

To this day, Secretary Mineta remains a prominent leader within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community through his work with numerous civic organizations. He is a recognized expert on transportation and homeland security issues. He received the highest civilian award in the United States when he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2006.

Of course, we could spend a good portion of our lifetime reciting Norm Mineta's achievements. I, however, would like to close my remarks by simply heralding what I believe to be the true mark of this great American statesman: through thick and thin, Norm Mineta has carried his country on his shoulders. With Secretary Mineta, no one is left behind and America can never have a bad day. For that, Norm Mineta has earned our eternal affection and commands our grateful respect.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1377, a tribute to a distinguished former member of this body, Norman Yoshio Mineta.

#### RECOGNIZING DENNIS M. DIEMER

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, and Congressman PETE STARK to recognize East Bay Municipal Utility District General Manager Dennis M. Diemer and congratulate him as he approaches his well-earned retirement.

Mr. Diemer's career in public service demonstrates his lifelong commitment to the citizens and communities of the East Bay. We are grateful to him for his service to our constituents.

He began his career with EBMUD in 1981 as a senior environmental engineer, and over the ensuing years he was promoted to positions of increasing responsibility at the agency. In 1995, the board of directors selected him to serve as acting general manager, and he was appointed as general manager on February 13, 1996.

In California, where our water fights are legendary, Dennis' collaborative approach helped EBMUD make strides toward a secure water future. Working with the district's board of directors, Dennis and his team focused on identifying and working with partners for water supply projects. He played a significant role in ending years of water wars between the East Bay, the Sacramento area, and the environmental community, an effort which evolved into the Freeport Regional Water Project.

Dennis' work has made a long-term difference in the environmental quality of the Bay Area. He has long promoted protection of San Francisco Bay, from his work in the 1980s managing a collaborative effort with local communities to abate uncontrolled sewage discharges into San Francisco to more recent efforts to forge agreements that put EBMUD and local communities on a long term path toward controlling wet weather discharges to the Bay. In addition, under his watch, the district's new long range plan included a pioneering analysis

of the potential impacts of climate change on future water supply. These actions will result in better protection of public health and the environment.

Dennis has demonstrated exceptional leadership for EBMUD, making the organizational and process improvements necessary to anticipate and adapt to changes in regulations, technology, the environment, and the world around us.

Madam Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join us in honoring General Manager Dennis Diemer for his dedicated service to the people of California and the Bay Area. We are pleased to join with his family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating Dennis on a long and highly successful career and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO SUPERVISORS GAIL STEELE AND ALICE LAI-BITKER

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gail Steele and Alice Lai-Bitker, who have chosen to retire from their exemplary service on the Alameda Board of Supervisors at the end of this year. Supervisors Steele and Lai-Bitker have served their districts with honor and distinction.

Supervisor Steele has held many positions of leadership in organizations in Alameda County including Alameda County Mental Health Advisory Board; Chair, Alameda Alliance for Health; Chair, Alameda County Children's Memorial Grove and Flag Committee; President of Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum/Area Joint Power Authority; Chair, Local Agency Formation Commission; Executive Committee of the Association of Bay Area Governments; and the Liaison Committee of the East Bay Regional Parks.

She served on the Hayward City Council from 1974 to 1982, and has represented the Second Supervisory District since June 1992. She served as President of the Board of Supervisors from January 1995 to January 1997, and again from January 2003 to January 2005.

Alice Lai-Bitker was unanimously appointed to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in December 2000. She was re-elected twice by voters in District Three, where she is serving until her tenure ends at the end of December 2010. In January 2009, she was selected by her colleagues to serve as President of the Board for 2009 and 2010.

During her tenure as Supervisor, Ms. Lai-Bitker has been a strong advocate for increasing health care for children. She spearheaded the No Wrong Door policy in Social Services to ensure quick and efficient service. Her work on domestic violence includes A Day of Remembrance, honoring victims of domestic violence and assisting in obtaining federal funds for a Family Justice Center in Alameda County.

