

It is reported that the legendary Johnny Applesseed owned a nursery on the north bank of the Maumee river with Defiance as his primary headquarters during the early 19th century. Steeped in its history and that of Northwest Ohio, Defiance honors its past through monuments, markers and sculptures of those on whose shoulders the community stands while at the same time emboldened by the spirit of those long-ago ancestors.

Defiance weathered the ups and downs of American life through the centuries and remains a vibrant community today. A focus on education brings with it Defiance College and an excellent public library. Businesses flourish on Main Street and throughout the city. Defiance surely lives up to its motto as "A great place to live" through its intergenerational, enterprising spirit and sacrifices of citizens who have built the patriotic, enduring character of Defiance.

All over Northwest Ohio we join with the residents of this community, remembering 200 years of history while looking forward to a bright future. We pay tribute to the pioneers who founded the city, honor the citizens who built it up in the ensuing years, and pledge our efforts toward a flourishing future.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF
CINCINNATI CLERMONT WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Cincinnati Clermont Women's Basketball team on winning the 2023 Small College Division II National Championship.

The UC Clermont Lady Cougars captured the title after a 60–46 win over Johnson & Wales University, Charlotte. Head Coach Ken Lowe's vision was complete after the team made it to the Final Four in the previous season but fell short of a championship.

The Lady Cougars rallied early with a 24–0 run, and 27 points from senior Captain, Ashley Moore. Junior, Tyra Murphy and Grad Student, Kristi Duncan, both recorded double doubles in the Championship game.

There is no doubt that the leadership among the coaching staff and the Lady Cougars in the locker room and on the court helped this team turn their dreams into reality.

Again, congratulations to Coach Lowe, the rest of the coaching staff, and the players for their amazing achievement.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN EDWARD
L. CALLAHAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Captain Edward L. Callahan on his retirement from the United States Navy after 40 years of service. CAPT Callahan's retirement was celebrated during the Naval Weapons Station Earle Change of Command Ceremony on April 21, 2023.

Throughout his decorated career, CAPT Callahan has exhibited the principles of duty and valor. He has served at sea extensively and completed several strategic deterrent patrols. From his service onboard USS *Henry S. Stimson* (SSBN 655) (GOLD) and USS *Mariano G. Vallejo* (SSBN 658) (GOLD) to his sea duty onboard USS *Topeka* (SSN 754) as Weapons Officer, CAPT Callahan has bravely helped maintain the security of our country. Since reporting to active duty in 1983, CAPT Callahan advanced through the ranks and was promoted to CAPT 1 in 2018. From July of 2020 until today, CAPT Callahan has served as Commanding Officer of Naval Weapons Station Earle in New Jersey.

Navigating the COVID–19 pandemic during his leadership at Naval Weapons Station Earle, CAPT Callahan ensured continuous operations of the base while maintaining the health and well-being of officers and personnel. He has been a valuable partner to my office and the community, maintaining open lines of communication and graciously hosting my Service Academy Day information session for students and their families. It has been an honor to work with CAPT Callahan and I thank him for his hospitality, leadership, and service.

CAPT Callahan has exemplified honor, integrity, and professionalism throughout his Navy career. His experience, knowledge, and steadfast initiative have distinguished CAPT Callahan as an outstanding leader who has upheld the core values and mission of the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Speaker, once again, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Captain Edward Callahan for his 40 years of service to the United States Navy. I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in thanking CAPT Callahan for his honorable service to our great Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
GEORGE R. "BOB" SMITH, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. George R. "Bob" Smith, Jr., of Shawsville, Virginia. A proud "country doctor", Dr. Smith founded the Alleghany Clinic in 1955, where he worked tirelessly throughout a more than 40-year career as a family physician.

Shortly after its founding, Dr. Smith convinced his friend Dr. Clarence Taylor to join him in Shawsville to also work at the clinic. Just down the road, they built their own homes next door to one another on a road now appropriately called Pair O'Docs Lane.

In the mid-1960s, Dr. Smith opened the Meadowbrook Nursing Home and in 1982, he founded a nonprofit, the Mountain Valley Charitable Foundation, awarding scholarships to aspiring nurses so they could work at the nursing home.

