

HONORING THE PERALTA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Peralta Community College District's 50th Anniversary. Encompassing Berkeley City College, College of Alameda, Laney College and Merritt College, the Peralta Colleges have provided quality higher education to over one million students since its founding.

Established on July 1, 1964, Peralta Community College District was formed after the residents of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland and Piedmont voted to create a separate and single community college district. The district was named Peralta after Sergeant Luís María Peralta, since all the cities are located on the original Spanish land grant.

At that time, Laney and Merritt Colleges were the only campuses that made up the new college district. A year later, voters approved a \$47 million bond measure to build new campuses across the northern Alameda county area, with the College of Alameda established in 1968 and Berkeley City College in 1974.

While there are no Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in California, Merritt College is considered an accredited minority-serving institution, allowing the college access to HBCU funding.

The colleges within Peralta Community College District offer innovative programs such as nursing, automotive technology, office administration, mechanics, bio manufacturing, bookkeeping, carpentry, food service and restaurant management. The colleges often align with businesses, industry and government to tailor training programs to meet economic and staffing needs. This in turn helps build a strong workforce and support our vibrant community and economy.

Community colleges provide opportunities for millions of students and adults to continue their education in a flexible and affordable environment. Students attend community colleges for a range of reasons: as a first step to earning a bachelor's degree, an opportunity to gain workforce training, or simply a chance to learn or improve a skill.

I commend the Peralta Community College District for providing our community with quality and affordable education. In addition to serving our region's students, the Peralta Community College District also attracts and engages individuals from all over the world. Through its Office of International Affairs and District Education, it has been at the forefront of promoting cultural diversity, pluralism and mutual understanding, benefitting all Bay Area residents and visitors.

During the 1980's, my mentor and friend, a great woman warrior and member of the Berkeley City Council, Maudelle Shirek, and I attended night classes at then Vista, now Berkeley City College. We received a certificate in International Business and I will always remember this as a rigorous and rich educational experience. I am very proud of this certificate and encourage my constituents to attend Peralta Colleges because of the excellent programs and curriculum they offer.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I extend my congratulations on this important milestone and thank all of the people who have contributed to the success of the Peralta Community College District throughout the years. I wish the Peralta Colleges continued success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 12, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on #516.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNETTE POLLY
WILLIAMS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Rep. Annette Polly Williams. She was the longest serving woman in the history of the Wisconsin State Legislature, retiring from public office after 30 years of service. Affectionately known as Polly, she was not only a former colleague but also a mentor to me and many other new legislators. Ms. Annette Polly Williams passed away on November 9, 2014.

Polly was born in the Mississippi Delta region of Belzoni, Mississippi and moved to Milwaukee when she was 10 years old. She was a product of the public school system and a fellow graduate of North Division High School. Rep. Williams was committed to ensuring that all children received access to a good education. She became the author/mother of the nation's first true Educational Parental Choice Legislation because of her passion and commitment to education.

Although she is best known for her Parental Choice legislation, Rep. Williams was a great stateswoman and made her mark in other areas as well: founder of the Black Women's Network, the Milwaukee Parental Assistance Center and the Black Leadership Organization. Further, she was a co-founder of the African American Alliance providing political leadership to Milwaukee's African American community, a founding member of the Wisconsin African American Women's Center and served as the host of several different programs on a local radio station for many years. She was there to bring assistance, whether it was to someone who had lost a loved one, experienced a natural disaster such as Hurricane Katrina or local flooding. She provided outstanding service to her constituents.

Polly leaves behind 4 children: Winston Williams III (Lynette); Mildred Williams; Kimberly Burns (Michael, deceased); and Krystal Oby (Joe), grandchildren, a great grandchild and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn her passing. She leaves a legacy of a giving, willing worker, always providing both support and compassion to those in need. Annette

Polly Williams leaves a strong example of leadership and excellence for her children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Polly was my friend and a Milwaukee and Wisconsin treasure and I valued her service to the 4th Congressional District. I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in a salute to the late Rep. Annette Polly Williams.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERALD SHEA

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to District Attorney Gerald Shea, who recently retired after 37 years of public service to the county of San Luis Obispo.

