

community activist in her South Sacramento neighborhood. Outside of elected office, she spent twenty-two years working for Unilab Medical Laboratories and Pacific Bell. Councilwoman Pannell was elected to the Sacramento City Council in June of 1998, succeeding her late husband, Samuel Pannell. As a Councilwoman, she has been re-elected to four-year terms in 2000, 2004, 2008 and again in 2012. She served as the City of Sacramento's Vice Mayor in 2001 and served with distinction for multiple years on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Area Flood Central Agency, Sacramento Regional Transit District and with a number of other special agencies.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with Councilwoman Pannell to ensure that the South Sacramento Streams Group flood protection project gets completed and expensive flood insurance is no longer mandatory for our shared constituents. An unwavering champion of public transportation, Councilwoman Pannell's steadfast support for the light rail extension to Cosumnes River College has helped make that project a reality and it will be completed by September of next year.

Councilwoman Pannell represented the City of Sacramento well, serving the communities of Meadowview, Parkway, North Laguna Creek, and Jacinto Creek. Her priorities included economic development, education and recreational programs for her constituents, as well as a steadfast commitment to create safer neighborhoods. Councilwoman Pannell was able to bring to her community the Valley Hi North Laguna Library, which opened in 2009. The beautiful full-service library has brought high-tech services and additional educational opportunities to a part of Sacramento that long had been underserved.

She also helped turn around the neighborhood of Franklin Villa, and saw it transformed into Phoenix Park. Councilwoman Pannell has always put her constituents first and her record of accomplishments is long and will not be forgotten. It is very fitting that to mark her retirement from the City Council that her colleagues have voted to rename Meadowview Community Center in honor of her and her late husband.

Mr. Speaker, as Councilwoman Bonnie Pannell's family, friends, and colleagues gather to commemorate her for her service to the people of Sacramento, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this dedicated public servant, and true partner of mine, for helping make Sacramento a better place for families to live and prosper.

LADY RANGERS BASKETBALL COACH WINS TOP STATE AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melissa Fields, the Terry High School Lady Rangers basketball coach, who was named the 2014 4A Outstanding Coach of the Year in Texas. Coach Fields received the Dean Weese Outstanding Coach Award from the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. The Lady Rangers were 22-10 on the season and reached the regional

semifinals, the furthest the team has ever gone in playoffs. To be named the 4A Outstanding Coach of the Year in Texas recognizes more than just her success on the court. As a former high school and college basketball player, I know what a difference an outstanding coach can make in a player's life. Looking back on it now, I know it wasn't our record that was most important, it was the lessons I learned from playing the game. Coach Fields just finished her 18th year at Terry High School in Rosenberg, Texas. She has been teaching and coaching for 23 years. Congratulations to Coach Fields on this recognition and thank you for your dedication to the Lady Rangers Basketball team.

RECOGNIZING DR. STANLEY CAHILL

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Stanley Cahill for his 28 years of service at Salem State University, in Salem, Massachusetts, and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Since 1986, Dr. Cahill has served the students and broader community at Salem State University. He joined the university as the Dean of Student Life where he created the university's first professional student affairs program and laid the foundation for the program that exists today.

Most recently, Dr. Cahill served as the University's Executive Vice President. In this role, he led the university's enterprise risk management program and coordinated the majority of university contracts and memoranda of understanding between the university and other agencies with which the university collaborates.

It is not surprising that after nearly three decades with the university, Dr. Cahill has become well known to many in the Salem community. He has fostered relationships with local officials and university neighbors and strengthened the partnership between the university and the City of Salem.

Dr. Cahill served Salem State University at a time of dynamic growth and increased diversity, and he had a decidedly positive influence on the institution's growth and enhanced reputation. On a personal note, and as one who is a Salem State alumnus and former trustee, I add my appreciation for all that Dr. Cahill has done for the university and the surrounding communities.

Dr. Cahill has had a remarkable career in higher education that has spanned more than 40 years and four universities and colleges. I congratulate Stan on this achievement and wish him all the best in his retirement.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOAVES & FISHES

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Loaves & Fishes 7th annual

Day Without Hunger. Over the past thirty years, the Loaves & Fishes team has been committed to providing a hand up to those most in need in DuPage County with food assistance and other services.