Once Meadowbrook Nursing Home closed in 2001, Dr. Smith oversaw its transformation into the Meadowbrook Center, which featured a library, wellness center, museum, galley, and community center.

He also helped start the Shawsville Rescue Squad, was a consistent leader in the Shawsville Ruritan Club, served on regional

and statewide medical boards, and dedicated his time to multiple volunteer and charitable causes.

When not serving his patients, Dr. Smith spent time with his family and on the golf course with his golfing buddies.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 73 years Mildred, and his children George R. Smith III (Melinda) and Julia Stewart (Barry) of Shawsville, Mary Beth Bode (John) of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Linda Paulk of Portland, Oregon, together with his nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, all of whom knew him affectionately as G-daddy. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

Dr. Smith leaves behind a lasting legacy in Southwest Virginia, having touched the lives of so many in Shawsville and the surrounding counties. His presence and generosity of spirit will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING MR. LAYNE HARPER

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a standout member of the South Sound community. I would like to recognize Mr. Layne Harper and his commitment to taking care of our veterans in his role as a Veteran Service Officer for the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS).

An Army veteran himself, Layne serves with the wisdom and understanding necessary to successfully process claims and provide services to the military community. Over 10,000 veterans and their dependents in Washington state, the country, and abroad have received their service-connected disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs—the results of Layne's work.

Prior to his time at NABVETS, Layne founded the Caribbean Veterans Service (CARICOM) and received accreditations from his work with the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. and the African American Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Association (AAPTSDA).

Layne Harper exemplifies the values of integrity and community commitment that run deep in the South Sound. It is my honor to highlight such a service-oriented constituent and his incredible work improving the lives of thousands of others in the military community.

RECOGNIZING SONDR A MYERS'
LIFELONG CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sondra Myers to celebrate her retirement after nearly two decades as the founding director of The University of Scranton's Schemel Forum. Sondra is also the co-founder of Scranton's Interdependence Day, which promotes reaching out to neighbors and the world community to show that working together for security, economic and social justice, and preservation of the earth is essential.

Sondra has been instrumental in bringing the world to Scranton, and her impact on the community cannot be overstated.

Before joining The University of Scranton, Sondra served in various leadership roles, including as a special assistant to the chairman for partnerships at the National Endowment for the Humanities, cultural advisor to Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey, and senior associate at the University of Maryland's Democracy Collaborative. She has also held numerous positions in academia, including director of the President's Millennium Seminars at The George Washington University and senior advisor on civic affairs to the president of Connecticut College.

Sondra has written, edited, and co-edited several books on democracy and civic engagement, presented programs in several countries, and organized and moderated symposia on culture and public policy for academic institutions and cultural organizations throughout the United States. Her impact on the national stage is evident through her appointments by Presidents Obama and Carter to the Commission on Presidential Scholars and the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts, respectively.

Sondra's leadership and expertise have been invaluable to the University of Scranton. Under her guidance, the Schemel Forum has become a highly popular program that brings renowned speakers to Scranton to engage in dialogue on a wide range of topics. Sondra's commitment to promoting cultural understanding and learning has enriched the community, and her legacy will continue to inspire scholars for generations.

Sondra's contributions to the arts and humanities are immeasurable, and her dedication to public service, is truly admirable. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on her retirement and wish her many fulfilling and enjoyable years ahead with her husband, Morey, and family.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JAMES J. WELLER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Chief Master Sergeant James J. Weller. CMSgt Weller is retiring from the United States Air Force after 42 years of faithful service to our country.

Born in Norristown, Pennsylvania, Jim went on to graduate from Upper Dublin High School in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. He began his career of service early as a Civil Air Patrol Cadet and would go on to enlist as an Infantryman in the U.S. Air Reserves. In 1983 he transferred to the Air Force and began an illustrious career that saw him serve in locales throughout the world in support of the Cold War and the Global War on Terror.

