

Brother Ronald's family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating him on his outstanding accomplishments during his long and highly successful career. I wish him a healthy and happy retirement and the very best in all his future endeavors.

COMMEMORATION OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/ESTUARY AS A WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Leader PELOSI and Representatives ESHOO, GARAMENDI, HONDA, HUFFMAN, LEE, MCNERNEY, GEORGE MILLER, SPEIER, and SWALWELL to commemorate the designation of the San Francisco Bay/Estuary as a Wetland of International Importance on February 2, 2013 by the Convention on Wetlands, also known as the "Ramsar Convention".

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty adopted in 1971 and signed by the United States in 1987. This treaty provides a voluntary framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, their resources, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance benefit from increased conservation status and recognition, and are part of an international conservation network that encompasses flyways and other migratory routes.

The San Francisco Bay/Estuary is the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast of the United States, encompassing approximately 1,600 square miles and is critically ecologically important, accounting for 77 percent of California's remaining perennial estuarine wetlands. It also provides for a host of social and economic values through ports and industry, agriculture, fisheries, archeological and cultural sites, recreation, and research. Unfortunately, the San Francisco Bay/Estuary today faces numerous threats and challenges from invasive species, development, pollution, sediment shortfalls, disease, disturbance to wildlife, and climate change.

The San Francisco Bay/Estuary has broad support for its conservation and restoration from a large number of federal, state, public, private organizations, and citizens who act to conserve its values. Their conservation efforts continue to pioneer strategies that are modeled, adapted, and adopted by others across the nation and beyond.

The San Francisco Bay/Estuary met or exceeded all nine Ramsar criteria on multiple counts, which refer to biodiversity measures and the presence of rare or unique wetland types, and has undoubtedly earned the global distinction of a dedicated Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in commemorating the designation of the San Francisco Bay/Estuary as an official Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, pay tribute to the dedicated stewards and activists who have worked to preserve this unique ecosystem, and support critical efforts

to ensure the health and protection of the San Francisco Bay/Estuary.

DAVID MYERS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud David Myers for being honored by the Jefferson Center for Mental Health for his outstanding service to our community.

David is President and CEO of Metro Community Provider Network. MCPN is a non-profit healthcare organization providing medical, dental, mental health, substance abuse, pharmacy and community based services to the underserved, uninsured and working families who cannot afford these services. Under David's leadership in fiscal year 2012, MCPN provided healthcare services to nearly 39,000 individuals.

David's dedication to healthcare for all is evident by his pivotal role in health insurance reform. He was one of the on the ground drivers, paving the roads ahead for the health care community. David navigates the complex issues surrounding healthcare with his dedication to partnerships and collaborations. The patients at Metro Community Provider Network are recipients of the fruits of his labor of love every day.

I am honored to congratulate David Myers on receiving this recognition from the Jefferson Center for Mental Health. I have no doubt David will exhibit the same dedication, passion and vision to all his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO GABRIELLE BAMBERSKI—TEAMSTERS LOCAL 830 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute today for Gabrielle Bamberski, a 2013 award recipient of the Teamsters Local 830 Scholarship Fund. Over the past 37 years, this important fund has awarded scholarships totaling over \$2.7 million dollars to talented young adults throughout our community. Because of the hard work of the members of Teamsters Local 830 and the employers of these members, students like Gabrielle are able to make higher education possible.

Gabrielle's father, Joseph Bamberski, works in the Delivery Department of Canada Dry. I greatly admire Gabrielle's hard work at Archbishop Ryan High School and her aspirations to study forensic psychology. With her work ethic, I am sure Gabrielle will be successful in whatever career she chooses.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring Gabrielle Bamberski and her commitment to her community and studies that enabled her to become a 2013 award recipient of the Teamsters Local 830 Scholarship Fund.

HONORING LAUREL SAYER, OF IDAHO, FOR HER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF IDAHO

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Laurel Sayer, a member of my staff and one of the finest public servants I have ever met. While I am happy for Laurel that her long career as a Congressional staffer has culminated with her well-earned retirement from this body, I am equally concerned by the hole her absence will leave in my office and the challenge my remaining staff faces in filling the void.

