

of Rochester, New York for his continuous advocacy and leadership to prevent and test for childhood blood lead poisoning. It is a pleasure to acknowledge Ralph as an educator, community servant, and leader in the fight to protect children's health.

Ralph Neil Spezio served for 33 years in the Rochester City School District as a teacher, curriculum specialist, vice principal and principal. As principal of Enrico Fermi School No. 17, he excelled at engaging students, faculty, families and the surrounding neighborhood. Ralph addressed the needs of the school both inside and outside its walls in order to restore School No. 17 back to a safe place for learning. He connected with Rochester's leading medical centers to build the Community Health and Family Center on school grounds, established a music program with help from the renowned Eastman School of Music, and promoted an active parent-teacher association.

Despite these improvements, a large portion of Ralph's students continued to struggle with learning and behavioral problems. He felt that his school had more than the average number of students who had trouble with focus, memory, language, and impulsive behavior. It turned out that while Ralph was working to level the playing field for students to have a fair chance at success—even in a school plagued with a 98% poverty rate and located in Rochester's poverty crescent—an unforeseen and silent monster was working against him: lead poisoning.

Lead is a highly toxic metal. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concludes that in young children, lead poisoning can result in lowered intelligence, reading and learning disabilities, impaired hearing, reduced attention span, hyperactivity, and antisocial behavior. In 1999 Ralph overheard school nurses speaking about students who had been poisoned. Eventually it was discovered that school health records showed 41 percent of the children at School No. 17 had a history of elevated levels of lead in their blood. Worst yet, those were only the results of those children who were tested directly for lead.

Through the Community Health and Family Center he had established, Ralph began testing preschool students for lead. That first year, 100% of the preschoolers tested were positive for lead. Ralph immediately initiated a grassroots effort to educate the community about the dangers of lead and to advocate for blood tests and home inspections.

Mr. Spezio became a founding member of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning, a group of Rochester doctors, nurses, lawyers, educators, child advocates, health insurers, property owners and community leaders committed to ending childhood lead poisoning. The work of this coalition has earned the EPA's Environmental Justice Achievement Award. In conjunction with local government and with the support of federal resources through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Coalition reports an 84 percent decline in childhood lead poisoning in Monroe County over the past decade. With this success, Rochester has become a model for other cities combating lead problems.

I am so proud of the excellent, life-changing work that Ralph has done and his commitment to putting children first in Rochester. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Ralph Spezio for his leadership, compassion and dedication to

the healthy development of our nation's most precious resources, our children.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY RODRIGUEZ

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Betty Rodriguez, who passed away on November 12, 2012, at the age of 83. Betty will be remembered as one of Fresno's greatest treasures.

Betty was born and raised in Fresno, California, where she graduated from Edison High School and met her husband, Armando Rodriguez. Armando and Betty were high school sweethearts and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2010. Their marriage was filled with happiness, warmth, and compassion. Together, they shared a deep love for one another and also for their community.

Armando was a Superior Court Judge in Fresno County and Betty became extremely active in the community. She spent her time volunteering for many different organizations, including the League of Women Voters, Girl Scouts, Arte Americas, Ladies Aid for Retarded Citizens, Friends of the Library, and the Fresno-Torreón Sister City Committee.

Betty was a trailblazer for women throughout the Valley. It was an important priority for Betty to instill in women, especially Hispanic women, that they could make a difference in the world. She wanted Hispanic women to feel liberated and proud of themselves and their heritage.

One of Betty's greatest achievements was the founding of the League of Mexican American Women. They created the Fiesta Navideña Fashion Show, an event dedicated to raising scholarship money for local youth. Over \$250,000 has been raised since the fashion show's inception. Betty took great pride in the event because the proceeds were going to a wonderful cause. Betty was known to be able to sell tickets to anyone because she would not take no for an answer. Due to Betty's tireless efforts, the fashion show is still something people look forward to year after year.

This past May, Armando and Betty were recognized at the 12th annual Latino Legends of the 20th Century dinner for their service to the community. Their selflessness and passion for the Central Valley made them very deserving of the award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Betty Rodriguez, a true champion for the people of Central California. Her leadership in the community made her a role model and asset to our community. Betty's generous and kind heart will be sorely missed.

#### RECOGNIZING MARINE CORPS GENERAL JOHN KELLY

#### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, it's with deep respect and profound admiration that I rise

today to honor Marine Corps General John Kelly, who just recently became the Corps' fifth active four-star general and took the helm of U.S. Southern Command.

