

dedication to human services is not limited to just the CFFA. She serves on the Board for the Bleeding and Clotting Disorders Institute and the Dirksen Congressional Center. She also served the public in the 18th congressional district for two decades. Additionally, Merna is a member of the Peoria Rotary Club, Illinois Human Services Partnership, and serves on numerous committees, like the Peoria Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee. Building community and investing in Central Illinois, large or small, has long been a passion for Carol.

Our community has greatly benefited from the hard work and leadership of Carol Merna. I extend my sincere congratulations to her on being recognized as Central Illinois' Woman of the Year. I wish her much success as she continues to lead a life of service to the Peoria community and central Illinois.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF THE REV. PHILLIP R. BYRUM

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2020*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the decades of dedicated public service of a great North Carolinian, role model and man of faith, the Rev. Phillip R. Byrum—known to many as Father Phil.

Born in 1941, Rev Phillip R. Byrum is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina—son of the late Robert and Margaret Byrum. He attended Greensboro Public Schools and graduated from Greensboro College in 1963 with a degree in philosophy and religion.

He went on to attend the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, graduating in 1966. He was assigned to St. Michael's Church in Tarboro, North Carolina and St. Mary's Church in Speed, North Carolina. He was ordained to the Priesthood on June 24, 1967, at Christ Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Father Phil was married to the former Anne Stuart Barnette in 1966. They became parents to two sons, Robert Stuart, born 1968 and John Keith, born in 1970. He is also a proud grandfather of seven grandchildren and great-grandfather of one.

Father Phil and his family moved to Albemarle, North Carolina in 1969, where he became the Rector of Christ Church. He and his family spent a joyful 22 years in this parish, with both sons attending local schools, and leaving to attend and graduate from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Serving with passion and humility, Father Phil was a dedicated minister to his congregation and was heavily involved in many facets of community life, as well as the work of the Diocese of North Carolina. For many years, he chaired the Commission on Liturgy and Music, and directed a music and worship camp for children on behalf of the Diocese for 19 years. He also began a long relationship with the Society of St. Margaret in Boston, Massachusetts where he served as a visiting chaplain to the Sisters for many years.

In May 1991, Rev. Byrum accepted a call to become Rector of St. Timothy's Church in Wilson, North Carolina. Shortly after, a temporary assignment stretched into nearly 30 years of

service as Father Phil was asked to serve as priest-in-charge of a historic African American church in East Wilson, St. Mark's Church.

Father Phil completed his service in ministry from St. Timothy's in 2000, and focused his ministry service on St. Mark's, while also serving La Iglesia de la Guadalupe, the Spanish-speaking church officially recognized as a congregation in 1998 and shares St. Mark's facilities. Father Phil devoted his service in ministry at St. Mark's and La Guadalupe until his final retirement in 2020.

Father Phil had the privilege of leading his congregations at St. Mark's and La Guadalupe in serving the community with worship services in English and Spanish and through community outreach programs such as food ministries, tutoring programs, and assistance programs for those facing critical situations in their lives.

On February 29, 2020, Father Phil retired from active ministry and will continue to live in his home community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and honoring the Rev. Phillip R. Byrum as he is recognized for his many years of service. His lifelong contribution to his congregations and community cannot be overstated.

LITTLE PUB COMPANY

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2020*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Little Pub Company for receiving Commerce City's Business Appreciation 2020 Retail Investment Award for Leadership.

The Retail Investment Award for Leadership honors a retailer or commercial developer who contributed to the city's economic vitality through the introduction of a new business that brought new employment and/or new capital investment to the city in the last year. Founded in Denver in 1994, Little Pub Company currently operates over 20 restaurants and/or bars across the Denver metropolitan area. Each location is unique—names and defining characteristics are specific to each neighborhood in which they are built.

Little Pub Company was a pioneer in Commerce City. The company built the northern range's first free-standing full-service restaurant and bar in 2019, State House 38. The 5,424 square-foot restaurant brought 75 new jobs to the city in 2019. The name pays tribute to Colorado, the 38th state in the Union. Inside, the walls are decorated with photos illustrating the history of Commerce City.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Little Pub Company for this well-deserved recognition from Commerce City.

