

Mr. Griffin had held steadfast to the dream of owning his own business since he was a teenager. After leaving the job because of a failed promise for a raise, he found himself unemployed and married with two children. It was at this point he began to give his dream serious thought—an auto repair business. He was not exactly sure how to start or where to begin. Mr. Griffin said he was led by God to go to the bank and ask for a loan. Once there, he was informed that chances of him getting a loan were almost impossible since he was no longer employed nor did he have any kind of collateral. However, Mr. Griffin said the loan officer decided to “give him a chance” and grant him a loan for \$17,000 because he “looked like an honest man that would keep his word”. In 1998, Griffin obtained a small lot and built a building which would serve as his shop. He did not have any tools, so he began purchasing tools a few at a time.

Mr. Griffin relied on what he learned from books and what his grandfather taught him about working on cars. His first big job was the repair of an engine in which he earned \$600.00. As time went on, he gained more customers, and was able to buy more tools than he could imagine, which lead him to be an established self taught mechanic.

After his business grew, he decided to go to the bank to apply for a second loan in order to purchase a tow truck. This time, using his mother's land as collateral, he obtained an \$8,000 loan. He purchased a used tow truck for \$6,000 from a dealership in Greenwood, Mississippi and used the remaining \$2,000 to make necessary repairs to the truck. He was now an auto shop owner with his own tow service.

Now, fourteen years later, Griffin Auto Repair Shop is still a thriving business. Griffin credits the success and longevity of his business to it being “built and ran on faith” from its beginning to now. “I kept my word and provided fair prices and that kept me with good customers from all around and they've been good customers for many years, said Griffin.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Griffin Auto Repair Shop for its dedication and passion for serving its customers.

DHS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5913, the “DHS Accountability Act of 2012,” which establishes an independent advisory panel in the legislative branch to: (1) comprehensively assess the management structure and capabilities related to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and (2) make recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of DHS management.

Moreover, the advisory panel is tasked with directing the panel to examine: (1) the efficiency and effectiveness of the management structure and capabilities (2) the extent to which unnecessary duplication exists in such management structure and capabilities and how any such duplication negatively affects

the mission of protecting the United States; (3) the extent to which management of key homeland security missions is centralized under DHS; (4) options to reduce or eliminate harmful waste and duplication of effort in DHS; and (5) measures to evaluate DHS's progress in reducing and eliminating waste and duplication from its management structure and capabilities.

As the Ranking Member of Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation, I am familiar with the challenges facing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as the various agencies within the Department work to ensure the safety of all Americans. Like most other agencies, DHS and the agencies within it are facing budget cuts amidst the rising cost of ever present threats.

I want to recognize the outstanding work and progress that this body, in cooperation with the United States Senate and the executive branch, has made in learning from the events of 9/11. Together, we have taken steps toward the implementation of policies that have made our nation more secure from terrorism, including the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2002.

With over 200,000 employees and encompassing numerous agencies and various other components, DHS is the 3rd largest cabinet level department.

There were certain flaws in our security apparatus that failed us on 9/11 which include the lack of information-sharing between agencies charged with determining who should and should not be permitted to enter our borders, as well as friction and difficulties that resulted from some of the overlapping responsibilities of those agencies.

DHS was created to resolve some of those difficulties, and although it has made great strides, more work remains to be done.

The advisory panel created by the H.R. 5913 will be instrumental in assisting Congress and the Department of Homeland Security in achieving missions vital to America while trimming waste and improving its efficiency and efficacy.

It is essential that this Congress work in tandem with the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that the nation is protected from threats to our homeland. Because it will help to facilitate this important process, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5913, the “DHS Accountability Act of 2012.”

IN TRIBUTE TO VENTURA COUNTY'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the dedicated and professional members of the law enforcement community with whom I have had the privilege to serve during my more than 30 years of public service.

It's impossible to name them all. When I was mayor of Simi Valley, California, I rode with patrol officers to see first-hand the challenges our men and women in uniform face on a daily basis. Those on the front lines of public safety deserve our enduring thanks and respect.

But over the years, I have established partnerships with certain extraordinary people, in-

cluding Ventura County District Attorneys Greg Totten and Mike Bradbury and Sheriffs Al Jalaty, John Gillespie, Larry Carpenter, and Bob Brooks.

Al Jalaty was Sheriff when I was first elected to the Simi Valley City Council. He set the standard for those to come after him, demanding compassion and common sense from those under his command. John Gillespie began the technological modernization of the department. Larry Carpenter helped lead the charge to change the California Constitution to ensure that the first function of government is to protect the public, and in passing a county ordinance to ensure proper funding. Bob Brooks continued to modernize the department, particularly after 9/11, and instituted Six Points of Honor that established the foundation for the department's core values.

