

children. We must keep this program strong and ensure that it is working for all Americans. I stand with America's public employees in their mission to change this program for the better.

CELEBRATING WARREN B. GELMAN'S INDUCTION INTO THE GREATER BUFFALO SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Warren B. Gelman's induction into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame—a fitting tribute to his lifetime of service, leadership, and dedication to the athletic community of Western New York. Mr. Gelman's life is a testament to the power of passion, hard work, and a commitment to others.

As one of the founding members of the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame, Warren has been integral to the organization's growth and success since its inception in 1991. As chair of the Nominating Committee for the Hall of Fame, Warren helped shape its structure, bringing together a group of passionate volunteers who sought to honor the legion's greatest athletes and sports figures. His tireless work over the years has contributed to the Hall of Fame's enduring legacy.

Mr. Gelman's contributions to Buffalo extend far beyond his work with the Hall of Fame. A former three-sport athlete, Warren excelled in soccer, hockey, and baseball before continuing his athletic journey at Yale University. There, he captained both the undefeated 1963–1964 freshman hockey team and the 1966–1967 varsity hockey team, which earned a ranking as the 5th best team in the East.

Mr. Gelman is also a trailblazer for girls' sports in our community. In 1986, recognizing a void in opportunities for female athletes, he founded the Bison Girls Hockey Program, the first of its kind in Western New York. His efforts opened doors for countless young women to compete in hockey at the highest levels.

Today, we celebrate Warren B. Gelman, and his induction to the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame. His contributions to Western New York's sports community, particularly his efforts to elevate the visibility and opportunities for women in athletics, have had a lasting and profound impact on the region. Mr. Gelman's legacy of service, leadership, and dedication will continue to inspire generations of athletes, coaches, and community leaders for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN ATTILIO ERRANTE

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John Errante of Springfield, Missouri, who recently passed away after a three-year battle with cancer. He was 41 years old.

John was an amazing individual. He was self-taught and a member of Mensa. As his long-time friend, Beau, said of him, "He was routinely the smartest man in the room, in a room filled with smart people. He had a way of seeing to the core of a problem, and embracing and implementing solutions no one else would have considered, much less tried."

John loved the arts and was a composer and a concert pianist. As a teenager, he became involved in politics and attended the Leadership Institute here in Washington, DC. While there, our homeland was attacked on September 11th, which had a profound effect on John. This led him to join the U.S. Army where he served in Army Psychological Operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

After leaving the military, John moved to Springfield where he graduated from Missouri State University on the President's List, the university's highest honor reserved for those who receive a 4.0 grade point average or higher. He again became involved in politics, serving as the communications director for his friend Bill's gubernatorial campaign. Ultimately, he became employed as a marketing specialist with MediaCom.

John's life was defined by service . . . to his country, to his neighbors, to his family and friends. He was taken from us too soon and will be greatly missed by his father, Steven Errante, his mother, Arla Collins and a host of friends who loved him. It is my great honor to recognize this remarkable individual, and I am praying for peace, comfort and good memories for his family.

HONORING PHILIP CHRISTOPHER FOR HIS ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF CYPRUS AND HELLENIC ISSUES

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Philip Christopher, a leader and steadfast advocate for freedom and justice for the Cypriot people. For over 50 years, Mr. Christopher has championed the cause of Cyprus, dedicating his life to the struggle for the reunification of Cyprus, the rights of the Cypriot people, and the broader Hellenic community.

Mr. Christopher is the founder and President of the Pancyprian Association of America and the International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus" (PSEKA). Through these organizations, he has tirelessly promoted Cypriot sovereignty and human rights, advocating on behalf of Cyprus and Hellenic issues with passion and dedication. As a refugee, who was forced to flee his beautiful homeland of Kyrenia, Cyprus following the illegal occupation of the island nation by the Turkish military in 1974, no one is more passionate and dedicated to these issues than he is. His efforts have left a lasting impact, as he has worked to ensure that the voice of the Greek Cypriot community is heard in the halls of Congress and across the United States.

Philip Christopher's contributions have not gone unrecognized. He has received numerous honors, including the Republic of Cyprus Medal of Honor, the title of Honorary Mayor of

Kyrenia, and honorary citizenships from multiple Cypriot communities. He was also the first Greek Cypriot to receive the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor in the United States. In 2024, he served as Parade General Chairman of the NYC Greek Independence Day Parade. These awards and recognition are a testament to his exemplary commitment to his community and his invaluable role as a bridge between Cypriot and American interests.

Beyond his advocacy, Mr. Christopher has demonstrated significant achievements as an executive in the telecommunications industry and as a board member of various respected organizations. His dedication to excellence in both his professional and community endeavors is an inspiration.

Today, I commend Philip Christopher for his enduring dedication to Cyprus and the Hellenic community and express gratitude for his tireless efforts to further the cause of justice and freedom. His legacy stands as a beacon of leadership and commitment that strengthens the bonds between Cyprus and the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to vote on November 14, 2024 as I was attending to the medical emergency of a member of my staff.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 461; YEA on Roll Call No. 462; NAY on Roll Call No. 463; and YEA on Roll Call No. 464.

HONORING MARIE FLICKINGER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a long-time pillar of the Southeast Houston community, Marie Flickinger, who passed away on November 11, 2024.

After becoming the first woman elected to the San Jacinto College District Board of Trustees in 1995, Marie served as Chair from 2007 to 2013 and again from 2017 until her retirement on November 4, 2024. She spent these nearly 30 years devoted to ensuring the institution's success, achieving numerous awards along the way.

Many have referred to Marie as the honorary "Mayor of South Belt" due to her involvement in practically every aspect of the community, an extensive list that included the founding of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, the local newspaper, and St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, as well as the organization of countless community events.

As a co-founder and publisher of the South Belt-Ellington Leader, Marie became known for her work shedding light on the impact of the Brio Superfund site in the 1980s, which eventually led to its remediation. Marie also