Jim has served in many positions in defense of our great nation to include Military Law Enforcement, Aircraft Armament Technician, Emergency Manager, and various other additional duties. In March of 2003, Jim was part of the Red Tail Express, the first successful Air Force ground convoy into Iraq. On a sub-

sequent deployment to Iraq, he served as the Security Escort Manager to Baghdad Air Base. Jim's professional excellence and dedication to service is exemplified in his support of Operations Desert Storm, Deny Flight, Southern Watch, Southern Focus, Inherent Resolve, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

On the domestic front, Jim leveraged his extensive military experience in disaster management across 20 domestic operations. Notably he supported efforts during Covid-19, Hurricanes Floyd and Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and Super Storm Sandy. His security expertise has been used in support of G-20 summits, a Papal visit, the 2016 Democratic National Convention and Presidential Inaugurations. Jim has also been instrumental in service to our local community where he serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol as well as volunteer Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services.

In his private life, Jim and his wife Michelle reside in Warrington, Pennsylvania where they have raised 4 wonderful children.

We are all incredibly grateful for the positive impact Jim has had through his long career, and we wish him countless blessings during his retirement.

APPRECIATING SOUTH KOREA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the South Korea and United States alliance, formed in October 1953, with the signing of a mutual defense agreement at the end of the Korean War. Over the past seven decades, the alliance has proved to be successful, as the goal of protecting South Korea, specifically from another North Korea invasion has been achieved.

South Korea, officially the Republic of Korea, is one of the United States most valuable economic and strategic partners in Asia. South Korea is now our sixth largest trading partner, and we are their second largest, behind China.

Thursday, I was grateful to greet His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of Korea, to the Capitol and attend his address to the joint meeting of Congress along with my good Korean-American friend, Mr. Jaehoon Choe, who is also a fellow South Carolinian.

Amazingly the President cited "Known as the 'Miracle on the Han River,' Korea's economic growth rate was unrivaled. Korea was one of the Least Developed Countries after the war. Its annual income was just U.S. \$67 per capita. Now its economy ranks tenth in the world." Today, South Korea per capita is \$33,340 as North Korea is estimated a gruesome \$1,298.

In His Excellency's address he stated, "My friends, freedom and democracy are once again under threat. The war against Ukraine is a violation of international law. It is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo with force. Korea strongly condemns the unprovoked armed attack against Ukraine."

"When North Korea invaded us in 1950, democracies came running to help us. We fought together and kept our freedom. The rest is history."

"Korea's experience shows us just how important it is for democracies to uphold solidarity. Korea will stand in solidarity with the free world. We will actively work to safeguard the freedom of the people of Ukraine and support their efforts in reconstruction."

South Korea is well represented in Washington with Ambassador Cho Hyun-dong who effectively promotes Seoul for defense and job creation for Korea and America.

As our military continues the fight in the War on Terrorism, we can find inspiration in remembering the Korean War victory over communism, which reminds us that Americans have a long history of defeating enemies of freedom all over the world achieving peace through strength.

CONGRATULATING INOCENCIA JUSINO ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of my constituents Inocencia Jusino from Lajas on her 90th birthday.

Mrs. Jusino was born in Lajas on April 15, 1933, to Juan Jusino and Laura Torres, the second daughter of six children. Her father took her out of school in the fifth grade to work in the fields, to help support the family. This gave her valuable life lessons, work ethic and the drive that she still has today.

She moved to Brooklyn at the age of 19, speaking only Spanish and started working with the Ladies Garment Workers Union where she worked for the following 47 years.

Mrs. Jusino married Miguel Angel Corales on May 14, 1955, and they had two children Edwin and Marilyn. Her family grew when her daughter married Philip and her son Annabell.

She is the proud Abuela (grandmother) or as her grandchildren call her Vendo Vendo to Ina Marie, Mel, John-Michael, Jose, Genevieve, Bryant, Philip II, Kelly, and Sam. She is also a great-grandmother to Naylani, Leeland and Ava.

Mrs. Jusino returned to Puerto Rico full time in 1995 and was widowed in 2003. Despite losing her husband, she has continued to be active in her church and community. She frequently travels and has never missed a milestone in her children or grandchildren's lives.

I call on my colleagues to join me in congratulating Inocencia Jusino on her 90th birthday and wishes for continued health and happiness with her family.

HONORING SGT. KENNETH SUTER

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent SGT. Kenneth Suter for his distinguished service to the U.S. Air Force.

Hailing from Kodak, Tennessee, SGT. Kenneth Suter served on the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squad as an engine mechanic, primarily working on helicopter aircraft.