

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Eva Arrighi, for her exceptional service to the community.

HONORING RICHARD LEE  
LAWRENCE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Richard Lee Lawrence, a devoted servant to the Roanoke Valley and the legal community of western Virginia, who passed away unexpectedly on March 19, 2012.

Born and raised in Roanoke, Richard was an active member of Scout Troop 21, where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He was always proud of this achievement. He regularly spoke about how important his scouting skills were to his overall education.

A graduate of Jefferson High School, Roanoke College, and Washington and Lee School of Law, Richard also served in the United States Marine Corps. He was a passionate student of American history, particularly the American Civil War, and also greatly enjoyed immersing himself in the various cultures of the world.

Above all else, Richard was dedicated to his work. He took great pride in the fact that he worked each day since his first newspaper job as a young boy. Despite being a pillar of the legal bar in the Roanoke Valley, Richard was never too busy to mentor young lawyers, including myself and my wife. As a boy, Richard was unfortunately the target of many bullies. Thankfully, he turned that resentment into a desire to fight for the "little guy." Many contend he will be best remembered for his dedication to the people who did not have an advocate or a voice.

While I knew Richard as a lawyer and friend, I was unaware of his dedication to attending church on Sundays. The priest at Richard's funeral made note that over the last five years he could count the number of times Richard had missed church on one hand. Always open and candid about his shortcomings, Richard's faithful devotion is humbling.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Richard's family and friends. I am honored to pay tribute to his many contributions to the community. His legacy and influence will be long remembered across the Roanoke Valley and throughout Southwest Virginia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC  
SERVICE OF GERRY CASHIN

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, in any successful office, there is always one person you need to be able to trust to make sure that things are done in the right way and on time. From the beginning of my service in Congress, that person in my office was my executive assistant,

Geraldine "Gerry" Cashin. On the occasion of her retirement, I want to offer my personal thanks to Gerry for the dedicated and loyal service that she has given to me, the people of Alabama, and the citizens of our nation. Gerry was first with me in my law practice in Alabama and when I was elected to the House, I knew that I wanted her to come to Washington to help me with the challenge of setting up a new congressional office. Her organizational skills and personal concern for constituents helped our office to quickly establish a reputation for service and responsiveness. Gerry set a high standard with her dedication to her work and her attention to detail, and many of my staffers who have gone on to success in future endeavors have given credit to the lessons they learned from Gerry. Almost every day, the seemingly "impossible" was asked of Gerry and she unfailingly delivered, perfecting along the way such wry and legendary office phrases as "I'm sorry that happened" and "Never give a man something you haven't made a copy of." During the great challenges in Congress during recent years—from 9/11 to the financial crisis—Gerry stood as a rock of stability and a voice of calm and continuity. She has friends all over Capitol Hill and in Birmingham, and my wife Linda and I consider her to be part of our family for her many years of loyal service and heartfelt friendship. While the institutional knowledge that Gerry acquired cannot be replaced, my office's loss is the gain of her daughters Amanda and Diane and her grandsons John and Tom, with whom she will happily be spending much more time, and perhaps a gain for her tennis game as well. It is a pleasure for me to extend this public and well-deserved tribute to a servant of the people and a very dear friend, Gerry Cashin.

ELBRA WEDGEWORTH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth for receiving the Community Impact Award from Metro Volunteers.

As an East Denver native, Elbra Wedgeworth has been a leader in Denver City Government for the past twenty-six years. In addition to her government service, some of her volunteer activities include Host Committee Member of the 2022 Denver Winter Olympics, 2011 Denver Region Sustainable Communities Executive Committee and founder of the African American Cultural Consortium and several other Boards and Councils.

The Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth is a highly admired individual who deserves recognition from the community for her leadership and the example she sets for others through her selfless service to those in need.

I extend my deepest congratulations to my friend the Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth for this well deserved recognition by Metro Volunteers. Thank you for making our community a better place for all of us.

HONORING JENNIFER L. SMITH

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and I want to take a moment to recognize the retirement of Jennifer L. Smith, CBO's Associate General Counsel. Ms. Smith is retiring after more than 32 years of service to the Congress.

She began her career at the Senate in 1979. While working for the Secretary of the Senate, she attended law school at night and became one of the Senate's Assistant Parliamentarians. She served as an Assistant Counsel for the House Budget Committee, the General Counsel for the Senate Budget Committee, and the Deputy General Counsel for CBO. In 2006, she returned to the Senate Parliamentarian's Office as the Senate Precedents Editor, and in 2010 returned to CBO as the Associate General Counsel.

In each of her roles, Ms. Smith worked tirelessly to ensure that the decisions of each office were carefully researched, well reasoned, and fully documented.

As an attorney for CBO, Ms. Smith ensured that CBO's estimates of legislation were based on a solid understanding of the law. Her skills as an attorney have been highlighted in the diverse issues she has worked on while at CBO, ranging from immigration to social security to lease-purchase issues. Her knowledge of appropriations law, copyright law, and the ethics rules of the House of Representatives rivals those of the most acknowledged experts in those fields.

Ms. Smith's excellent work has been recognized throughout her career. In 2005, as CBO's Deputy General Counsel, she received a CBO Director's Award for outstanding performance. And she has received a number of other awards recognizing her outstanding contributions at CBO.

Ms. Smith has exemplified CBO's high standard of professionalism, objectivity, and nonpartisanship. She has been a wise counselor and a frequent mentor. As important as the quality of her work, Ms. Smith's value as a colleague is unmatched. Her unfailing sense of humor, dependability, loyalty and her prowess on the softball field will not be forgotten.

We thank Jennifer Smith and commend her for her many years of dedicated, faithful, and outstanding service to CBO, to Congress, and to the American people. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED  
STATES COMMISSION ON AN  
OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY  
ACT OF 2012

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the cherry blossom season begins, bringing thousands of Americans here, I rise to reintroduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act of 2012. The bill expresses an idea I began working on when the

first signs of the closing of parts of our open society appeared after the Oklahoma City bombing, well before 9/11. This bill grows more urgent as an increasing variety of security measures proliferate throughout the country without any thought about the effects on common freedoms and ordinary public access, and without any guidance from the government or elsewhere. Take the example of government buildings. Federal building security has gotten so out of control that a tourist passing by a Federal building cannot even get in to use the restroom or enjoy the many restaurants located in areas otherwise devoid of such amenities. The security for Federal buildings has too long resided only in the hands of non-security experts, who do not take into account actual threats and, as a result, spend lavish amounts of taxpayer dollars on needless security procedures. For example, several years ago, Government Accountability Office investigators carried bomb-making materials into 10 high-security Federal buildings and then assembled them in the bathrooms. This scandal shines a light on the failure to use risk-based assessments in the allocation of resources.

The bill I reintroduce today would begin a systematic investigation that fully takes into account the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threat that terrorism poses. To accomplish its difficult mission, the bill authorizes a 21-member commission, with the President designating nine members and the House and Senate each designating six members, to investigate the balance of openness and security. The commission would be composed not only of military and security experts, but, for the first time, they would be at the same table with experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology, and psychology. To date, questions of security most often have been left almost exclusively to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but these experts cannot alone resolve all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the security/access balance required by our democratic traditions, a diverse group of experts needs to be at the same table.

For years, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and the fear of terrorism, from checkpoints on streets near the Capitol, even when there are no alerts, to applications of technology without regard to their effects on privacy.

Following the unprecedented terrorist attack on our country on 9/11, Americans expected additional and increased security adequate to protect citizens against this frightening threat. However, in our country, people also expect government to be committed and smart enough to undertake this awesome new responsibility without depriving them of their personal liberty. These times will long be remembered for the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country and the unprecedented challenges it has brought. We must provide ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. Yet this is no ordi-

nary threat that we expect to be over in a matter of years. The end point could be generations from now. The indeterminate nature of the threat adds to the necessity of putting aside ad hoc approaches to security developed in isolation from the goal of maintaining an open society.

When we have faced unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply before moving to resolve them. Examples include the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman-Robb Commission), and the Kerner Commission, which investigated the riots that swept American cities in the 1960s and 1970s. The important difference in this bill is that the Commission seeks to act before a crisis-level erosion of basic freedoms takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long lasting, we cannot afford to allow the proliferation of security measures that neither requires nor is subject to advanced civilian oversight, or analysis of alternatives and repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With no vehicles for leadership on issues of security and openness, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th century approaches, such as crude blockades, unsightly barriers around beautiful monuments, and other signals that our society is closing down, all without appropriate exploration of possible alternatives. The threat of terrorism to an open society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society of free and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level commission of experts from a broad array of disciplines to help chart the new course that will be required to protect our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

A TRIBUTE TO ELLEN  
SNORTLAND, 29TH CONGRES-  
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF  
THE YEAR—2012

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women.

I stand today to pay tribute to Ellen Snortland of Altadena, California, who is an inspiring and extraordinary individual. Ellen has spent her life following a variety of passions ranging from human rights to journalism to self defense. Ms. Snortland received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Irvine in Theater and Film, and later a Juris Doctor, JD, from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. After

graduating, Ellen decided that she could provide the most service to her community as an advocate for women and children, a teacher, performer and media professional.

Ms. Snortland is the author of *Beauty Bites Beast*, which has been translated in Portuguese and Spanish, featured on Dateline NBC, and sold around the world. Ellen has also performed "Now that She's Gone," a one-woman show, which is a touching piece about family and forgiveness, and in 2008, was nominated for a Pulitzer in Drama. She has performed this show in New York, Los Angeles, Kansas, and France among other cities, states and countries.

She is currently a Board Member and lead female instructor for IMPACT personal safety, and teaches young boys and girls how to defend themselves from predators, both physically and verbally. She provides valuable services to our youth which they can draw from for their entire lives.

Ellen's accomplishments and roles in our community are innumerable. She serves on the Board of 50/50 Leadership and Consumer Watchdog, and is the Past President of the United Nations Association, Pasadena/Foothills Chapter. Ellen attended the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, in the year of 2001, and the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women for many years as part of the U.N. Press Corps as well as a NGO delegate.

Today, Ms. Snortland is a columnist for the Pasadena Weekly and a blogger for Ms. Magazine and Huffington Post. Ellen's work has been exceptional, and has proven that one woman can truly achieve all she sets her mind to.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ellen Snortland, for her exceptional service to the community.

ANDREA HILL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Andrea Hill for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Andrea Hill is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Andrea Hill is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Andrea Hill for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.