Ms. Lai-Bitker chairs the Board's Health Committee and serves on the Social Service Committee. She is a member of the Alameda County Transportation Authority and she represents the Board of Supervisors on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

She is a member of the Board of the George Mark Children's House, the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare Community and California State University East Bay Institute for Mental Health and Wellness Education.

Supervisors Steele and Lai-Bitker have many notable accomplishments, and have won many awards for their contributions. I join the community in thanking each of these outstanding women for the significant impact they've had in our community.

#### HONORING BRIAN MULLER

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Brian Muller upon his retirement as the Mariposa County Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator.

Mr. Muller has served Mariposa since February of 1981, when he started in the Sheriff's Office as a Jail Officer/Dispatcher. In November of 1985, he became a Deputy Sheriff, after which he received a series of promotions: to Sergeant in 1998, to Lieutenant in 1999 and finally to Undersheriff in 2003. Finally, Mr. Muller was appointed as the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator in January 2008 and he has ably served the County in that capacity since.

While working for the Sheriff's Office, Mr. Muller was responsible for a wide range of duties in the County, including 9-1-1 dispatch, patrol, an adult detention facility, investigations, court security, boat patrol, animal control, coroner, public administrator duties, and Sheriff's Community Organized Policing Effort (SCOPE). Mr. Muller also successfully applied for a number of grants from the State of California that benefited Mariposa County. For his service to the County, Mr. Muller received a number of awards, including the Mariposa Gazette Best Peace Officer award and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year from Mountain Crisis Services.

In addition to his many duties as Sheriff, Mr. Muller has contributed to the County in other ways. Brad and his wife Sarah are actively involved in their church and regularly assist at the Senior Center.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brad Muller for his dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Muller many years of continued success.

#### HONORING CLARKE WARDLAW McCANTS, JR.

### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr., of Columbia, South Carolina, who passed away on December 3 of this year. Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr., was a brilliant legal mind. Growing up in Columbia in the 1930s, he distinguished himself among his peers as a fine attorney and was recognized by The Best Lawyers in America in its Trusts

and Estates Section. An active member of the American Bar Association, he even served as the Editor of the Association's Journal of Real Property and Probate Trust Law.

Not just an outstanding lawyer, Clarke McCants was a kind man who raised a fine family that he took great pride in. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Anne Lucius McCants and many loving children and grandchildren. It is important that the people of our nation step forward to serve their communities and give back to their country. This was not lost on Clarke McCants who gave generously of his time to his community.

Educated at the University of South Carolina as both an undergraduate and a law school student, he was a very active participant in the student government and many various extra curricular programs on campus such as Omicron Delta Kappa, President of Pi Kappa Alpha, and the debate team.

Between his undergraduate and law school education, Mr. McCants served us all in the United States Army Air Corps as a flight radio operator. His service in World War II earned him one Bronze Star. We are thankful for his service and we can all learn from the life experiences of Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr.

In closing, I just wanted to take a moment to share my condolences to the family of Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr. The entire staff and I are sorry for your loss and the pain this has caused you and your family.

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INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING  
GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD  
MARRIAGE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 987, legislation that would authorize the United States to provide assistance for the prevention of child marriage in the developing world. Regrettably, child marriage continues to be an all-too-common practice in many third-world countries. We as a nation have a moral obligation to do all that we can to assist with the prevention of this deplorable custom. Marrying before puberty or during early to mid-adolescence places young women in dire circumstances—where they face severe health risks in pregnancy and childbirth, where they are trapped in positions of complete dependence and where they are subjected to verbal and physical abuse at the hands of their spouses. It is imperative for the United States to take a strong stance against this practice by investing in efforts to prevent child marriage and empower susceptible young women in these developing nations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRATULATING GREENWOOD,  
SOUTH CAROLINA'S SELF RE-  
GIONAL HEALTHCARE

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 16, 2010*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Greenwood, South Carolina's Self Regional Healthcare on receiving the South Carolina Governor's Quality Award. Presented by the South Carolina Quality Forum; an affiliate of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the Governor's Quality Award recognizes organizations across the state that have mirrored the superior standards of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

As my colleagues know, the Baldrige Program's mission is to improve the competitiveness and performance of U.S. organizations. It is the only formal recognition of performance excellence given by the President of the United States to companies and organizations in the business, healthcare, education, and nonprofit sectors.

