

H. Lucht, Fred J. Mancari, Charles E. Manis, Francisco Matos, Alfred J. McAndrew, Robert L. Menclawicz, James A. Mervin, Elwood H. Michel, Neil P. Moore, Frederick J. Mundt, Glen E. Myers, James L. O'Brien, Sheldon R. Olsen Jr., Donald P. O'Neil, Lester D. Pauls, Donald P. Perille, Earl N. Pilgrim, Steve J. Pizzello, Walter R. Pollak, William D. Powell, Richard R. Pucin, Herbert G. Richards, Frederick J. Richter, Jonathan N. Rivers, Philip E. Robinson, Stanley D. Russell Jr., Leno Santacaterina, George Martin Schallmo Jr., Joseph Schmieder, Delbert L. Schoenbeck, Bernard H. Shedor, David S. Silverman, Robert L. Sinclair, Sheldon Sonheim, Thomas J. Stacks, Walter E. Stankiewicz, Lawrence J. Steskal, Frederick A. Stevens, Morton Stillman, Donald Stillman, Robert R. Straits, Robert J. Sutphen, George R. Thompson, William G. Vejvoda, Ronald E. Vezina, Gerald L. Wien, George A. Wilkins, William C. Witte, George A. Wolters, Robert O. Yahn, Richard K. Yohnka.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF MARY FRITZ

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in sadness to honor and remember a lifelong friend and colleague, former Connecticut State Representative, Mary Fritz, who honorably served constituents in Cheshire and Wallingford for an impressive thirty-two years and who passed away last week. Mary dedicated her life to serving the people of the 90th district, and will forever be remembered for her fighting spirit and genuine care for constituents. Her strong sense of morality guided her work in the legislature and marked her as a truly exceptional representative.

Before her tenure in the Connecticut General Assembly, Mary studied at Emmanuel College, Boston College, Trinity College, and Fairfield University. She later expanded her role in Connecticut school systems, serving as a Wallingford Public School teacher, the president of the Yalesville School PTA, and ultimately, the Chairwoman of the Wallingford Board of Education. She was an outstanding model for the value of education—a sentiment that translated to her work in the legislature, as she prioritized education policy. Mary also spent years forging the way for new legislation to battle crime and advance health care in Connecticut, while also paying special attention to protecting and serving senior citizens.

I couldn't agree more with Governor Malloy's recent statement, "She was a true public servant who put the priorities of her constituents first and represented her district with distinction." From 1987 to 1994 I represented the citizens of Vernon, Connecticut at the General Assembly alongside Mary. For two years we sat side by side in the House chambers and I enjoyed every minute of her steady commentary on the bills we were working on, the speeches we listened to, and the people who paraded by our seats on the back benches. She had a biting wit and shrewd mind that sized up every bit of action going on—even into the late hours. During those long sessions she brought her quilting with

her, and one time I voted a way she didn't like, she poked me with her quilting needle—with a big devilish grin on her face.

She was focused on two things as a person and a public official. First, representing the voters who elected her. Winning a swing seat sixteen times shows how successfully she accomplished that mission. And second, she was truly devoted to her family—her husband, William, and their children who are all special and successful in their own right.

The positive footprint of Mary's work will be gratefully remembered for years to come. I trust that her legacy will live on through the work of loving family—her husband, six children, and fourteen grandchildren. Her presence and spirit will be greatly missed both in and out of the legislature. I now ask that my colleagues please join me in remembering Mary's full and altruistic life, and in offering our sincere condolences to her friends and family.

TRIBUTE TO SHELLEY KESSLER UPON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shelley Kessler, a pillar of the California Labor Movement, as she retires from serving the people of San Mateo County with great distinction and respect, as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council.

Shelley Kessler has said that she became involved in the labor movement because social and economic justice struggles are the basis of her life and work. She grew up in Los Angeles, graduated from Sonoma State University and began working rotating shifts at Owens Illinois. Her union career expanded in 1977 at General Motors where she became the first woman elected as a full-time Union Representative of the local UAW. She began her 34 year affiliation with the IAM in 1982 when she began work at Westinghouse Electric. In 1985 Shelley applied for the job of Political Director of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council, a position she held for eleven years. For the past twenty years she has been Executive Director-Treasurer of the Labor Council where she represented 110 affiliated local unions and 70,000 working member families.

On her appointment in 2014 to the California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation, IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger said "Kessler's unyielding dedication to the working families of California and her community is exemplary. The CHSWC is fortunate to have such a proud advocate for workers' health and safety as a member of its board. "Shelley Kessler's advocacy has been a force for good. She positioned labor as a force in San Mateo County and has been a leader in many organizing efforts. She has served on countless boards and committees to advance workers and unions, and has earned many accolades including the California Labor Federation "Women Labor Leader of the Year" award, and was inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame in recognition of "Extraordinary Achievements and Contributions."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring a great American woman, pioneer, role model, union leader and workers' advocate, Shelley Kessler, as she retires from the San Mateo County Central Labor Council. We are a stronger nation because she has worked for all of us and we wish her every blessing in her well-deserved retirement.

PRESIDENT OF THE VERMONT RETAIL AND GROCERS ASSOCIATION TO RETIRE

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jim Harrison for his tireless work over nearly three decades on behalf of Vermont's retailers and grocers. After 29 years, Jim will retire at the end of this year from his position as President of the Vermont Retail and Grocers Association and its predecessor organization, the Vermont Grocers Association.

In Vermont, the local grocery or general store is the heart of our small communities. It's a place where locals gather for much more than milk, meat, and produce. Indeed, these small businesses are woven into the fabric of our communities. Each and every one of them has benefitted from Jim's passion and perseverance.

As President Pro Tem of the Vermont Senate and now as a Member of Congress, I have worked closely with Jim over the years. He has been a respected leader in shaping public policy throughout his tenure. He is a tireless and tenacious advocate who, without fail, accomplished his goals in a bipartisan and cooperative manner. He commanded the respect of governors and legislators, and allies and opponents, because he has always been a man of high integrity who cares deeply about the issues that impact the retail industry.

Jim's first job as a teenager was bagging groceries at Landoli's Market in Westborough, Mass. The retail touch he learned in that job served him well over the years in Montpelier and is appreciated by the many businesses he has represented.

He studied business at Nichols College before transferring to Cornell University to study food marketing. After graduating he landed a position in Hannaford Brothers' training program and went on to manage its stores in Rutland and South Burlington. After a stint in Boston, he returned to Vermont in 1987 to head the Vermont Grocers Association, which merged with the Vermont Retail Association in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Jim's leadership, advice, and friendship over the past three decades. He will be missed, but I have no doubt that his wise counsel will always be available as needed.

I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me and all Vermonters in wishing Jim and his wife, Pat, the best in retirement.