HONORING BRYAN JOSEPH  
KELLER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2020*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bryan Joseph

Keller. Brian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bryan Joseph Keller for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.  
MICHAEL A. EVANS

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2020*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Michael A. Evans, a medical expert, an entrepreneur and a dear friend. Dr. Evans was known throughout Indiana and the nation for his excellent work in the field of toxicology, but he was much more than that. A businessman, Mike founded two nationally recognized laboratories in Indianapolis, AIT Laboratories and AIT Bioscience. Mike was commended by the State of Indiana for his many successes. Hoosiers are forever grateful for Mike's significant contributions to the City of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana as a whole.

Michael Evans was born on October 19, 1943, in New Albany, Indiana. He graduated from Our Lady of Providence High School and went on to attend St. Joseph's College where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree. Upon his graduation, Mike served our nation as a platoon sergeant and an Army Ranger in Vietnam. Mike was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Silver Star Medal for valor in combat.

After returning from his service, Mike earned his doctorate degree in toxicology from the Indiana University School of Medicine. After receiving his degree, Dr. Evans spent twenty years within the field of toxicology working as a researcher for government agencies, testifying as an expert witness and training the next generation as a professor. Dr. Evans also did private research in laboratories including those at Indiana University School of Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

In 1990, Dr. Evans created AIT Laboratories, a toxicology and forensics lab that does testing and research for law enforcement, corporations, government agencies, pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, physicians, pain management professionals, medical examiners, attorneys, and courts of law. He went on to serve as the president and CEO until 2012. In 2012, Dr. Evans created AIT Bioscience which is an integrated bioanalytical contract research organization (CRO), supported by a state-of-the-art electronic laboratory environment.

Dr. Evans' work is a testament to his passion for science and creating services that help people. He was decorated with honors and awards including a Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, the Distinguished Hoosier and he received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from the Indiana Governor. Dr. Evans was also honored as the SBA Small Businessperson of the Year in 2006 and was the 2008 Ernst & Young Midwest Entrepreneur of the Year. Marian University honored Dr. Evans through the naming of the Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences building.

Dr. Evans was the father of six children, Michael, Cara, Justin, Andrew, Katherine and Samantha. He enjoyed spending time with his children, working out and reading books on history, business and people who have made a difference in the world.

Mike will be forever missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and the entire community. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Mike's family. Today I join the community and the entire family in mourning the loss of Dr. Michael A. Evans who made a difference in the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEVIN J. O'BRIEN, SR., RECIPIENT OF THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS' MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2020*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin J. O'Brien Sr. who will be named Man of the Year by the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. He will be honored at the group's 106th annual gathering on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Born and raised in Avoca, Pennsylvania, Kevin is the son of the late Michael J. O'Brien, a former Friendly Sons President, and Mary Moore O'Brien. He is a 1974 graduate of Pittston Area High School, and he attended Luzerne County Community College, studying fire science technology. Kevin is the proud father of his son, Kevin Jr., and currently resides in Duryea, Pennsylvania.

Kevin was president of the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons in 1989, the year that the organization celebrated its 75th anniversary. Under his leadership, the Friendly Sons Scholarship was established, and Kevin's family was an original donor to the program.

He began his career in public safety in 1978, working as a radio operator/dispatcher for the Luzerne County Civil Defense. During his 27-year career, Kevin rose to the rank of deputy director of the Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency. During those years, he oversaw the planning, training, and response to all natural and manmade disasters throughout Luzerne County. He concluded his 30 year-career with the county as a lead crash and rescue firefighter at the Wilkes Barre/Scranton International Airport.

Kevin has also dedicated his time to local fire service. He has been a member of the Avoca Volunteer Fire Department for the past 45 years. Kevin also became a Pennsylvania State Fire Academy instructor, conducting fire

training programs throughout the Commonwealth. In 2011, he was awarded the title of instructor emeritus from the academy.