Laurel began her service in my office not long after my election to Congress in 1998. She had served with then-Congressman Mike Crapo for several years and I consider my successful effort to lure her away from his office one of my earliest, and finest, achievements.

For the last 14 years, Laurel has been the anchor of my staff in eastern Idaho where she led my outreach efforts regarding natural resources, arts, and conservation issues. She was also my lead staffer on issues related to the Idaho National Laboratory and its talented workforce. Her compassion, insight, knowledge, and reliability were often critical to my constituents dealing with the peaks and valleys of the federal government's support for nuclear energy and the work of the laboratory.

In a district that spans almost two dozen counties and roughly half of the State of Idaho, you spend a lot of time driving back roads, visiting small communities, talking politics in farmer's fields, and marveling at the stunning geography of the American West. Laurel has always been the best traveling companion a Congressman could ask for on those long trips across the state.

We've been backpacking and fishing in the Boulder-White Couds. We've worked together to open a wheel-chair accessible trail in central Idaho and to assist Custer County in their economic development needs.

Laurel is a great advocate for the arts, and will remain so in her life after Congress. A few years ago we visited Idaho's rural communities with National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Rocco Landesman and watched Idaho's Shakespeare Festival share its talents with schoolchildren. Laurel and I have spent many hours in book stores large and small and have been in perpetual pursuit of the best chicken fried steak in Idaho. And we think we found it in Salmon, Idaho.

Laurel and I have shared a lot of laughs, many successes, a few failures, and a tremendous friendship over the past 14 years. Laurel has been loyal, fair, honest, and dependable. She has provided wise counsel, constructive criticism, and the not-so-subtle nudges those of us who work in this body need from time-to-time. She has been a fierce advocate for my priorities but the source of measured advice when things didn't go our way. In short, she has been a valued adviser, supporter, and friend for as long as I have been in Congress. What more could any of us ask of our staff?

Laurel's presence in the office and in the communities of eastern Idaho will be deeply

missed by me and by everyone who works in my office. While we are going to miss her, we are comforted by the fact that she vows to remain in the Boise area and visit us often. We're going to lean on her frequently for the same advice, constructive criticism, and gentle nudges she always offered and hope to see her regularly on the trail, in the museum, or at a play.

In closing, I would simply like to thank Laurel for her hard work, her tenacity, her good counsel, and most of all, her friendship.

HONORING MARYE L. THOMAS,  
M.D.

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Dr. Marye L. Thomas as she retires from over 30 years of dedicated public service, including the last two decades as the Director of Behavioral Health Care Services for Alameda County. I join our community in celebrating the many ways in which her life's work has contributed to the success and well-being of countless people throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Marye L. Thomas, M.D. graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1965, and went on to earn her medical degree from Meharry Medical College in 1969. Upon completion of her residency at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center in 1973, Dr. Thomas accepted a position with John Hale Mental Health Services as a Senior Staff Psychiatrist. She directed a clinical team and was responsible for intake assessment, crisis intervention, individual therapy, and coordination of treatment for acute inpatients and chronically ill patients in day treatment and community care. She was promoted to the position of Assistant Director of Clinical Services in 1977. During this same year, Dr. Thomas was named in Who's Who Among Black Americans.

Her career with Alameda County began in 1978 when she accepted a position as Chief of Clinical Services for the East Oakland Community Mental Health Center. There, she was responsible for the clinical direction of the adult outpatient component of the NIMH Center with direct supervision of clinical teams, policy development and planning, and community relations. After rising through the ranks, Dr. Thomas was selected to be Director of Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) for Alameda County in 1994.

