

I extend my deepest congratulations to Margot Zallen for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County and thank her for her many contributions to our community. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING LYNN BRANTLEY,
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE
CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lynn Brantley, co-founder, president and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank, who will retire at the end of the year.

Ms. Brantley helped found the Capital Area Food Bank 32 years ago and has worked tirelessly to feed the hungry and serve those in need. The Capital Area Food Bank started as a small operation serving a few thousand people and today is the largest supplier of food to people suffering from hunger in the Washington metro area. I had the privilege of working with Ms. Brantley many times over the years to fight hunger in northern Virginia, including in 2009 when we established Feds Feed Families food drive, a national canned food drive conducted by federal employees around the country that has collected more than 20 million pounds of food.

I want to commend Lynn for her leadership in addressing the serious challenge of hunger and I extend my deepest gratitude for her service to our community. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

I also submit a recent Washington Post article on Ms. Brantley's outstanding career.

[From The Washington Post, Nov. 17, 2012]

WASHINGTON-AREA HUNGER SEEN AS
WORSENING

(By Robert McCartney)

As she prepares to retire, Lynn Brantley, 70, ought to be satisfied with her standout career as a Washington area do-gooder.

Driven by the religious teachings of her Pennsylvania Dutch upbringing, Brantley has worked for 32 years as a key leader feeding the hungry in our region. A co-founder and longtime chief executive of the Capital Area Food Bank, she helped transform a small operation that served a few thousand people into a giant clearinghouse that collects and helps distribute groceries to nearly half a million needy.

Despite that success, Brantley remains unsatisfied. She's distressed that after so many years, the extent of hunger in our region is much more widespread than when she began.

It used to be that families who relied on charity for food were concentrated in inner-city neighborhoods with entrenched poverty. Now the dependence has spread to numerous lower middle-class neighborhoods in the suburbs.

It's a sobering thought for those of us fortunate enough to worry mainly about what the scale will say after we pack away too many mashed potatoes at the Thanksgiving feast.

"I can say now that the problem seems 10 times worse than it did when I started out. It's a terrible way to be leaving, to be thinking that people are worse off than when we

began," Brantley said in an interview Thursday.

"It's the economy; it's what's happening with the middle class. That's who's coming to our agencies now," she said. "These are people who are maybe working two and three jobs, and can't make ends meet. These are people who've been laid off."

Brantley was mostly earnest and matter-of-fact as she reflected on her career in an interview in her office at the food bank's brand-new, sprawling warehouse near Catholic University in Northeast. She is stepping down at the end of the year, to be succeeded by Nancy E. Roman, an executive at the UN World Food Programme.

Brantley rattled off statistics about hunger and offered sociological analysis of why the problem continues to exist. But her voice cracked and she turned visibly emotional at several points when she recalled the need that she's witnessed.

It happened when she described seeing children at an after-school meals program at a low-income housing community in North-east.

"They sit down and they just use their hands to stuff their mouths, because they don't get an evening meal. People don't realize the conditions and what people are facing," Brantley said.

As she spoke, trucks at nearby loading docks were delivering fresh produce, canned and dry goods and other food and household items that the food bank buys or receives as donations. Some is "salvage" food, in slightly dented containers or with nearing use-by dates.

At other docks, trucks carried away the food to 700 nonprofit organizations including food pantries, faith-based groups, churches and community centers. They give away bags or boxes of groceries to the needy in the District, Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland.

The modern, 123,000-square-foot facility is quite a contrast to the cramped, leaky warehouse where Brantley and others launched the food bank in 1980 in response to cuts in federal food stamp programs. The operation had two volunteers and used shovels to unload trucks.

Brantley became chief executive in 1988. Today the food bank has a staff of 133 and uses forklifts.

Brantley was active in the civil rights movement in the 1960s before she got involved in hunger issues as a food stamp outreach coordinator in Prince George's County. Her motivation to help the underprivileged sprang from her roots in York County, Penn.

"I went to a Lutheran parochial school and my grandparents were Quakers, so I was ingrained with a sense of the gospel in terms of where I came from and what I did," Brantley said. She said food is "just a profound, moral right that people should have."

Although she tried to avoid saying anything overtly political, it was clear she wished the government would take a bigger role in helping the needy.

"This is an important point, and something for people to really remember. Back in the '70s, before the [food stamp] cuts came, hunger had nearly been obliterated in this country," Brantley said. "When the cuts came, we as a country have never rebounded from that."

Now Brantley is looking forward to moving to a Quaker retirement community in Lewes, Del. She hopes to spend more time with her five grandchildren, and to enjoy her hobbies of bicycling and bird watching.

She says she worries about the focus in Washington on cutting spending for domestic programs. "We're looking at cuts coming down the road. It's going to be hurting the most vulnerable people," she said.