General Kelly has a long and distinguished military career, leading Marines through peacetime and war. His record of accomplishment has earned the respect of not just Marines, but the entire military and civilian leadership structure, and members in both bodies of Congress.

General Kelly is not just someone who I consider a good friend. Having served as a Marine, I also consider him to be a high-caliber officer who embodies all the qualities that make the Marines the most effective fighting force in the world. Without a doubt, he's a role model and mentor to younger Marines. He's a trusted voice for U.S. national security and his service to the nation, spanning more than four decades, has been an asset for the Marine Corps and the entire country.

Those who have had the distinct opportunity to learn from General Kelly and observe him in action are even better Marines today. He's been an inspirational figure to many—myself included—and now as head of U.S. Southern Command, he will surely make his mark as a superior and effective officer who is capable of leading at the highest levels.

Among Marines, the rank of four-star general is attainable only to a select few. They are considered the best and brightest military minds. They are tactically coherent. They are masters of strategic planning and they represent both the intimidating strength and goodwill that is associated with the Marine Corps and the rest of America's military.

General Kelly is the right person to lead U.S. Southern Command at the right time. There is no shortage of challenges throughout the Caribbean, Central America and South America. America faces threats from drug trafficking, corruption and cyber attacks. With General Kelly at the forefront, America will be safer and more secure, and we'll surely be in a position to make progress toward improving conditions in countries that are so close to our doorstep.

And I know I speak for the rest of my colleagues in expressing my gratitude for General Kelly's service. He's an exceptional leader who deserves our unending respect and appreciation for a military career that first began in 1970 when he enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing General Kelly much success as the Marine Corps' newest four-star general and the head of U.S. Southern Command. Semper Fi.

#### BETH DUPREE

#### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Beth DuPree, a breast surgeon, oncologist and the medical director for Holy Redeemer's Breast Health Care Program in my home of Pennsylvania.

Earlier this month, Dr. DuPree was honored with the inaugural Be Well Philly Hero Challenge. This award, presented by Philadelphia Magazine, honors local champions of health and wellness.

In addition to recognizing the work of Dr. Dupree in her medical practice, Philadelphia Magazine has awarded The Healing Consciousness Foundation with a \$2,500 charitable donation.

Founded by Dr. Dupree in 2006, The Healing Consciousness Foundation works to improve the quality of life of breast cancer patients through a holistic approach which includes exercise programs, counseling and education services and diet coaching.

The Be Well Philly Hero Challenge award marks the latest in a long line of achievements presented to Dr. DuPree throughout her career.

Many of our families, my own included, have been affected by breast cancer, and it is thanks to the dedication of men and women like Dr. Beth DuPree that treatments are constantly evolving and improving as we work towards a cure.

Congratulations again to Dr. DuPree and I wish her the best of luck going forward.

#### TRIBUTE TO JASPER E. PEYTON

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the Reverend Jasper E. Peyton, a man dedicated to serving God, his family, and the community.

Reverend Jasper E. Peyton, native of Richmond, Virginia is a graduate of the Armstrong High School in Richmond, Virginia. He entered the military service while a student at Virginia Union University and while serving in the Philippine Islands, he attended the University of Philippines in Manila and majored in Business Administration. After being discharged from the military he enrolled in City College of New York and graduated in 1952. His education also includes labor studies at Wagner College, Staten Island, New York; and courses at the School of Journalism at Rutgers University and at New York Theological Seminary. Reverend Peyton served as an adjunct professor in the Black Studies Department at Fordham University, Manhattan Campus. In February of 2007 Reverend Peyton was presented the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the Eastern Theological Seminary.

Reverend Jasper Peyton joined the International Ladies Garment Workers Union in 1950 and served in several capacities including: organizer, shop steward, editor of the local newspaper, local education director, assistant national education and political director, art class instructor, a founder of the Fulton Art Fair in Brooklyn, New York and ILGWU training institute coordinator. During his labor career, Reverend Peyton participated in international labor conferences in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana, Africa. He was listed in Who's Who in American Labor. Reverend Peyton is the former President of the Congress of Christian Education of the New York State Progressive National Baptist Convention, and served as Chaplain in the New York State Supreme Court Officers Association, ILA-AFL-CIO.

