

Shelly's passion for the law and his skills in the courtroom were unrivaled. He practiced for 60 years and worked on landmark cases across the nation representing individuals and consumers. Shelly was recognized in every edition of the book "The Best Lawyers in America" throughout his career. His other honors include induction into the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame and receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Florida Verdicts Hall of Fame by the Daily Business Review.

Shelly was not only celebrated for being one of the best trial attorneys in the country, but also fervently served the South Florida community. He was a member of the Board of Governors of Nova Southeastern Law Center and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Broward Community College. Shelly was also one of the founders of the Broward County Trial Lawyers Association and served as the organization's president.

I offer my deepest condolences to Shelly's family. He is survived by his two sons, Scott (m. Anne) and Gregg, as well as his six grandchildren, Charlotte, Alexander, Molly, Theodora, Samuel, and Theodore; and his brother-in-law, Larry Butler (m. Grace).

His presence will be profoundly missed, however his impact in the sphere of law and public service will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay my respects to Sheldon Schlesinger and his family. He was a great friend to me throughout the years. His spirit, loving memory, and legacy will always live on.

HONORING ANDREW LETTERMAN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Letterman for being awarded the American FFA Degree as a member of the National FFA Organization. Andrew is a member of the Willow Springs Chapter of the FFA and, with four of its other members, received this prestigious award. FFA is an intercurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership consisting of 629,367 members, aged 12–21. Andrew is among the 463 FFA members from Missouri that received the American FFA degree, marking the highest number of recipients from any state.

As a past recipient of the American FFA Degree, I offer my highest congratulations as I understand the hard work and effort required to reach this goal. In order to obtain the American FFA Degree, a member must begin their pursuit of the award during their freshman year of high school through participation in every level of the organization and leadership events.

As a former member of FFA, I can proudly say that my experience in the organization was invaluable learning about leadership skills and public speaking. It is my pleasure to recognize Andrew for receiving this prominent award before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING RICK FLYNN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rick Flynn, who is well known as an advocate for educators in Macomb County, Michigan. On December 10th, friends of Rick's from throughout Michigan will gather to celebrate his retirement from the Michigan Education Association and to pay tribute to him for his outstanding service.

Rick's deep involvement in the MEA and his policy advocacy at the local, state and national levels has been rooted in his strong conviction that all students deserve a high quality education, and that educators must have the tools and resources they need to provide students with this education. It has been said that Rick has held nearly every conceivable leadership position in the MEA, which, when one reviews his career, seems possible. He served as president of the Fraser Education Association, as a founding member and then as president of MEA-NEA Local 1, as a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for the MEA, as an MEA Local 1 Executive Director, and as a member of the NEA's Board of Directors.

Prior to representing teachers, Rick was a well-respected teacher himself. For 27 years he taught American Government in the Fraser Public Schools. As a lifelong advocate for building a stronger Macomb County, it was no surprise that after retiring from the classroom in 2000, Rick applied his knowledge of government to public service of his own. In 2008, he was elected to the Charter Commission for Macomb County, which reshaped government in Michigan's 3rd largest county. Also in 2008, he was appointed by then-Governor Jennifer Granholm to serve on the Oakland University Board of Trustees, where he continues to serve today.

Mr. Speaker, Rick Flynn has served students in Michigan and his fellow education professionals with total commitment and distinction. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his service, in thanking his wife Linda and his sons Andy and David for supporting him throughout his career, and in wishing him well in his retirement from the MEA.

CONGRATULATING TREVOR LOGAN AND TERRY LAMBERT ON THEIR SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN SERVICE HONORS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trevor Logan on being awarded the Springfield Police Department's Citizen Service Medal and Terry Lambert on being awarded the Springfield Police Department's Citizen Service Commendation for their actions on the morning of August 2, 2015.

On that morning both men witnessed an individual drag a woman into an alley and attempt to sexually assault her. Terry, believing

officers were just down the street, quickly rushed to alert them of what he had observed. However, Terry was unable to locate any officers, so he returned to the alley. Before he had returned, Trevor had verbally confronted the suspect and the suspect began to flee. While Trevor continued to assist the victim, Terry followed the suspect and helped officers locate him.

Trevor Logan and Terry Lambert stopped a crime in progress and assisted officers in apprehending and identifying the suspect. Through their actions, both of these men exemplified what it means to be a responsible, upstanding citizen. This example of selflessness and commitment to protecting one's community that these men have embodied is one which we should all strive for.

Mr. Speaker, Trevor Logan and Terry Lambert deserve this body's utmost respect for heroic actions on the morning of August 2, 2015, and I extend to both of them my deepest appreciation for their dedication to ensuring the safety of their community. Their efforts have not only contributed greatly to the Springfield community, but have made me proud to serve the people of Missouri's seventh Congressional District.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. WILLIAM E. "BRIT" KIRWAN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend Brit Kirwan on the occasion of his retirement as Chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

Brit is a true Terp, beginning his career as an assistant professor at the University of Maryland, College Park before rising to serve as its President in 1989. For the past 12 years, he has been Chancellor of the University System, where his passion for education and sincere desire to improve the lives and opportunity for Maryland students leaves an indelible mark on our state. He is also a respected national voice on higher education issues, helping to shape policy for greater accessibility, affordability, and quality.

It has been a great privilege to know and work with Brit over the years. His leadership has been transformative—opening the doors of higher education to underrepresented communities, establishing new partnerships with federal agencies, local schools, and the private sector, and ensuring that the University System of Maryland is a dynamic place of learning. I have always valued his thoughtful counsel.

