

HONORING JEFF SPENCE OF PENNSYLVANIA ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN 29 YEARS OF SERVICE IN LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I extend my sincere congratulations to my constituent, Detective First Class Jeff Spence of the York City Police Department, upon his retirement after almost 30 years in law enforcement.

I've long appreciated the commitment of people who devote themselves selflessly to serving our Nation and communities. After graduating from William Penn Senior High School in York, Pennsylvania, Mr. Spence served our Nation in the United States Air Force. He began his law enforcement career in the patrol division of the York City Police Department, where he was later promoted to Detective and later Detective First Class.

Mr. Spence has earned countless awards and commendations for his service, including Police Officer of the Year by both the City of York and York County, as well as induction to the York City School District Hall of Fame. His peers describe a true professional whose tireless dedication, professionalism and sacrifice touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom he served to be the best. His legacy of service to our Nation and community sets the standard for all to follow.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's. Fourth Congressional District, I thank and congratulate Jeff Spence on his service and wish him and his family great happiness and success in their future adventures.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAIR—MINNESOTA CHAPTER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Minnesota Muslims in recognizing the 10th anniversary on the founding of the Council on American-Islamic Relations—Minnesota Chapter (CAIR—MN). CAIR—MN is among the 35 Regional Offices and chapters across the United States that are working to enhance reinforce core American values by encouraging dialogue, promoting social justice, protecting civil liberties and fostering freedom of religion. CAIR—MN is to be commended for their advocacy work to advance civil rights and ensure that America remains a beacon of hope, freedom, opportunity and respect for people of all backgrounds.

At a time when Muslim Americans and Muslim immigrants face unprecedented levels of intolerance and abject bigotry, the work of CAIR—MN is vital. Minnesotans treasure our diversity and the desire for open and meaningful dialogue as we work together to strengthen our communities. Our growing and vibrant Muslim community in Minnesota is an important part of the fabric of this country, and I am pleased that CAIR—MN is actively engaged with our local communities across our state.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Minnesota families of many cultures, ethnicities and faiths. CAIR—MN plays an important role in protecting our state's culture and tradition of respect for all. Please join me in recognizing CAIR—MN for 10 years of advocacy and dialogue on behalf of Minnesota Muslims.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUSTY SELIX

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership of Rusty Selix, whose outstanding advocacy and efforts on behalf of mental health have changed, improved and saved lives. Rusty has been a leading expert in mental health policy and finance for the past 30 years, and state and local government policy and finance for 40 years. His work has been focused on mental health since 1986, when he became the Executive Director and legislative representative of the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies, a statewide association of non-profit, publicly funded mental health providers. He also served as the Executive Director of the Mental Health Association (Mental Health America) in California from 1993 until 2014 and has worked with every major mental health organization nationally and in California. He has served as Chair of the Policy Committee for the National Council for Behavioral Health and Mental Health America, helping to guide national mental health policy for many years. Rusty was the original co-author and leader, with Senator and now Mayor Darrell Steinberg, of the Proposition 63 Campaign—the November 2004 California ballot measure which is transforming the state's public mental health system.

Beyond his innumerable and far-reaching accomplishments, I honor Rusty for the spirit and manner in which he has achieved them. Rusty has been able to intuitively and adeptly reach out and bring together with a diversity of stakeholders in collaborative efforts to attain a united goal. Guided by an unwavering focus on mental health, Rusty combines a clear understanding of the "big picture" with a solid, grounded sense of what can be shifted or altered to achieve change. Be it legislative, financial or organizational Rusty can see the necessary steps ahead and present his position in a way that encompasses and appeals to the needs and interests of those who can impact their own systems to accommodate the proposed change. With an authentic, non-defensive posture, Rusty is truly open to listening and learning about the others' concerns and able to skillfully propose feasible solutions to potential problems.

Rusty's tireless work has always been about creating the change that can bring reality to his vision of improving lives and systems and not about self-aggrandizement. He acts with great integrity and, as such, is trusted for his honesty and his ability to follow through. Throughout our work together on mental health policy, he has always acted as an immediate, knowledgeable, and trusted resource.

