

The American Legion Auxiliary is a premier service organization that has been a vital asset to our community. By providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families, the American Legion Auxiliary shapes a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, and peace.

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary boasts almost one million members from a range of different backgrounds. This past year, the organization oversaw more than 40 million volunteer hours and raised \$37 million for charities across the U.S.

Specifically, the American Legion Auxiliary's Gilbert D. Karsten Post 33, has been a pillar in our community through their support of veterans, sponsorship of local events, and extensive youth development programs. Their tireless work has dramatically increased the quality of life for veterans and their families across West Michigan.

The post gets their name from the late Gilbert Dean Karsten, an American army Corporal who was killed on the battlefields of France on August 2, 1917. Gilbert D. Karsten was born in Zeeland, MI, on April 20, 1898, and joined the U.S. Army just days after the U.S. declared war on Germany. His death made him the first World War I casualty from Zeeland, and the community has continued to honor his sacrifice by using his name to help further their commitment to serving local veterans and their families.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the American Legion Auxiliary and the Gilbert D. Karsten Post 33 for their 100 years of dedicated service to veterans throughout our country and in West Michigan.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF CHARLES PENNINGTON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of my friend, Charles Pennington, Junior, who was a true American patriot and an economic development engine for London, Kentucky.

Charlie was a thriving work horse every day that he had the ability to serve others. He dedicated 26 years to law enforcement, first as a Kentucky State Trooper, until he was drafted for the Korean War. He honorably served this great Nation in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1959. When he returned home to American soil, he was sworn in as a Laurel County Sheriff's Deputy. One year later, he became a Deputy U.S. Marshal and participated in some of the nation's most historic moments in time. In fact, he escorted the first African American student into an integrated school and was featured in Norman Rockwell's captivating painting of that fateful day. During my first year in office, representing Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District, I was honored to recommend Charlie's promotion to U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky. President Ronald Reagan appointed him to the role, serving 67 Kentucky counties, until his retirement.

During what could have been long restful years of retirement, Charlie invested his time and energy to recruiting businesses and cre-

ating new jobs in Laurel County through the London Planning and Zoning Commission and the London Laurel County Industrial Authority—and he wasn't just good at it, he was great. Charlie helped transform Laurel County into an industrial hub for our entire region. He was instrumental in developing a desperately needed new industrial park, which now rightfully bears his name. Thanks to his tireless efforts to lay a healthy economic foundation and landscape in Laurel County, the I-75 corridor will continue to progress for generations to follow.

Aside from his official duties, Charlie volunteered countless hours to the Laurel County Fire Department and other civic organizations. He made a difference in our region and we can already see the growth made possible by his dedication. I am forever grateful for his friendship and partnership on economic development projects over the years. My wife, Cynthia, and I extend our heartfelt condolences to Charlie's entire family and his countless friends across the state.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF KEVIN J. BRADY

HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin J. Brady, who is retiring from his position as Executive Director over the Greater Huntington Park & Recreation District. Mr. Brady has been involved in various public service roles, both inside and outside the hills of Appalachia, for well over 32 years.

Mr. Brady is truly a dedicated civil servant whose work has sought to significantly benefit the quality of life of Southern West Virginia and the Tri-State Region surrounding Huntington.

In 1989, Mr. Brady started his life of service by becoming a Landscape Coordinator for Hamilton County, Tennessee. During this time, Mr. Brady pioneered several projects that oversaw the management of the Tennessee Riverwalk, Tennessee Riverpark, and the Chester Frost Park. Excelling in his duties, Mr. Brady would later become the Director of Parks for the City of Chattanooga. He served in these roles for a total of 20 years until 2009 when he moved to Juneau, Alaska to serve as their Superintendent of Parks and Landscape; however, when the Greater Huntington Park & Recreation District needed an Executive Director in 2010, he answered the call to return to the heart of Appalachia.

Over the last ten years, Mr. Brady has proven time and time again that he is a true asset to Huntington and the Mountain State. His passion project, St. Cloud Commons all-inclusive playground, has already brought happiness to countless children in Huntington. It is because of people like Mr. Brady that make me proud to represent West Virginia's Third Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize Mr. Brady for this momentous achievement. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in sending him, his wife Suzanne, his daughter Rhiannon, and their three grandchildren, gratitude and well wishes upon his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD MCEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on January 7, 2020 during roll call no. 1, Quorum, Call of the House. Had I been present, I would have been recorded as "present."

ELIAS "LOUIE" HORIATES

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the Pennsauken, New Jersey resident Elias "Louie" Horiates, a Camden County Town Hall Honoree.

Elias Horiates was born in Greece in 1933, he was the oldest of nine brothers and sisters. At the age of fourteen, his family immigrated to the land of opportunity, the United States of America, to start a new life in the Township of Pennsauken, New Jersey.

In 1956, at the age of 23 he was drafted into the United States Army and defended our great nation overseas. Mr. Horiates completed basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey and began his first two years of service overseas in Germany. After his return to the United States he continued his service at Fort Campbell and at the Armory on 42nd and Federal Street. During his service Mr. Horiates requested a special discharge to return home for temporary leave to elope with his childhood sweetheart, Hrisoula. Mr. Horiates was lucky enough to receive a generous 60-day leave to return home, one that was rarely granted.

In 1962, Mr. Horiates completed his service in the United States Army as a sergeant after 6 years of valiant service. When he returned home from his military service, Mr. and Mrs. Horiates bought their first home in Pennsauken, New Jersey along the road of West River Drive where they would raise their family of three sons and one daughter.

Back in his hometown, Mr. Horiates went on to work for Hutchinson Plumbing for 45 years. Mr. Horiates served two terms as the President of Saint Thomas Greek Orthodox Church and served as the President of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association of South Jersey.

Mr. Horiates is a proud and patriotic American, he values the time he spent in the United States Army and cherishes his life and the opportunities he was given in our great country. In their retirement, Louie and Hrisoula have continued to live in their home in Pennsauken, New Jersey for fifty-five years as active members in their community and country. Their legacy continues with their four children, seven grandchildren and their four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. Elias "Louie" Horiates, of Pennsauken, New Jersey, a resident dedicated to his community and who served his country valiantly.