Five years in the making, Self Regional was recognized for improving the quality of patient care while simultaneously improving the outlook of its long-term financial performance. I give credit to the team of 2,300 physicians, administrators and volunteers who worked tirelessly to put their patients first. To each and every one of them, I say, a job well done.

I am pleased to see everyone involved at Self Regional being recognized for their hard work and dedication by the Governor's Quality Award. While congratulations are certainly in order, I concur with Mr. Jim Pfeffier, President and CEO of Self Regional, who said, "It is important to note the real winners in this are our patients, for quality and safety are especially important when it comes to addressing the health needs of others."

Since making the commitment to improve its level of patient care, Self Regional has received the Quality Forum's Silver Award twice and the Explorer's Award once. With such a stellar track record, Self Regional is making a name for itself in not only South Carolina, but also, across the nation. I am pleased to add my name to the many that offer Self Regional their heartfelt congratulations on this award.

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IN RECOGNITION OF JULIE  
LANCELLE

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 16, 2010*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Julie Lancelle for her outstanding community service in Pacifica, California, since 1986.

Julie moved to Pacifica in 1986 with her husband and daughter and was quickly drawn into the public activism intrinsic to this coastal town. One of her first causes was the opposition to extending the Highway 1 freeway south of Rockaway Beach. The following year she was appointed to the Pacifica Open Space Task Force.

In 1992, Julie was first elected to the Pacifica City Council. After serving a two-year

term, she left to spend more time with her children. In 1997, she recommitted herself to community service and became a member of the Pacifica Land Trust Board where she used her years of experience to preserve open space.

She was again elected to the city council in 2002 and during her eight years of service was instrumental in the completion of the Pacifica Strategic Plan, the Palmetto Streetscape Plan and the expansion of the Community Emergency Response Team Program. She advocated for the preservation of the habitat at Sharp Park, balancing environmental concerns with the recreational pursuits of golf and archery. Julie also represented her community on the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the City/County Association of Governments.

Throughout her life, Julie has been passionate about the outdoors and the preservation of open space. One of the highlights in her career was the purchase of Mori Point and its inclusion into the Golden Gate National Recreational Area. She launched a campaign for that purchase and organized the community to raise money to partner with the Trust for Public Land, the Park Service and the Coastal Conservancy. Thanks to Julie, Mori Point is now a spectacular hiking area open to everyone.

Madam Speaker, it is right to honor my friend and colleague Julie Lancelle for her outstanding advocacy and dedication to her community, particularly on December 15, 2010, the day she retires from the Pacifica City Council.

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HONORING CHRIS EBIE

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 16, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Chris Ebie upon his retirement as the Mariposa County Auditor.

Mr. Ebie began his career with Mariposa County in September of 1987 as Account Clerk III in the Auditor's Office. In November of 1988, he was promoted to Assistant Auditor. In April 2005, Mr. Ebie briefly left Mariposa County but returned in January 2006 as the Board-appointed County Auditor. In June 2007, Mr. Ebie was officially elected to the position of County Auditor.

In his time with the County, Mr. Ebie worked on a number of projects, including coordinating efforts in assuring the County's compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 45, maintaining the County's software and budget structure and implementing the Alternative Measurement Method (AMM) for reporting costs and liabilities associated with health and other non-pension benefits for public employees.

In addition to his service to the County, Mr. Ebie is a dedicated family man. Chris and his wife Grace are the proud parents of four children and the proud grandparents of four grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Ebie for his dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Ebie many years of continued success.