Mr. Speaker, I know many in the state government and the mental health and substance use disorders community will miss the work

and presence of Rusty Selix as he takes a step back from his active role with CCCBHA and will serve as the Senior Policy Consultant for this organization for which he has done so much. He has been an incomparable force with a strong, solid voice. His legacy will live on for years to come and I'm pleased that he will continue to be a voice for behavioral health care providers and those that they serve in the great state of California.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) JEREMIAH JOSEPH DIGIOVANNI

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Army Specialist (SPC) Jeremiah Joseph DiGiovanni who paid the ultimate sacrifice on November 15, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC DiGiovanni was killed when two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters collided in Mosul, Iraq. SPC DiGiovanni was among 17 soldiers killed in the collision. SPC DiGiovanni was assigned to 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

According to the Associated Press, SPC DiGiovanni, a Covington, Louisiana native, graduated from North Pike High School in Summit, Mississippi. He joined the Army in November 2000. He later received training for his job as a Black Hawk crew chief. Joe DiGiovanni, SPC DiGiovanni's father, said his son's job was very important to him. "It was 250 miles an hour, pants on fire with both doors open," Mr. DiGiovanni said. "He was a Black Hawk Crew Chief and he lived to get in that helicopter and fly."

Tonja Ludlam, a friend of SPC DiGiovanni, wrote a post about him on a memorial website. "To all who knew DJ, we were touched deeply by a boy who grew to be a man before our eyes," Tonja wrote. "He was so proud to wear the uniform, be the best soldier he could be, and so proud to serve our country. He studied hard to be a Crew Chief and do what he loved the most. I miss his smiles and the fun we had in the short time I knew him."

During his three years of service, SPC DiGiovanni was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Basic Aviation Badge, and the Sharpshooter Qualification Badge.

The funeral was held at Calvary Baptist Church in Pricedale Community, Mississippi, where SPC DiGiovanni was raised by his father and stepmother, Helen DiGiovanni.

SPC DiGiovanni is survived by his father and stepmother, Joseph A. DiGiovanni and Helen DiGiovanni; his mother and stepfather, Laurie A. Brock and Kendall Brock; his six stepsisters, Brandy Blackwell, Misty Blackwell, Kaitlin Brock, Sarah Brock, Hannah Brock, and Elisabeth Brock; his three brothers, Brett Kennedy, Kendall Brock, and Noah Brock.

SPC DiGiovanni's service and sacrifice to protect America will always be remembered.

HONORING LOUIS C. ROSE, MD

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a medical professional who has done tremendous work in my district, Louis C. Rose, who this year will be honored at the Saint Joseph's Medical Center's Annual Ball.

Louis is a native of the Bronx and a graduate of C.W. Post College. He received his medical degree at Rutgers Medical School and finished his residency in orthopedic surgery at New York Medical College. After becoming Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery, he was invited to join the faculty in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at NYMC.

In 1999, Louis joined the staff at Westchester Medical Center where he accepted the position of Chief of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the Cornell affiliate hospital in the Bronx. There he served as Chief medical officer and Chairman of the Board, and he was also appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Presbyterian Hospital System. Currently, Louis serves as Chief of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Associate Director of the Department of Surgery at Saint Joseph's Medical Center.

Louis has been very active in the community as well. He has organized many community health programs in the Bronx and his service has been recognized by a wide array of civic and health care leaders. Awards include the New York State Liberty Award, the highest award given to a civilian in the State of New York, the New York State Senatorial Award, and he has received a proclamation from the City of New York for all of his community work. Louis is also an appointed NYC Police Surgeon and has served on the Medical Advisory Board of the NYS Athletic Commission.

In addition, Louis is the Founder and Executive Medical Director of Throgs Neck Multi Care, a comprehensive medical facility specializing in the treatment and care of all orthopedic trauma, injuries, and degenerative changes. He served as President of the Bronx Medical Society from June 2013 until May 2014 and is still an active member.

As you can see, Saint Joseph's is privileged to have such an accomplished and outstanding physician as Dr. Louis Rose. He is most deserving of this recognition, and I wish to congratulate him on the honor.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO UPDATE THE SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION SYSTEM

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to make a commonsense update to the Selective Service Registration system.