In this vital leadership role, Dr. Thomas led the department responsible for the delivery of all publicly funded mental health, alcohol, and other drug services in the County. She oversaw a budget of \$260 million, as well as more than 3000 employees in County and community based organizations who delivered services to nearly 30,000 people each year. During her tenure, the behavioral health service system evolved from a \$58 million county operated mental health service to a more comprehensive behavioral health care system comprising nearly \$300 million. The growth spearheaded by Dr. Thomas includes a vastly expanded resource base for children's serv-

ices, the increased capacity to offer alcohol and drug services, and the opening of numerous behavioral health facilities.

With more than 20 years' experience as the physician/administrator for BHCS, Dr. Thomas has ensured the provision of high-quality services and the administration of federal, state, and local programs. Among her many accolades and professional associations, Dr. Thomas is the recipient of the 1994 Alameda County Mental Health Association Achievement Award and holds leadership positions in many community organizations.

Furthermore, as a former psychiatric social worker and founder of a mental health clinic, I've known Marye for over 35 years. She has inspired me as a fellow social worker and, for that, I am deeply grateful.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Dr. Marye L. Thomas, I salute you for three decades of outstanding service creating a more integrated, culturally competent, and empowering system of behavioral health care in Alameda County. I congratulate and thank you for your unparalleled service to our community. You have touched many lives in profound ways throughout your career, and we wish you and your loved ones continued happiness and prosperity in this exciting new chapter of life.

CELEBRATING OLDER AMERICANS  
MONTH

**HON. VERN BUCHANAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Older Americans Month.

Every year since 1963, May has been a month to honor older Americans and highlight the value that senior citizens contribute to our communities.

Recent medical advancements are helping Americans live longer, healthier, happier lives. Those older Americans have a wealth of wisdom, energy and experience from which our communities can benefit.

The theme for Older Americans Month 2013 is "Unleash the Power of Age."

In my congressional district, the Jefferson Center, a Sarasota, Florida, non-profit that provides housing to senior citizens with low to moderate income, is celebrating Older Americans Month with a variety of special events to recognize the achievements of their residents and encourage them to continue to share their knowledge with their family, friends, and neighbors.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of older Americans in Florida's 16th District and applaud the Jefferson Center for their efforts to enhance the quality of life of their residents and encourage them to share their lifetime of experience with those around them.

RECOGNIZING FORMER SECOND  
GRADE TEACHER, MRS. NINFA  
TREVIÑO PIÑA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Second Grade Teacher, Mrs. Ninfa Treviño Peña, in honor of her contributions to the South Texas region. On May 8, 2013, Mrs. Peña celebrates her 100th birthday and a lifetime of achievements as an educator.

Mrs. Peña was born May 8, 1913, to father Manuel and mother Procora Izaguirre Treviño. The youngest of five sisters, Ninfa attended Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas where she earned her degree in Education. Upon receiving her degree she began her career as an educator. Throughout her career, Mrs. Peña became known for her work as a second grade teacher at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School and her dedication to assisting students with special needs.

In 1937, Ninfa married Ernesto Peña Flores of Mission, Texas; and in 1987, the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary alongside their friends and family. Though Mr. Peña Flores has passed, Mrs. Peña continues to be a great influence in promoting strong family values. Reaching three generations, the Peña family has been honored as one of the original pioneer families of Mission, Texas. She has witnessed the lives of her six children, twelve grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. Mrs. Peña continues to live in Mission and remains a passionate supporter of education.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the remarkable life of Mrs. Ninfa Treviño Peña and her 100th birthday celebration. Thank you.

A MASTER'S HANDS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Michelle and Jim Bartlett and their company, A Master's Hands, for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business award.

A Master's Hands adheres to high standards of business ethics and employs ethical behavior as a philosophy in daily business.

Co-founder Jim Bartlett is the principal source behind this philosophy and serves as a role model for the employee's at A Master's Hands. Leading by example from the top is demonstrated through commitment to hard work and excellence in everything they do.

Giving back to the community is something Michelle and Jim strive to achieve. Working with Jeffco Workforce Center and Jefferson County Human Services, A Master's Hands offers job skills trainings to help individuals find employment. The company has been known to do pro-bono work for families and provide discounts to others who needed their help, all of which has made a lasting impact in the neighborhoods in which they work.