Reverend Peyton's many commitments at Bethany Baptist Church have included former President of the Senior Choir, President of the

Presidents Council, President of the Virginia Club, Chairman of the Board of Deacons. He is presently the Adult Sunday School instructor. Dr. Peyton served as Interim Pastor at Bethany Baptist Church until January 2008 and as Assistant to the Pastor under Dr. David A. Hampton, the tenth pastor called to the historic Bethany Baptist Church of Brooklyn until his departure in December of 2011.

Rev. Peyton is the father of one daughter, Rose LaVerne Abernathy, grandfather of six and great-grandfather of twenty.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Reverend Jasper E. Peyton for his tremendous contributions to his congregants and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Reverend Jasper E. Peyton.

#### CONGRATULATING DENNIS GEHRINGER

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Dennis Gehringer on his retirement from First National Bank of Howell after a distinguished 44 year career.

Mr. Gehringer's career is truly an American success story. He progressed from errand boy to teller to collector before becoming a Loan Officer and ultimately a Commercial Loan Officer in 1984. In addition to his job duty progression, Mr. Gehringer was also promoted in rank within the bank from an assistant cashier to assistant vice-president then to vice-president and retires as a Senior Vice President, a rank he has held since 1989, among the highest ranking officers in the bank hierarchy aside from the Chief Executive.

Although Mr. Gehringer gained significant professional accomplishments during his tenure, when asked, he said that he was most proud of the people that he and First National have helped over the years. From helping people start a business or just helping get a customer through a rough patch, Mr. Gehringer demonstrated the real value of a community banker with his ability to build relationships.

Mr. Gehringer has given back to the community where he has lived his entire life. He is the past President of the Livingston County Coin Club; an active participant with the Howell Chamber of Commerce; a Livingston County United Way Volunteer, and active in his church, St. Joseph's, as a Men's Club member and former Endowment Fund Chair. Mr. Gehringer also served on the Salvation Army board and as a Scout Master. Mr. Gehringer's community involvement was specifically recognized and celebrated on two different occasions. In 2001, he received the Charles W. Itsell Volunteer of the Year Award from the Livingston County United Way. Then, in 2003, the Howell Chamber of Commerce presented Mr. Gehringer with its Citizen of the Year Award.

Mr. Gehringer and his wife Laurie, who met at First National, have two children and one grandchild. Mr. Gehringer says he is most looking forward to spending more time with family, playing more golf, and continuing to

enjoy the people and places of Livingston County.

I ask that the House of Representatives join me in thanking Mr. Gehringer for his exemplary service to his community and congratulating Mr. Gehringer on his retirement and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JOYCE C. ROSE

### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of Joyce Rose, who is retiring after 25 years of service to the United States Congress. Joyce has worked for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure since 2001, and has served as the staff director of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials since 2008.

Prior to her service with the U.S. House of Representatives, Joyce worked for 13 years on the U.S. Senate's Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation. Joyce began her career on Capitol Hill as a staff assistant, and through her energy, inquiring mind, and hard work, rose to positions of greater responsibility.

She has worked for a total of 11 different committee and subcommittee chairmen and ranking members, and has given each her total loyalty and professional expertise. For her entire 25-year career, Joyce has worked on transportation policy and funding issues. Over the years, she has become a true subject matter expert, particularly in the areas of rail and transit policy.

Joyce has worked for me directly since I became the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in January 2007 and, subsequently, became Chairman last year. She was instrumental in helping me and my constituents in Central Florida get a new, 61-mile commuter rail system called Sun Rail approved and under construction.

She has advised me on legislation ranging from the 9/11 Implementation Act in 2007, to the 2008 Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act, to this year's MAP-21 surface transportation bill. I will miss her can-do attitude and deep knowledge of rail and transit issues.

Joyce was born on December 22, 1960 to Mary Jo and Joseph Comer in Leonardtown, Maryland. Her parents instilled a love of God and country, and strong commitment to public service—though Joyce's original plan was to teach music, and in fact, her college degree is in music education. I'm told that Joyce "keeps her hand in" music by volunteering to direct her church choir.

Joyce has been married for 29 years to Dale Rose, a mechanical engineer, and they have two children, Brian and Beau. Beau has Autism, and their experience as the parents of a disabled child has given Joyce and Dale the gift of advocating for those who can't speak for themselves.

Joyce is leaving us to take on a new position as President and CFO of Operation Lifesaver, Inc., a national, non-profit safety education group whose goal is to eliminate deaths