A San Diego native, Mr. Shea began his prosecutorial career in 1974 as a Deputy Attorney General with the California Attorney General's office in Los Angeles. In 1977, he moved to our local community of San Luis Obispo where he became a Deputy District Attorney with the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office.

For the next 37 years, Mr. Shea worked his way through the ranks in the District Attorney's office. In 1982 he became the Supervising Attorney for the Child Support Division, and in 1985 he was selected to be Chief Deputy District Attorney. Eventually Mr. Shea became San Luis Obispo County District Attorney, elected by the voters first in 1998, where he served the remainder of his distinguished career. Mr. Shea's accomplishments in the field of criminal justice have left a renowned and lasting impact on his colleagues, peers, and the community.

Beyond his professional roles in our community, Mr. Shea has served the San Luis Obispo community through his roles on the Board of Directors for the San Luis Obispo Women's Shelter, on the Executive Council for the County's Children's Services Network, on the Advisory Board for the statewide organization known as Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, and as Chair of the Domestic Violence Task Force. He is the former Chair of the Criminal Justice Administrators' Association, a founding member of the county's Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission, and was President of the California District Attorneys Association.

It is with great respect that I thank Mr. Shea for his decades of public service, commitment, and leadership and I wish him continued success and happiness during retirement.

CONGRATULATING UH PRESIDENT
AND UH SYSTEM CHANCELLOR
ON "PRIDE OF INDIA AWARD"

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate University of Houston (UH) President and UH System Chancellor Renu Khator for receiving the "Pride of India Award."

This award honors individuals who have demonstrated exemplary leadership abilities in

business or civic life and acted as role models for Indians and Indian-Americans in the United States. The Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas includes a thriving Indo-American community, which benefits from strong community leaders like Dr. Khator. Moreover, the entire Houston economy benefits from the remarkable contributions of the UH educational community.

I applaud President Renu Khator on her remarkable progress in strengthening University of Houston's educational system. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Dr. Khator for receiving the "Pride of India Award."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, when Roll Call Vote #516 was taken on November 12, 2014, I was unable to be in Washington, DC to place my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor.

HONORING SERGEANT MILTON MOORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran and community servant, Sergeant Milton Moore. Sergeant Moore has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Sergeant Moore attended the Southern Regional Public Safety Institute in Long Beach, MS where he graduated with honors in 2000. He has completed training in: Clandestine Lab Investigations, Interview and Interrogation, Psychological Response to Active Shooter, and numerous other training courses, including, FEMA Incident Command System ICS200, ICS300, ICS400, and ICS700.

Sergeant Milton Moore was hired with the City of Vicksburg in September 1999, as a firefighter. Deciding to follow the footsteps of his father, he became an employee of the Vicksburg Police Department in March 2000. Since that time, he has served as a Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer.

Sergeant Moore was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February 2010, scoring the highest of all candidates. Sergeant Moore is presently serving as a shift commander, where he currently has 9 officers under his command.

Sergeant Moore was only 6 years old when his father joined the Vicksburg Police Department in 1975. Being around law enforcement all of his life, Sergeant Moore gained interest and respect for the duties of law enforcement. He knew that one day he would be able to wear the uniform and follow his father's footsteps and become an officer at the Vicksburg Police Department. Most of the traits and values that Sergeant Moore's father instilled in

him he still practices daily. These attributes have helped Sergeant Moore become a model officer.

February 19, 2014, Sergeant Milton Moore was honored as Officer of the Year by the Vicksburg Homecoming Benevolence Club. Being a recipient of this award, was a very humbling experience for Sergeant Moore. The award is named the "Artel Moore Award" after Sergeant Moore's deceased father.