As my colleagues know, our country has long recognized the moral dilemma faced by those with strong religious or moral grounds against serving in the military and engaging in

war. As noted by the Supreme Court in *Welsh vs. United States*, there are many in our country "whose consciences, spurred by deeply held moral, ethical, or religious beliefs, would give them no rest or peace if they allowed themselves to become a part of an instrument of war."

Historically, Congress has provided for alternative service or exemption from service for those whose scruples and conscience cannot allow them to participate in combat or in any form of military service.

In today's all-volunteer military, those who have moral objections to participating in war can opt not to join the military. However, under the Universal Military Training and Service Act, all men between the ages of 18 and 26, including conscientious objectors, are still required to register for a national draft, should Congress authorize one.

My bill would require that the Selective Service provide registrants, at the time of registration, with the option to indicate a desire to be classified as a conscientious objector.

My bill would make clear that simply making that indication at registration does not bind the U.S. in any way and does not assure that the registrant will be so classified.

Finally, the bill would allow the Selective Service system to also accept, at the time of registration, written statements in support of a conscientious exemption claim.

I want to be clear that the legislation does not change current requirements for how such claims are handled. Under current law, those who pursue a conscientious exemption from military service during a draft can only put forward an actual claim, with supporting evidence, after they get an induction notice.

Again Mr. Speaker, our nation has a history of recognizing, as noted by the Supreme Court in *Gillette v. United States*, "the situation of conscientious objectors to war, who, absent special status, would be put to a hard choice between contravening imperatives of religion and conscience or suffering penalties." My bill simply tries to make the process of registering those objections more direct and straightforward.

HONORING DR. JACK BERMINGHAM

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Dr. Jack Bermingham, the President of Highline College, on his retirement.

Dr. Bermingham's academic career began in 1979, upon earning his Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Santa Barbara. After serving on the faculty of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, he moved to Washington state where he later became the Dean of Social Sciences at Pacific Lutheran University. His career at Highline College began in 1994 when he joined the College's administration as Academic Vice President. His career at Highline progressed and he was appointed to serve as the college's President in 2006.

During his tenure at Highline College, Dr. Bermingham fought to further education on many fronts. He expanded the College's col-

laborations with businesses, K-12 schools, four-year institutions, and local organizations in order to improve the community's access to education. Under his leadership, the college began offering four-year degree programs, among them the Bachelor of Applied Science in Cyber Security, which received regional, national, and international recognition. Dr. Bermingham also served on numerous boards and committees at the national and regional level.

Dr. Bermingham has also been a leader in international education. He has presented at international conferences, including in Turkey, Hong Kong, and Botswana. He served as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Board of Community Colleges for International Development, which also recognized his outstanding work in international education in 2005. That same year, he was also recognized by the Polytechnic of Namibia for his instrumental role in the success of that institution's international partnerships. Additionally, for the past seven years under Dr. Bermingham's presidency, Highline College has hosted the Pacific Rim Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition which attracts teams from international universities and institutions.

Throughout his career, Dr. Bermingham has been an ardent champion of diversity and social justice. Highline College has become the most diverse higher education institution in Washington state. It is also a place where many immigrants and refugees begin their journey to achieve their academic and professional dreams. Highline College was awarded the Equity Award from the Association of Community College Trustees in 2016, and for the last four years has been awarded the High Education Excellence in Diversity Award. Dr. Bermingham made it a priority for Highline College and their faculty to serve all students, regardless of color, creed, ethnicity, or economic situation.

Dr. Bermingham's legacy is one of harmony, inclusion, and academic excellence. He has proven himself to be a tenacious leader, and has also shown to have the ability to connect with people through kindness and compassion. He will be greatly missed at the college by faculty, students, and the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Dr. Jack Bermingham on his twenty-three years of service at Highline College and wish him the very best in his retirement.

EMERGENCY SERVICES AWARDS

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first responders of Bucks and Montgomery Counties. Recently, I was privileged to speak to nearly 300 first responders at the 45th Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce's Emergency Services Award Dinner and offer them my heartfelt thanks. As an EMT myself, I understand the love that these individuals have for their neighbors and their community. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to recognize:

Robert Dondo, William Fluck IV, Eoghan Lowry, Karen Gibbons, Lisa Aron, Steven