace the changing world around them and welcome progressive values while upholding the spirit and teachings of the faith.

It is an honor to recognize Congregation Beth Israel on their 170th anniversary. May the Congregation continue to build on this impressive legacy of worship and community.

HONORING NATALIE PURDIE FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Ms. Natalie Purdie on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Woman in the Community Service Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor women who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Ms. Purdie's lifetime of service and commitment to Domestic Violence Advocacy. As a domestic violence survivor, Natalie has broken her silence to do, "Speak Up and Speak Out!"

Ms. Purdie is a board member and volunteer with My Help My Hope, Inc. She is also a member of the Samaritan House Women Against Violence (WAV) group. She was the keynote speaker for their annual event Unmask Domestic Violence. She was also the guest speaker at Green Run High School in Virginia Beach for their KNOW More Domestic Violence Assembly which was organized by the students.

Ms. Purdie now volunteers with Promise Place teaching the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program to middle and high school students. She was the keynote speaker for Promise Place 1st & 2nd Annual Teen Dating Violence Summit at Georgia State University. She was also the panel discussion moderator for 2019.

Ms. Purdie's dedication to helping victims to become survivors and to raise awareness about bills such as the E.R.A. and Marsy's Law in the state of Georgia. I am proud to honor and recognize Ms. Purdie's leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia has significantly benefited from her presence.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2019 LITERACY COUNCIL OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA RECOGNITION EVENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Literacy Council of Northern Vir-

ginia (LCNV) and to congratulate the volunteers, instructors, students, community partners, and others who will be recognized at the 2019 LCNV Recognition Celebration.

The mission of LCNV is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English in order to empower them to participate more fully and confidently in their communities and in society as a whole. LCNV serves low-literacy and limited English language proficient adults with a selection of low-cost, moderately intensive courses to help them transition into the workforce or other educational opportunities. LCNV provides the crucial first steps of language and literacy proficiency for workplace, citizenship, and community integration to help adults make measurable improvements in their lives.

Each year LCNV recognizes students and members of the community who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to achieving the mission of LCNV. LCNV will also recognize the recipient of the Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2019 LCNV honorees and scholarship recipient:

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

B.F. Saul Company Hospitality Group  
Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center  
Rotary International District 7610

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Linton Favours  
Fran Perros  
Jody Sweet

PATRICIA M. DONNELLY MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Santos Rubio

I also want to recognize those volunteers who are celebrating service anniversaries with LCNV. Volunteers are being recognized for service milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years respectively.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

25 years: Avis Black  
20 years: Denise Murray  
15 years: Mary-Jane Roth

10 years: Margaret Breen, Gerry Chiaruttini, Marla Diamond, Naomi Gittins, Lisa Godfrey, Mary Kalfatovic, James Kern, Julia Tungli, Karen Westlake, Suzanne Zimmerman

5 years: Ntasha Atkins, Mary Rose Bayer, Jackie Corkins, Grace Kalfatovic, Donna Martin, Wendy Mayer, Marla Swaby, Michael Wesbecher, Farhana Zaman

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Literary Council of Northern Virginia and in thanking and congratulating each of the honorees of the 2019 LCNV Recognition Celebration. I wish all of them great success in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CLARENCE "SMOKY" SMEKOFSKI OF NORTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Ms. McCOLLUM, Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and remember the life of Clarence "Smoky" Smekofski. He was a beloved husband, father and uncle. He was also a proud veteran of the United States Navy and a longtime Letter Carrier for the United States