I worked closely with each and every one of these distinguished lawmen to ensure they had support from the federal government to provide the tools and training necessary to keep Ventura County safe. But it was their dedication, service, and vision that has kept Ventura County ranked among the safest counties in the nation.

In addition to their role in prosecuting criminals, District Attorneys Mike Bradbury and Greg Totten are responsible for legislation I introduced that became federal law. Mike Bradbury was presented with a problem of prosecuting the makers of videos showing the killing of small animals. Because of jurisdictional issues, it was hard to prove a crime on a local level. I introduced a bill making the interstate distribution of such videos a federal crime. It sailed through the House and Senate and was signed by the President in December of 1999. Prior to it becoming law, about 3,000 different videos were sold over the Internet. The next day, virtually none were available.

Because of a 2004 law, DNA matches in cold cases skyrocketed, creating a huge backlog for prosecutors Greg Totten and I discussed the problem and I introduced a bill to provide federal grants to local prosecutors to help prosecute DNA cold cases. My bill was included in the Children's Safety Act of 2005 and signed into law the following year. Greg Totten not only tirelessly championed funding the grants, he also worked diligently to make the program a success. Consequently, murderers have paid for their crimes.

Mr. Speaker, public safety is the number one responsibility of government. I have been honored to know and work with dedicated law enforcement professionals who I believe are among the best in the nation. I am honored not only to call each of them District Attorney and Sheriff, but friend. I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Ventura County District Attorneys Greg Totten and Mike Bradbury and Sheriffs Al Jalaty, John Gillespie, Larry Carpenter, and Bob Brooks, and all those in law enforcement who make our communities safe.

DAN DWYER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dan Dwyer for

his service to our community and receiving the 2012 Mayor of Golden's Award for Excellence.

Dan, an avid cyclist, made exceptional achievements in improving the health, fitness, and community spirit of Golden residents. He was a pivotal member of the community in organizing the Foothills Running and Biking Club, participating in the bikeability task force, serving on the board of Leadership Golden, and working to make the Golden stage of the USA Pro Cycling Challenge.

Dan was one of the organizing committee's co-chairs responsible for the staging of the USA Pro Cycling Challenge in Golden. This was the second year the community enjoyed 135 of the world's best riders as they raced over 518 miles through the beautiful scenery of Golden and much of Colorado. Dan used the race to continually engage sponsors and the community in cycling year round.

Above all, Dan exemplifies what it means to live healthy through exercise, while enjoying the community and scenery of Golden.

Mr. Dwyer is a champion in the community and I am honored to congratulate him on the 2012 Mayor of Golden's Award for Excellence. I am sure he will exhibit the same dedication and commitment in all his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF WEST
HARLEM'S BELOVED ADVOCATE
PATRICIA ARLENE JONES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of West Harlem's beloved businesswoman, managing director, visionary, community resident and advocate Patricia Jones, who unexpectedly passed away on Friday, November 16, 2012. On Tuesday, November 27, friends, residents and community leaders gathered at Convent Avenue Baptist Church to reflect and celebrate the life of our beloved Pat Jones, who was a faithful and dedicated public servant to residents, nonprofits and businesses throughout West Harlem and the City of New York.

It is with great sorrow that my wife Alma and I joined members of the West Harlem Local Development Corporation, Community Planning Board 9, elected officials representing the New York State Legislature and the New York City Council in mourning the unforeseen death of our beloved Pat Jones who left an unforgettable and indelible mark in all of our political and community hearts and minds. We are truly thankful for her decades of service to our community, and for the many memories that I will personally cherish forever.

Great women like our beloved Pat Jones are precious gifts we temporarily have in this world, but their assistance, contributions and accomplishments are far remembered and everlasting. Pat was a dear friend and was known to many of us as a brilliant hardworking community leader who dedicated her life work to fighting for and expanding historic and landmark preservation, positive community, public safety, health care, environmental justice and education.

Patricia Arlene Jones was born on July 17, 1953 in Flushing, Queens, New York. She was the youngest of four children of Darline

Clark Jones and Herman Lee Jones. Pat's family affectionately called her Trisha. Young Trisha was baptized by the late civil rights Preacher, Reverend Timothy P. Mitchell at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Flushing, Queens. Trisha graduated from Flushing High School, where she was a member of the Arista Club, a student organization dedicated to educational excellence. She matriculated to Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan majoring in Mathematics. Pat graduated from Michigan State in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration.

