RECOGNIZING ROB ZERJAY
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. GALLAgHER, Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Rob Zerjav for being named the 2023 Baseball America (BA) Minor League Baseball Executive of the Year.

A native of Green Bay, Rob began his career in 1997 as an unpaid intern with the team. In addition to his work ethic and love for the team, he became the first-ever private ownership group.

Throughout his years with the Timber Rattlers, Rob has remained focused on the organization’s success and the community’s well-being.

In 2012, the team received the Larry MacPhail Award, Minor League Baseball’s highest award in promotional excellence. The team also recognized its success in 2005, 2018, and 2019 when it received the Midwest League President’s Award.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was founded to build upon them of their fallen comrades and to conduct military funerals. Although the Ritual Team was disbanded, in the late fifties, they continued serving the community well after being out of uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1136 in Wyandotte, Michigan.

RECOGNIZING ALEX FERREIRA’S X GAMES SUPERPIPE VICTORY
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Alex Ferreira, an exceptional athlete hailing from Aspen, Colorado, who has once again earned a gold medal in the men’s Ski SuperPipe at the Winter X Games.

Mr. Speaker, Alex Ferreira is a true inspiration to athletes across our nation, and I am confident that he will continue to push on. Time and time again, Alex Ferreira has shown the world what it means to be an American and a Coloradan.

RECOGNIZING WILLA HARTER’S 101ST BIRTHDAY
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Ms. Willa Harter of Bloomfield, Iowa a very happy 101st birthday.

Ms. Harter was born in Colorado on February 27, 1923. A survivor of scarlet fever at just four years old and left with only half her hearing, she learned to read lips at an early age. Ms. Harter’s family moved to Iowa in December 1933, and she graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1940. Two years later, she married her husband Marion Harter and together they raised four children: Nancy, Betty, Tom Harter, and Mary Jo.

During her life she wore many different hats. She taught school, worked as a telephone operator at the Drakesville switchboard, and spent 27 years working at the Davis County Hospital. Willa’s love and care was shown through her dedication at the hospital and at home with her children. Ms. Harter also has extensive experience crocheting afghans for every one of her children, her twelve grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren, and ten great-great-grandchildren.

Throughout the years, Ms. Willa Harter has seen her fair share of adventures, traveling to all 50 states, as well as Asia, Europe, South America, and Australia. Now, her daily adventure is enjoying retirement by doing puzzles and reading books in her Bloomfield home.

I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Willa Harter and all her achievements as we wish her a very happy 101st birthday. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to her and her family.
HONORING MASTER SERGEANT KEVIN JOHNSON SENIOR’S LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. JAMES A. HIMES
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Master Sergeant Kevin Johnson, Sr.

Originally of Philadelphia, MSG Johnson enlisted in the Army in 1984, marking the beginning of his lifelong career in service to his country. After completing basic training at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina, MSG Johnson went on to Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Gordon, Georgia and later participated in the Home Town Recruiting Assistance Program where he helped to recruit 10 soldiers and prepare them for entry into the Army by assisting them to pass their ASVAB tests and improve their physical fitness.

MSG Johnson would go on to serve in several different posts including as a Station Technical Controller in Germany with the 581st Signal Company and as a member of the White House Communications Agency where he supported the critical Direct Communication Link between the White House and the Kremlin during an era of heightened diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and United States.

Later in his career, MSG Johnson transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, proudly serving with the 80th division for 25 years during which he dedicated himself to training new soldiers, first as a Drill Sergeant and then as a Senior Drill Sergeant with B Company in Suffolk, VA. Deploying with the 80th during Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as a Platoon Sergeant for the 3rd Iraqi Army Division Basic Combat Training.

Holder of multiple professional certifications in IT and Telecommunications, MSG Johnson has spent his career preparing generations of soldiers for the tasks they face during deployment and building upon his own education to ensure his instruction is of the highest quality possible. Throughout his service, MSG Johnson received a number of awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

The proud father to Kevin Jr., Yasmeen, Courtney, and Kazmir I and husband to Tiniko Johnson, MSG Johnson is a shining example of dedication to service and patriotism. I extend my most sincere thank you to MSG Johnson and his family for their sacrifice and commend him for a career of selflessness.

RECOGNIZING AARON WILLIAMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Aaron Williams as the recipient of Inspire Life’s Impact Award. Aaron and the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative were recognized at Inspire Life’s 2024 Black Excellence Sneaker Ball on February 24, 2024.

Founded by Aaron in 2021, the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative aims to introduce tennis to local children while instilling the values of discipline, self-confidence, sportsmanship, and leadership. Playing tennis throughout his life, Aaron knows firsthand the benefits of the sport. Recognizing the lack of access to the sport, Aaron established the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative to create opportunities for Asbury Park’s students to experience tennis and the life skills it helps develop. He has partnered with local schools, churches, and community organizations to connect with the city’s youth, providing not only tennis lessons but also mentorship and community involvement. Aaron’s commitment to the success of the program is evident and his dedication is admirable.

Aaron’s work with the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative is indicative of his commitment to public service and as United States Marine Corps veteran and an LGBTQ advocate, he has dedicated his life to serving his community and Nation. His passion to help others and improve our communities is commendable and he exemplifies honor, integrity, and professionalism in each endeavor he undertakes.

Mr. Speaker, I join Inspire Life in recognizing Aaron Williams and the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative for their impact on Asbury Park’s youth. I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking Aaron for his service to our Nation and local communities.

HONORING PAUL ELMSTRAND, MATTHEW RUGE, AND ADAM FINSETH

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I joined thousands of people in Minnesota who gathered for the public funeral for Burnsville Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge, and Firefighter-Paramedic Adam Finseth who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

On Sunday, February 18, 2024, these courageous public servants answered a call to protect a family and our community, and were gunned down in a horrific act of violence. This heartbreaking incident occurs amid a crisis of gun violence and domestic abuse, and our first responders are on the front lines every day.

Officers Elmstrand and Ruge dedicated their lives to protecting our community. Firefighter-Paramedic Finseth was committed to saving lives, as he was attempting to do that day. He also served our Nation proudly in the U.S. Army, twice deploying on tours of duty in Iraq. Their deaths in the line of duty are a devastating tragedy that touches their families, their fellow first responders, the Burnsville community, the state of Minnesota, and our Nation.

I extend my deepest condolences to their families and friends who loved them. Their heroic sacrifice will always be remembered and honored.