Sergeant Moore is a member of the Mississippi Homeland Security Task Force. Sergeant Moore is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, serving in the U.S. Navy during the first Iraq war, Desert Storm, in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Milton Moore for his dedication to serving our great Country and his community.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS DAY ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winner of the 2014 Veterans Day essay contest for New York's 14th Congressional District. Kezia Dickson, a student from I.S. 61 in Corona, Queens submitted the winning essay on the topic, "What Veterans Day Means To Me." Kezia's essay reads as follows:

Each day, millions of people in the Armed Forces risk their lives in order to protect us. They put losing their family, friends and life behind just so that they can protect us. These people show unexplainable bravery and courage. I can't even imagine putting my life on the line to fight in a war where I may possibly die. When I sit down and think about what these people are doing it blows my mind. I find it so honorable and breathtaking that someone would put themselves in such danger for strangers.

That is why when Veterans Day comes along I make sure to do something for those members of the Armed Forces. This holiday is just a chance for me to say thank you and God bless you for your unimaginable courage and kindness. I can't even go on to think about the struggle and pain some of these family members may feel each day as they don't know if their husband, wife, son or daughter, mother or father is still alive. Just let alone going to sleep without having that type of awareness is hard. Sometimes we Americans take things for granted, especially other freedoms. Most people fail to understand that the freedom we have doesn't come for free. Sacrifices are made and people end up dying in the process.

For some, Veterans Day is a day where you don't have to go to work or school. For me it's a time of reflection and renewal. That is why Veterans Day is very important to me. To know that somebody's husband/wife, son/daughter, father/mother is dying just so that I can have my freedom makes me take a step back. It makes me think twice about the actions I'm taking and the things I'm doing right now. I just begin to say to myself: "Are the things I'm doing now worth someone's life being lost?"

I appreciate these members of the Armed Forces with the deepest gratitude. They've helped save my life and protect other millions of Americans. In my family, I have uncles and cousins who have served and are serving now. I understand what they do is very hard and it takes mental, emotional, and physical strength to go through with it. They go through so many obstacles, but they seem to never give up. They make me proud to call myself an American. It is their bravery and audacity that keeps America living. What they do is just unbelievable. Basically, Veterans Day is my time to say, "Thank you for saving my life and thank you for your service."

STATEMENT CONCERNING B.R.A.K.E.S. (BE RESPONSIBLE AND KEEP EVERYONE SAFE)

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight the good work of B.R.A.K.E.S. (Be Responsible and Keep Everyone Safe), a charitable organization that is taking meaningful steps to reduce the number of traffic-related injuries and deaths by training and educating teenage drivers and their parents about the importance of safe, responsible driving.

B.R.A.K.E.S. was born out of the personal tragedy of National Hot Rod Association drag racing star Doug Herbert. In January 2008, Herbert lost his two young sons, Jon and James, in a car accident. His loss led him to create a driving program that same year to help prevent other families from experiencing similar grief by teaching young drivers more conscientious and confident skills behind the wheel.

More than 5,000 American teenagers lose their lives in traffic accidents each year. B.R.A.K.E.S. is working to reduce this staggering number of deaths by providing free advanced driver's education in a program entitled the Teen Pro-Active Driving Course. This program goes beyond conventional driver's education to target specific driving situations responsible for many traffic accidents involving teens.

Based in North Carolina, B.R.A.K.E.S. is making an impact nationwide. More than 11,000 teenage drivers and their parents have attended the B.R.A.K.E.S. program in 10 states. Participants have traveled from 29 states and 2 countries to attend these training events. The group is constantly seeking additional locations so even more young American drivers and their families can experience the peace of mind that comes with this specialized training.

Last month, I visited a B.R.A.K.E.S. program with my teenage son Cameron and was truly impressed by what they do. I consider it a privilege to share what B.R.A.K.E.S. is accomplishing in the lives of thousands of teenage drivers, and I wish them continued success in their mission.