Many of us were sorry to see Brit leave Maryland in 1998 when he became president of Ohio State University, but we were happy to welcome him back home in 2002. Now, as Brit takes his well-deserved retirement, his legacy is felt by every student who steps on a Maryland campus. I thank him for his many years of service, and wish him all the best.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
EDWARD TONINI

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 51st Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Major General Edward W. Tonini, upon his retirement after 47 years of service. Since December 11, 2007, he has admirably served as the Commanding General of both the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard and as Executive Director of the Department of Military Affairs, guiding the preparation of Kentucky's 8,500 citizen soldiers and airmen, along with the Division of Emergency Management, to respond in times of state and national emergency.

He is responsible for Federal and State missions, assignment of leaders, recruiting, training, equipping, mobilization, facilities and public relations. He also oversees the development and coordination of all policies, plans, and programs affecting Army and Air National Guard members in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As a member of the Governor's cabinet and the principle advisor to the Governor on military matters, General Tonini has been a steadfast liaison on homeland security matters and a stalwart advocate for the brave men and women who serve this great Nation.

General Tonini received a direct commission in 1970 in the Kentucky Air National Guard. Prior to receiving his commission, General Tonini served as an enlisted member of the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing of the Kentucky Air National Guard. His valiant service earned the decoration of the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Air Force Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Recognition Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, and the Kentucky Merit Ribbon. We are blessed in Kentucky to have such a leader at the helm of our military affairs.

The list of medals, awards and accolades are mere reflections of the outstanding character displayed by General Tonini on a daily basis. His response time is impeccable, whether through organizing deployments overseas or responding to natural disasters in the hills of eastern Kentucky.

His legacy project is undoubtedly the state-of-the-art Joint Support Operations (JSO) Counter-Drug complex located in London, Kentucky. Under his leadership, 1,433 Kentucky National Guard soldiers and airmen have participated in JSO counter-drug operations from the facility, seizing more than 3.4 million marijuana plants with a street value exceeding more than one billion dollars. They also removed nearly 35,000 pounds of illicit drugs from the streets, including cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, methamphetamines and opium. Their work led to the arrest of more than 2,600 people, the seizure of over \$73 million in property and other non-drug assets, 514

weapons, 134 vehicles and more than \$14 million. Beneath his breastplate of courage, beats a true servant's heart for the people of Kentucky and we are grateful for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Major General Edward W. Tonini on a distinguished career of service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States. My wife, Cynthia and I wish General Tonini and his wife, Carol many blissful years of retirement.

BRIT KIRWAN RETIREMENT

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to congratulate William "Brit" Kirwan on the occasion of his retirement after 12 years as chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

As a Terp myself, I have always taken a deep interest in the leadership of the university system and have come to admire Brit's integrity, professionalism and expertise.

Not only is Brit respected academically, he has a great personality and he understands the importance of relationships with elected leaders. His political savvy has helped the university system become a critical economic and workforce development engine in the State of Maryland.

Brit has become a sought-after mentor to other university leaders in areas including college affordability—especially for minority and low-income students—as well as cost containment, innovation in the classroom and diversity.

I truly believe that Brit's vision has helped the University System of Maryland become one of the best in the nation.

Under his leadership, the university system has: become more affordable. The average tuition for undergraduate in-state students at university institutions, once the nation's seventh highest, has now dropped to twenty-sixth.

His leadership has strengthened need-based financial aid.

It has reduced the student achievement gap and even eliminated it on some campuses.

It has strengthened Maryland's competitiveness through the research and entrepreneurial efforts of faculty, staff and students.

It has developed the landmark "Effectiveness and Efficiency initiative," which has improved quality while saving more than \$460 million to date and has even been cited by President Obama as a national model.

It has made the university system a national leader in environmental sustainability.

It has improved college completion rates, especially among low-income and minority students.

Brit has also become known for his use of technology to rejuvenate traditional learning methods like the lecture hall. His efforts have increased the number of students showing up for class, eager to learn, while saving money and raising grades.

Let's not forget that Brit spent a quarter century as an educator and administrator prior to becoming Chancellor. Throughout each stage of his career—math professor, administrator,

university president, and chancellor—Brit has demonstrated a commitment to excellence and access for all.

Brit's expertise benefits colleges around the country as a member of the Board of Directors of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. He chairs the College Board's Commission on Access, Admissions, and Success in Higher Education; and is a member of the Business-Higher Education Forum.

He was also appointed by President George W. Bush to the Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. In 2010, he was appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, which advises the U.S. Secretary of Education on accreditation issues and certification processes for colleges and universities.

Locally, Brit is a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Baltimore Committee, the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, and the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education.

He is the well-deserved recipient of too many awards and accolades to list in their entirety, but they include the Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence, which is considered one of the nation's top higher education honors.

In 2009, he received the Carnegie Corporation Leadership Award, which included a \$500,000 grant to fund University System of Maryland academic priorities.

I consider him a personal friend. He is a true gentleman and each of his day-to-day interactions are marked with civility and graciousness. This is a rare quality in today's world.

He leaves big shoes to fill.

I congratulate him on a spectacular career that has spanned more than a half-century and wish him many more years of happiness with his wife and family in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes yesterday, due to an illness. However, if I was able to vote, I would have voted the following way:

1) H.R. 158—Visa Waiver Program Improvement Act—YES.

2) H.R. 3842—Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers Reform and Improvement Act—YES.

**MEDIA BIAS POSES A THREAT TO
OUR COUNTRY**

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, media bias poses one of the greatest threats to our country.

The liberal national media should provide the American people with the facts, not tell them what to think. If voters don't have the facts, they can't make good decisions. And if