Pat was recruited by Price Waterhouse Coopers where she worked as an audit manager for over five years. She moved on to JP-Morgan & Company where she managed over 100 finance employees and eventually rose to become the first African American woman to serve as a Managing Director. During her tenure, Pat also served as a manager of diversity, establishing mentoring programs for African American employees, and establishing a women's speaker series featuring powerful professional women, including former U.S. Senator, First Lady and current United States Secretary of State, the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, and former National Security Advisor and United States Secretary of State, the Honorable Condoleezza Rice. Managing Director Jones retired from JP-Morgan after 17 years of service. Pat was also a Certified Public Accountant and played key leadership roles in organizations such as American Women for Economic Development and the American Institute of CPAs. Highly respected for her achievements in business, Pat was mentioned in the 1981 edition of Outstanding Young Women of America.

Pat, an accomplished businesswoman and retired Managing Director, volunteered and joined Manhattan Community Board 9 in 2001 to advocate and serve on behalf of the West Harlem community, where she owned her home and which she loved so much. Pat's dedication, professional skill and wit led her to be elected 2nd Vice Chair of the Board, serving 3 terms from 2004 to 2007. In 2008, Pat was elected Chair and served for two consecutive terms, from 2008 to 2010, receiving the admiration and support of her fellow board members. Pat concurrently co-chaired the Manhattanville Rezoning Task Force, as well as Chair of the 197-A Planning Committee. I am also proud to say that Pat Jones was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, which is one of nine federal zones established by President William Jefferson Clinton, by legislation I authored and sponsored in the House of Representatives.

More significantly, history will remember Pat Jones as the co-author and chief navigator of the historic Community Benefits Agreement between Columbia University and the City of New York on behalf of West Harlem and Community Planning Board 9. After successfully negotiating the 197-A Plan for Community Board 9 through the New York City Planning Commission approval process, Pat Jones was elected to fill one of the Community Board seats on the West Harlem Local Development Corporation.

Pat took on the leadership role as Chair of the West Harlem Local Development Corporation (WHLDC) at a very difficult and contentious time during the negotiating process.

Many long mornings, afternoons and evenings shepherding through the complex personalities and agendas was no easy task by any means, but somehow Pat was able to move the WHLDC above and beyond those personalities and agendas, which led to one of the most significant Community Benefits Agreements ever achieved in the City of New York and in the nation that will positively enhance and improve the quality of health, environment, education and affordable living for all the residents of Community Board 9, West Harlem and beyond.

The origin and purpose of the West Harlem Development Corporation are connected with the 25-year expansion project of Columbia University in the City of New York. This educational mixed-use complex that began in 2009 will eventually span 17 acres and will include academic, commercial, cultural, and community facility space as well as open space. It is bounded by West 125th Street to the south, West 133rd Street to the north, Broadway on the east, and Twelfth Avenue on the west. The integrated teaching and academic research campus would create 6.8 million gross square feet in 16 buildings at a projected cost of \$6.28 billion.

A consequence of this expansion project is the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) which is a legally enforceable document between a real estate developer and a community that binds the developer to provide agreed-upon benefits. The West Harlem Community Benefits Agreement Between the West Harlem Local Development Corporation and the Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York was signed on May 18, 2009, initiating phase one of the Columbia University's Manhattanville Expansion project.

In 2005, Community Board 9 of New York City voted to approve the creation of the local development corporation to engage in negotiations with Columbia University on behalf of the community of West Harlem. It was initially incorporated on March 16, 2006 as the D9 Local Development Corporation, a nonprofit New York State entity. Subsequently, an amendment was filed to change the name to West Harlem Local Development Corporation (WHLDC).

Through Pat's effective and determined leadership, and with the support of our elected body of public officials, the WHLDC was able to negotiate a total of \$300 million in CBA benefits for housing, employment and economic development, education, environment, transportation, arts and culture, community facilities and historic preservation, which included \$150 million from the City of New York to preserve affordable housing.

It also included \$150 million from Columbia University, which included the creation of a \$20 million Affordable Housing Fund; up to \$4 million in related legal services; a \$30 million commitment for a planned Demonstration Community K-8 Public School to be established in conjunction with Teachers College; \$76 million in Columbia University's financial contributions to a benefits fund that will be paid out in installments over sixteen years, which allows the WHLDC to determine the programmatic uses of these funds; \$20 million worth of access to Columbia University services and facilities to be apportioned over twenty-five years ("In-Kind contributions"); and a commitment from Columbia University to provide "Advice and Guidance" to the WHLDC on a range of issues and programs.