In addition to his volunteer fire service and full-time employment in emergency management, he also worked part time at the Pocono Raceway, starting in 1985 as a pit road fireman and eventually becoming fire chief at the facility. Kevin served as a NASCAR Advanced Training Program instructor and became a member of the NASCAR Safety Standards and Training Committee. In 2013, the NASCAR Track Services Division recognized Kevin for his dedication to the sport, and its safety, by awarding him the NASCAR Excellence in Track Services Award.

It is an honor to join the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick as they recognize Kevin J. O'Brien Sr. as Man of the Year. He has had a successful career in service to his community, and I wish him all the best on this St. Patrick's Day.

### IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support to commemorate the 43rd anniversary of International Women's Day.

On March 8, International Women's Day, we take the time to commemorate the incomparable contributions that women and girls all around the world have created in order to better our communities.

I am honored to be able to commemorate this momentous day with so many other women that have devoted their lives to making a change in our society.

We commemorate women's enduring achievements for our world and rededicate ourselves to delivering education and opportunity to girls in every country.

Our lives have changed because of influential figures from Arabella Mansfield, America's first female lawyer and philanthropist, Katherine Johnson, mathematician, critical NASA employee and revolutionary force of her time, Oprah Winfrey, first black multi-billionaire, American media executive and social influencer, and our very own mothers who have raised and supported us.

Women are beginning to leave their mark in every industry from corporations, to music, to sports, to education, to finances, to entertainers, to the Armed Forces, and to politics.

The fight of women has always been fueled and grounded in the belief in what is possible, we have always built a future that we could see and believe in and fight for.

That is why the United States currently has the most diverse Congress in history, with over one hundred female members whose visions and values continue the legacy of the women that came before and paved the way for those who follow.

That is why a young woman who saw an existential crisis spoke up and sparked a revolution to combat climate change on a global scale.

That is why we will never stop advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment and Equal Pay.

That is why a woman was selected as the Democratic party's nominee for President of the United States; she served as the Nation's first lady, senator from New York, and proudly served as Secretary of State.

That is why we continue to reshape and rethink the role of women in society.

It has been a momentous year for women as we thrive in the 21st century.

We are no longer hidden figures behind a man, held back by ambition, or forced to take on stereotypical roles of women.

However, we are still far from reaching the equality envisioned in our Constitution.

The scales of justice held by Lady Liberty are not yet balanced, and it is incumbent upon all women to continue our fight for equal rights under law and in the eyes of society.

One in 3 women worldwide are victims of physical or sexual violence.

More than 200 million women and girls alive today have experienced Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Complications from pregnancy and childbirth is the number one killer among girls ages 15 to 19 in the developing world.

Despite women working longer hours than men when both paid and unpaid work is taken into consideration, women still earn an average of 24 percent less than men do worldwide.

Women spend one to three hours more on housework than men, two to ten times the amount of time caring for children and the elderly, and one to four hours less per day on economic market activities.

An estimated 63 million young girls worldwide are out of school.

Millions of women are still denied fundamental rights, but we look to the promise of our past and know that our future is bright.

We will usher in a new era of growth for our economies, security for our families, and strength for our countries.

Let us build on the successes of our history, protect the rights we have won, and continue to march towards a new dawn for women and girls around the world.

Our commitment to the empowerment of women and girls also calls us to rededicate ourselves to fighting violence against women and girls in all spheres of life, from the classroom to the courtroom to the bedroom and everywhere in between.

This year, as we prepare to commemorate the centennial of the 19th Amendment, we take acknowledgement of this momentous achievement that unleashed the power of women to have a voice in our democracy, and in the process helped deliver transformative progress toward a more perfect union for all Americans.

In recognition of the innumerable contributions and continued leadership of America's women, we will never stop fighting to advance the cause of freedom, equality and justice for all.

Today, and always, we reaffirm a vital truth that when women succeed, America succeeds.

NORTH RANGE EYE CARE, P.C.

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2020*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud North Range