

connecting veterans with meaningful employment by hosting job fairs. On behalf of myself and the veterans in our region, I thank you for your continued support and efforts to ensure our veterans get to experience the American dream they fought to protect.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the centennial of Disabled American Veterans. I thank DAV, for an outstanding first 100 years, and let us look forward to another prosperous 100 years.

HONORING DR. PATRICK WELCH

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 24, 2020*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Patrick Welch, a Vietnam War veteran who made it his mission in life to ensure that veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

Dr. Welch enlisted into the United States Marine Corps at the young age of 17 and served in combat as an Infantry Squad Leader with the 3rd Division during the Vietnam War. He was severely injured on the battlefield and immobilized for two years. For his service, Dr. Welch was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Service Defense Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medals, and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross.

Like many veterans, when Dr. Welch returned to Buffalo, New York from the war he was struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He quickly realized that many of his fellow comrades were facing the same challenges he was. It was at that point that he decided to dedicate his life to raising awareness about veterans' mental health and he worked to provide avenues in which they could seek treatment. In doing so he substantially altered the conversation about the mental health of veterans in Western New York. He promoted the idea that mental health isn't a taboo subject but rather a reality for a number of veterans returning home. He often says "War doesn't break us, war changes us."

Those who know Dr. Welch can attest to the fact that he is a great leader, educator, and a speaker who uses his skills to advocate for veterans. Dr. Welch is an active member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, was the Director of Erie County Veterans Services, and the Director of the Center for Veterans and Veteran Family Services at Daemen College. His most treasured role was helping individual veterans as a Senior Mentor in the Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court. Dr. Welch currently serves as the Chair of the Community Veterans Engagement Board of Western New York. He always works closely with our office to advocate for policies and services that benefit veterans. Dr. Welch recently joined our Service Academy Advisory Committee to assist those following in his footsteps to serve our nation. He has built relationships with many veterans in Western New York behind the scenes. In doing so he has set a solid precedent for how each one of us should treat veterans returning home after defending our freedom.

Dr. Welch's extensive work has laid solid groundwork for the next generation of leaders

and advocates. His openness about his personal struggles has fostered an atmosphere within our community where veterans feel like they have a safe place to be supported and heal. I have closely worked with Dr. Patrick Welch for many years so it is my privilege today to personally thank him for his service and friendship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 24, 2020*

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 196; YEA on Roll Call No. 197; and NAY on Roll Call No. 198.

IN HONOR OF REP. EDWARD BUTLER

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 24, 2020*

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor State Representative Ed Butler, who is retiring after twelve years of service to the citizens of New Hampshire. Rep. Butler served Carroll County District 7 for six terms in the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

Rep. Butler, a fierce leader, has dedicated his career to championing progressive and inclusive legislation including defending LG BTQ+ rights, advocating for accessible health coverage, and supporting local small businesses. After years of faithful service and an unyielding commitment to furthering the cause of equality and justice for all Granite Staters, Rep. Butler made the difficult decision to forego re-election in order to dedicate his time to helping his husband with the operation of their small business, the Notchland Inn, which has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rep. Butler is known amongst colleagues as a hard worker who goes the extra mile to advocate for the betterment of his district. He has served as an example to many of what it means to be an effective and compassionate lawmaker. He approaches his work with goodwill, grace, and fervor. His embodiment of these values serves as a model to other representatives and will continue to be a guiding principle in the General Court for decades to come.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Rep. Butler and his family for their years of dedication to our state. I congratulate him on his accomplished law-making career, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GIANA HUTTON

**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 24, 2020*

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent from Silver

Spring, Giana Hutton, who passed away unexpectedly on September 15, 2020. Originally from the south suburbs of Chicago, Giana graduated from Williams College with a Bachelor of Arts in History. She will be sharply missed.

Giana was deeply committed to empowering young people and fighting for the rights of students. While in her junior and senior years at Williams, Giana interned with Senator Ronald Burris as an Education & Judiciary Intern. Following graduation, she was selected as a Junior Associate Fellow in the Urban Education Leadership Program, where she worked with the District of Columbia Public Schools in the Office of Special Education to find potential community stakeholders to support independent work habits for students with emotional and learning disabilities.

Giana later returned to school to receive her Master of Science in Public Policy and Management. During her second year, Giana interned with Reading is Fundamental Pittsburgh, serving as its Outreach and Development Intern. During her time with RIF Pittsburgh, Giana was able to further work on her goal of reducing the achievement gap across socio-economic classes by raising money for literacy programs which provided students with greater access to books, activity-based projects to focus on the joys of reading and materials aimed at developing reading and comprehension skills.

In 2013, Giana was selected as a recipient of the Public Service Career Opportunities Program Award. Through this prestigious award, Giana got a job as a Program Analyst working on federal grants to support low-income students in the local charter and D.C. Public Schools. Through her job, Giana supported schools in providing students with supplemental learning opportunities.

Giana was a beloved sister of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., an organization she joined because of its commitment to education. Through her involvement in Alpha Kappa Alpha, Giana was proud to be a part of a community in which she felt empowered and could inspire others.

Giana will be remembered for her commitment to empowering others and her dedication to providing educational opportunities for young people. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the remarkable life of my constituent, Giana Hutton.

COMMEMORATING THE SMITH CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

**HON. BEN CLINE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 24, 2020*

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss a unique public-private partnership that has yielded big conservation dividends for my home state of Virginia.

Ten years ago, a dedicated group of landowners and partners gathered in a small Shenandoah Valley community to launch a unique initiative designed to improve local water quality through the power of Conservation, Collaboration and Community. Smith Creek was one of three "showcase watersheds" established by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service as part of a