This organization has grown exponentially in size and scope in order to realize their vision of ending hunger in DuPage County. In 1984, the year of their founding, the Loaves & Fishes team assisted eight households in the Naperville area, providing them with food to sustain their families. Today, Loaves & Fishes has expanded to serve all of DuPage County, helping thousands of families. Last year alone, Loaves & Fishes distributed over 3,200,000 pounds of food, serving 18,564 individuals.

The Loaves & Fishes team has helped close the gap for children who rely on school food services. Since 2004, they have assisted with school nutrition programs, ensuring that Naperville students get meals during the summer months. Additionally, breakfast assistance programs which they support give students a proper meal to start the school day.

In addition to food assistance, Loaves & Fishes has expanded to do even more to support the community. Since 2011, Loaves & Fishes has supported Pathways to Empowerment programs which provide assistance with various services, from health care enrollment to support in starting a job search.

The Loaves & Fishes team not only provides food for those in need, but they also provide an opportunity for individuals to serve their friends and neighbors by volunteering. Truly, this organization empowers both recipients and volunteers.

Today, I am proud to recognize Loaves & Fishes for the invaluable service the organization has provided and the thousands of lives they have touched.

HONORING BLANCHE IONE JONES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Mrs. Blanche Ione Jones, a loving and compassionate parent, sister, aunt and friend to many throughout the country, and particularly in Jackson and Detroit, Michigan. I am joined in this tribute by Representative JOHN CONYERS of Michigan. Mrs. Jones was a strong, kind and gentle woman who cared for others and deeply loved her family and community. With her passing on June 11, 2014, we look to her contributions to others, both big and small and remember her with great joy.

Blanche Jones graduated from Jackson High School in Jackson, Michigan in 1949. She continued her education at Jackson Junior College and received the Associate of Arts Degree from Mercy College in Detroit, Michigan. Following graduation she became a dental hygienist for her cousin, Dr. Archie Millben, Sr., then the first and only African American dentist in Jackson, Michigan.

In 1958 she met and married Mr. George W. Jones, Jr. and moved to Detroit. Blanche Jones demonstrated on a daily basis, her compassion and devotion to her late husband of 34 years and their children. She admired and was especially proud that her cousin, Dr.

Ethelene Jones-Crockett, Michigan's first female African-American obstetrician and gynecologist—who was also the wife of former Congressman George W. Crockett, Jr.—delivered her youngest three children.

Mrs. Jones devoted her career at Detroit Public Schools as a para-professional teaching assistant to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to receive a quality education. She was raised in the Church of Christ and remained an active member throughout her life teaching Bible class and serving on numerous committees.

Mrs. Blanche Jones was a close confidant to my mother, Mildred Massey and me. Regardless of her health condition, she was always positive and upbeat. There was no question about her love and she generously shared it with everyone.

Blanche Jones was a “woman of distinction and grace”. She loved clothes and I will always remember wearing a white wool coat and hat that she loved. I shopped all over the country looking for one to give her and regrettably could not find one. I did give her a white wool jacket—and my hat. The twinkle in her eyes and her words of gratitude were reminders of her thankfulness for the small things in life.

Blanche was a brilliant woman. She read, kept up on current events and politics and had her own very strong opinions about issues which we discussed many times. Her family describes her as the Chairwoman on BNN: the Blanche News Network.

There is a tremendous void in my life now and I will miss her deeply. She touched the lives of many and leaves a legacy with her work and compassion that will long endure. In her memory, let us live our lives as Mrs. Blanche Jones did and would want us to do—as loving and supportive human beings.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District joins Michigan's 13th Congressional District to salute and honor a remarkable woman, Mrs. Blanche Lone Jones. We will miss her tremendously and know that her legacy and spirit will live on forever.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE JOHN VASCONCELLOS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, Congressman XAVIER BECERRA, Congressman AMI BERA, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, Congressman JIM COSTA, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, Congressman SAM FARR, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman JANICE HAHN, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, Congressman ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI,

Congresswoman GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MARK TAKANO, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JUAN VARGAS, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, and Congressman HENRY WAXMAN to honor the life of our friend who distinguished himself for 38 years in public service, the Honorable John Vasconcellos, who died on May 24, 2014, at his home in Santa Clara, California.

