

The American Legion proudly recognizes the contributions veterans have made to our country and shares their stories about their time in service. Post 1288 is an active participant in various activities including “Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave”, Poppy Days, Veterans in The Classroom, Blue Star Service Banners, among many others. These services provide invaluable support to veterans and the local youth while unifying the community behind the cause of public service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commemorate the American Legion Post 1288 and proud to represent the communities it serves. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this milestone with best wishes for many more to come.

#### HONORING MR. MICHAEL ROBBINS

#### HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Robbins for his bravery and service as a U.S. merchant mariner during World War II. Serving from July of 1943 to May of 1946, Mr. Robbins sailed with the U.S. Merchant Marine aboard the SS *Olney*, the SS *Pendleton*, the SS *O. Henry*, and the SS *Hoke Smith*.

During World War II, nearly 250,000 civilian merchant mariners were activated to serve as part of the U.S. military and to delivered troops and supplies by ship to foreign countries engulfed in the war. They faced treacherous conditions along their routes. Between 1939 and 1945, 9,521 U.S. merchant mariners gave their lives—a higher proportion than those killed than in any military branch—in defense of our nation. President Franklin D. Roosevelt called their mission the most difficult and dangerous transportation job ever undertaken.

Hailing from Atlantic City, New Jersey, Mr. Robbins enlisted in the U.S. Merchant Marine at only 15 years old. He began his wartime efforts as an ordinary seaman, chipping away rust and old paint from the ship.

While aboard SS *O. Henry* and transporting supplies in the Mediterranean Sea, his convoy was attacked by air. Mr. Robbins, still a teenager, acted to defend his ship by delivering 20mm ammunition to the ship's crew. Mr. Robbins would go on to serve in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Pacific theaters.

Mr. Robbins received several decorations during his service, including 3 War Zone medals awarded to Merchant Marines for their service in the Pacific, the Atlantic, and the Mediterranean and Middle East. He also received the World War II Victory Medal for honorable service while on active duty, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Combat Bar, the Honorable Service Button, a Presidential Testimonial Letter, and the Battlin' Pete Patch.

Mr. Robbins and the U.S. merchant mariners of World War II who played crucial roles in the country's war effort were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2020, the highest honor Congress can bestow on civilians. It was an honor to present the medal to Mr. Robbins then, and it is an honor to recognize him here again today.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in

honoring and celebrating the dedicated service of Mr. Michael Robbins for his valor and service in defending our country. May his legacy continue to inspire us for generations to come.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. ARMAND M. MARTINELLI

#### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the late Armand M. Martinelli, a beloved teacher, veteran, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and community leader from Northeastern Pennsylvania who has left an indelible mark on our community through his profound dedication to education and service.

Armand Martinelli, a devout Roman Catholic born in Olyphant, PA, embodied the values of faith, integrity, and selflessness throughout his 92 years of life. From his humble beginnings at Lafayette School in Scranton and Mother Cabrini School to becoming a member of the first 4-year graduating class at Scranton Preparatory School, Armand's early education laid the foundation for a lifetime of intellectual pursuit and service to others.

Armand Martinelli served his country valiantly during the Korean War. His military journey took him from the 101st Airborne in Breckinridge, Kentucky, to the U.S. Counter Intelligence School at Fort Holabird in Baltimore, Maryland. He displayed unwavering commitment and courage as a special agent with the 704th CIC in Teague and the 308th CIC in Pusan, earning the respect and gratitude of his fellow soldiers.

Upon returning to civilian life, Armand embraced a diverse array of occupations before discovering his true calling as an educator. For over 5 decades, he worked as a self-employed painter, an insurance agent, and a teacher at West Scranton High School. It was within the walls of West Scranton High School that Armand would leave an enduring legacy as an influential and dedicated educator.

For 30 years, Armand taught social studies, Latin, and journalism, molding the minds of countless students who passed through his classrooms. His commitment extended beyond the subject matter; he served as an athletic director for 24 years and provided guidance to numerous clubs and organizations, including the yearbook, school newspaper, and Latin club, among others. His passion for education and genuine care for his students earned him the love and admiration of those he taught, and many kept in touch with him long after graduation.

Outside the classroom, Armand's dedication to public service was equally commendable. He actively sought to improve our community, serving as a member of the Scranton School Board where he championed education initiatives. He also played an integral role in the formation of the Scranton Federation of Teachers.

Devoted to serving his West Scranton community and proud of his Italian heritage, Armand enjoyed spending time at the Victor Alfieri Club where he was an original member of the Cetaiolos bocce team as well as attending weekly get together with friends at the Villa Maria Restaurant.

Above all else, Armand loved his family. He took great pride in his roles as a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He always looked forward to weekly Sunday dinners, where he treated his family to his home-made sauce and meatballs, which he faithfully made right up to the last 2 weeks of his life.

After retiring from his distinguished teaching career, Armand continued to serve our community, working as a Tipstaff for Judge James J. Walsh, and serving on numerous local executive boards, including the Scranton Redevelopment Authority, the Scranton Housing Authority, and the Lackawanna Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service. Armand's commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others knew no bounds.

As we mourn the loss of a true pillar of our community, let us also celebrate the profound impact Armand Martinelli had on the lives of countless individuals. Through his selfless dedication to education, service, and family, he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations. May the memory of Armand M. Martinelli serve as a beacon of hope and goodness in our community, and may we be reminded of the power of a single individual to positively influence the lives of others.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GREG LANDSMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote Number 315, I mistakenly recorded my vote as Aye when I should have voted No.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 338 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 57, I would have voted AYE. I thought I had voted but my vote did not register. I could not get back in time to fix this error before the vote closed.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks