

redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; River City Patriots promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

They are God-fearing, freedom-loving Americans who desire nothing more than to rein in big government's tendency toward excessive coercion and the insidious spread of government overreach. They question when the validity of laws and morality contradict each other. They desire nothing more than the extension of individual freedom in a Constitutional Republic that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number of the state; a Constitutional Republic that seeks equality in Liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today. The roots of which are solid stock and American made, they are visionary individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and the Blessings individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grassroots organization.

HONORING LORI DEMERSSEMAN

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, Today, I rise to recognize Lori DeMersseman, who will be honored by the Los Angeles Democratic Party as a 2013 Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democrat of the Year.

Lori is a political leader whose tireless efforts can be seen in her important contribution to our community. As a founder and the current President of the Democratic Singles of Ventura County, Lori created an organization for like-minded individuals who are passionate about the economic, social and environmental issues facing our nation. The DSVC is a welcoming club for individuals to volunteer and socialize with other Democrats while participating in the political process.

Lori has always been engaged in improving our community. She is a committed advocate for equality and has long supported the priorities of the Democratic Party.

For being an exemplary grassroots activist who is consistently helping Democratic candidates and important statewide propositions, I extend my sincere congratulations and join the Los Angeles Democratic Party in honoring Lori DeMersseman.

SUPPORT OF BLOOMFIELD REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club of Michigan, who like so many grassroot organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

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HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF LORIE GRINNAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a dear friend of mine, Lorie Grinnan, on her retirement as the County Commissioner of Precinct 2 in Rockwall County. Lorie has served as Commissioner for eight years, and was the first woman to be re-elected to that position. During that time, she has been dedicated to serving the community of Rockwall, TX.

I have known Lorie for many years, and her commitment to implementing sound policies that benefit the citizens of Rockwall County is unparalleled. She has served in public office for 17 years, and during that time has undertaken many projects from transportation to emergency services.

Besides serving as County Commissioner, Lorie was also a member of the Rockwall Independent School District Board for nine years, and served as a member of the Juvenile Services Board as Commissioner and school board member. She also currently presides as the president of the Emergency Services Board. In addition to her roles as a public servant, she is a member of many community organizations including the Rockwall Noon Rotary, First United Methodist Church, Chamber of Congress, and city councils of Rockwall, Heath, Rowlett, and McLendon-Chisolm.

Some of her active projects as County Commissioner include a \$100 million road bond, infrastructure improvements to various roads in the area, and work to maintain quick ambulance response time despite construction.

Among one of her greatest undertakings was spearheading the Veterans Advisory Committee to help oversee the construction of the Veterans Memorial. Over 2,000 citizens attended the opening ceremony which was held on November 11, 2011.

Commissioner Grinnan, as well as her husband Jeff, and their two children Nicholas and Kimberley, all attended Texas A&M University. Kimberley is also seeking a law degree from Texas Tech University.

Upon her retirement, Lorie will leave behind a distinguished legacy and her influence will be felt throughout Rockwall County for many years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Lorie Grinnan, and wishing her the best of luck on her future opportunities.

SUPPORT OF THE BIRMINGHAM REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

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HONORING MY FRIEND AND HERO,
MRS. JEAN CLELAND

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and hero, Mrs. Jean Cleland, who passed away on September 9th, 2013. Jean Cleland was the happiest, most gallant and giving hands-on social justice advocate I have encountered. Jean was committed to all aspects of her life from advocating for social justice, to her family, and her faith.

She was a devoted and loving wife, mother and grandmother to her 6 children and 3 grandchildren. The Cleland home was open to all the neighborhood children where they enjoyed playing on a zip line 30 years ago and had frequent backyard barbecues. She and her husband Robert refused to get a television in their home until the mid-60's because they felt time was better spend reading, playing and enjoying family time together. Jean and Bob were happily married for 65 years at the time of his death in 2010.

A role model and friend, Jean worked at the North Shore Senior Center as a Case Manager and Director of Community Education for 35 years, until early 2013. In the '50's and '60's Jean became one of the founders of the Wilmette Human Relations Committee and the North Shore Summer Project. Those programs were essential for ending north suburban housing discrimination. The North Shore Summer Project organized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1965 speech on the Winnetka Village Green, and Jean had the honor of pinning an "Equal Housing" button on Dr. King's lapel the day he gave that famous speech to more than 8,000 people. Jean often said it was the highlight of her life.

As a strong and independent family, Jean and Robert belonged to Wilmette's First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, for 54 years. They were leaders in opposing the Vietnam War and the Iraq War, and persistent voices for peace and nuclear disarmament. Jean was a firm believer in justice and the notion that justice is intentional; she once said that "Justice doesn't happen accidentally, it takes hard work and strong beliefs."

Jean was the Chair of the Wilmette Housing Commission and effectively advocated for three low-income senior buildings in the village. Jean concentrated her volunteer efforts around open housing for more than 60 years. Jean was also a founding board member of the North Shore Interfaith Council, now called Open Communities and served on its board for over 30 years.

A committed and hard working citizen, Jean not only gave back to her community, she served as a powerful and compassionate advocate beyond its borders. I am honored to call her a dear friend and to be among the legions of people, young and old, who relied on her as a role model and example for living a meaningful and giving life. Her work has made this world a better place for countless people, and her name will live on in the hearts and minds of those she helped. May she Rest in Peace.

A TRIBUTE TO ALVISO ADOBE
COMMUNITY PARK

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fifth anniversary of the opening of Alviso Adobe Community Park in Pleasanton, California.

A collaborative historical project between the City of Pleasanton and the Museum on Main, Alviso Adobe Community Park is home to the Alviso Adobe, the first adobe building in the Amador Valley and a California Historical Landmark.

The park serves as a valuable resource for students and visitors interested in the economic, social and political life in California from the establishment of the Bear Flag Republic, through the Mexican-American War, the Gold Rush, and the granting of statehood.

A re-creation of the historic Meadowlark Dairy milking barn and bunk house now features indoor interpretive displays that tell the story of California from its earliest Native American beginnings.

Demonstration areas give visitors a hands-on experience in the activities of the past, such as making adobe bricks, ice cream, and learning how plants were used by the Ohlone people. The park grounds also have been carefully landscaped with native plants and fruit and nut trees amidst ancient Heritage oak trees and a seasonal creek.

I again join with the community of Pleasanton in congratulating Alviso Adobe Community Park on five years of celebrating our rich history. I look forward to the park serving as a valuable education resource for many more years to come.

THE BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD
REPUBLICAN CLUB

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

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