John was born on May 11, 1932, in San Jose, California, to a Portuguese father and German mother. He graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory High School with top honors, and attended Santa Clara University, graduating magna cum laude. After two years of service to his country in the Army, he graduated again at the top of his class from Santa Clara University's Law School. He practiced law before joining Governor Pat Brown's staff, and was soon recruited by his many friends and admirers to run for a seat in the California State Assembly in 1966. This began almost forty years of public service. John was a legislator's legislator. He had a brilliant intellect and a compassionate heart. He became the Chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, one of the most powerful assignments in the California Legislature. He proposed the State Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem in October 1986, and in 1989, Speaker Willie Brown appointed him to Chair the Select Assembly Committee on Ethics. He was elected to the California State Senate in 1996, representing the heart of Silicon Valley, and served as Chairman of the Public Safety, Education, and Economic Development Committees.

John Vasconcellos' 38 year tenure in the California Legislature was reflective of the innovative Silicon Valley District he represented. He was a disruptor and a pioneering public servant who was ahead of his time. His legislative work is widely recognized for its groundbreaking innovations in public safety, state budgets, ethics, health and human services, as well as in education. He wrote first-of-its-kind legislation addressing AIDS research, medical marijuana, and family health. He wrote legislation combating toxic chemicals in our atmosphere; he paved the way for midwives to practice; and he promoted child care at all public colleges. He saw the need before others to modernize our education system and make it affordable for all. He involved young people in the political process, launching programs like shadowing legislators in the State Capitol.

John was an avid subscriber to the human-potential movement therapies to deal with the rage, tension and fear that continued to grow in our society. We called John our friend, and we were very proud to do so, but he was also a brother and a mentor to many of us and we will miss him always.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the entire House of Representatives to join us in honoring Senator John Vasconcellos, a brilliant visionary with a giant heart who served his constituents, his

state and his country with integrity and respect for building the politics of trust. We extend our condolences to his brother Jim Vasconcellos, his sister Margaret Brindle, his niece Beth Brindle, his Hawaiian family, including his chosen son Mitch Saunders, his daughter-in-law Cindy and his two beloved grandchildren Megan and Briana, as well as his devoted staff, his large circle of extended friends and family in California, Hawaii and around the world.

FISCAL YEAR 15 TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Fiscal Year 2015 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (H.R. 4745). This bill provides \$1.8 billion less than the FY 14 omnibus. It underfunds too many critical investments that maintain and support our infrastructure and housing.

Specifically, I strongly oppose the dramatic cut and new restrictions on the TIGER program. House Republicans included only \$100 million for TIGER grants, an 80 percent cut from FY 14. While this extreme cut in funding is disappointing, more concerning are the restrictions placed on the grant program. H.R. 4745 specifically states that only highway, bridge, freight rail and port projects are eligible for TIGER grants. Public transit, including light rail and passenger rail, would no longer be eligible for these critical dollars. Republican leaders repeatedly stated that the provision was inserted to focus TIGER grants on what they call “essential projects.” In my district and many other communities across the country, public transit is an essential project. My communities depend on these dollars to help support passenger rail and multimodal projects, such as light rail, streetcars and dedicated Bus Rapid Transit.

In addition to TIGER, other transit initiatives were cut, including New Starts (a 13 percent cut) and Amtrak (a 14 percent cut). This ongoing attack on public transit is unacceptable.

Unfortunately, the investments in housing in this bill are also insufficient. HOME Investment Partnership Grants were cut by 30 percent, to near historic lows. In my district, the HOME program is used to help first time homebuyers with the cost of a down payment and closing cost, which can be prohibitive for many buyers looking for a first home of their own. Another program supported by HOME finances maintenance to preserve federally supported housing, especially important considering the shortage of affordable housing. A 30 percent cut to these programs means fewer homebuyers helped and critical repairs to decaying affordable housing are unaddressed.

Transportation and housing are the backbone of our communities. Stable, affordable housing and access to jobs helps to stabilize communities and promote economic growth. H.R. 4745 fails to sufficiently invest in our communities and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.