At least she can comfort herself that she devoted her life's work to softening the blow.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WHITTAKER
MACK III

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Mr. Whittaker Mack III who's talents and service have been of great value to his community.

Whittaker Mack III was born in New York City, the oldest of two children Whittaker Mack is a retired NYC Sanitation foreman and real estate developer, and the late Ethel Devone Mack, a real estate developer and homemaker. His sister, Tiffany, is a math teacher in the NYC school system. He has been a resident of New York his entire life. He began his educational career in the Lutheran private schooling system from kindergarten through eighth grade. He graduated from August Martin High in 1984.

Whittaker is the current Chairperson for the Urban Resource Institute, a major non-profit organization dedicated to assisting families affected by domestic violence, mental development issues, and substance abuse. He is an active member of the Male Usher Ministry in the Greater Allen Cathedral since 2008 and has been actively attending Allen since 1982. In other community activities, Whittaker is the chairperson for Duke University's Alumni Advisory Committee for Orange and Rockland Counties of New York, the Immediate Past President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.—Eta Zeta Lambda of Westchester County Chapter lifetime member of the National Black MBA Association, and an active member in local Rotarian Clubs and Chamber of Commerce organizations.

Whittaker received his Bachelor's Degree from Duke University and Master's of Business Administration in finance and wealth management at Fordham University Graduate School of Business. Currently, Whittaker is employed as Vice President, JP Morgan Securities, LLC as a financial advisor in the Wall Street area. Prior to Chase, he worked in the financial services industry with Merrill Lynch and LPL. Before working in the financial services industry, he started his career in the pharmaceutical industry in a variety of roles including analytical research chemist, formulation research scientist, production manager, plant manager, and a pharmaceutical representative.

He is happily married to Keisha Mack, a Clinical Nurse Manager for United Health Care, and currently resides in Rockland County New York. In his free time, Whittaker enjoys playing sports, mainly golf and baseball, and traveling the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Whittaker Mack III for his valuable contributions to his community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,317,681,766,441.44. We've added \$5,690,804,717,528.36 to our debt in 3 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
DECKERVILLE EAGLES HIGH
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM, 8-
PLAYER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege today to recognize the Deckerville Eagles High School Football Team. The Eagles capped off a remarkable and extremely memorable season by bringing home to Sanilac County the second ever Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) 8-Player State Championship!

The Eagles defeated the Bellaire High School team in the State Championship game on November 16th by a score of 14–12.

This championship game was a hard-fought defensive battle, with the Eagles keeping constant pressure on their opponent. The Eagles were able to come up with numerous important stops on defense, and capitalized on the errors of their opponents to earn the victory.

The Eagles proved they had the talent, fortitude, and resilience to rise to the challenge and accomplish their ultimate goal—a State Championship! Teamwork, perseverance, and friendship all contributed to this title. I know the community and the entire Thumb Region takes great pride in what these young men were able to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the hard work and sportsmanship displayed by all of the members of the Deckerville Eagles team. I also wish to acknowledge the parents, the cheerleaders, the school teachers and administrators, and all of the students, fans, and community members who came out this season to support the Eagles. Together they combined to make this an unforgettable season.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my personal congratulations and best wishes. All the accolades, awards, and trophies are rightfully deserved. Way to go Eagles!

TRIBUTE TO MS. DIONDRA JADE
HARP**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and pay tribute to Ms. Diondra Jade Harp for her contributions to the community.

Ms. Diondra Jade Harp is a fourth generation member at the historic Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn, NY where Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr. is their Pastor and Rev. Byron Benton is the Youth Pastor. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Diondra says “I was destined for greatness and am privileged to be one of the honorees of the Concerned Women of Brooklyn, Inc.” Ms. Harp is currently a sophomore at Delaware State University where she is pursuing a degree in criminal justice with a 3.4 grade point average. She is a student mentor for the 2012–2013 incoming freshman class. She is also a member of the Delaware State University Gospel Choir and will join the Concert Choir in the spring of 2013.

Diondra's future professional studies include attending law school. Her main goals in life have always been to achieve success in a career that involves helping others and to live her life in a way that may be pleasing to God. Diondra attended John Dewey H.S. and served as a peer mediator of the Conflict Resolution Program. During her senior year she was elected President of the Student Government Organization. She was also a member of the National Society of High School Scholars (N.S.H.S.S.), and was elected to represent New York in the Lead America career and leadership conferences. Aside from her academic achievements, Diondra's extra-curricular activities include gymnastics and playing the piano. Diondra gives credit to her mother's teachings and prayers for molding her into the young woman she has become.

Mr. Speaker I call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions and accomplishments of Ms. Diondra Jade Harp.