

Modification Mandatory Center of Expertise. In addition, he oversaw the completion of two massive navigation projects: the Marmet Locks and Dam in Kanawha County and the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam in Mason and Cabell County, West Virginia.

Recently, Coy's hard work was instrumental in obtaining USACE funding to implement renovations to the Huntington District's Federal Building in the city's downtown business district. The Huntington District also attributes Coy with its great achievements in financial performance, securing obligation values exceeding six hundred million dollars in the past three years alone.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with Coy and have always appreciated his insight and willingness to share his wisdom with me for the betterment of the Second Congressional District as well as the State of West Virginia. It has been an honor to work with such a professional and I hope our paths cross again after his much deserved retirement.

Coy Miller resides in Barboursville, West Virginia with his wife, Janeese. Together they have two sons. Mr. Miller is an active member of his community and is heavily involved in his church, Antioch Missionary Baptist, where he serves as deacon, Sunday school teacher, Team Youth Director, and Team Church Camp Director.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia, our neighboring states, and indeed, the United States of America owe Coy Miller a tremendous debt of gratitude for his many years dedicated service. I am honored to call him a friend and fellow West Virginian.

THE HOMEOWNERS TAX FAIRNESS ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Homeowners Tax Fairness Act. In 2012, the 49 state attorneys general announced that they had completed negotiations with the country's five largest mortgage servicers to settle claims arising from mortgage fraud and wrongful foreclosures. The settlement, which amounts to over \$25 billion, is the largest settlement this country has seen since the 1998 Master Tobacco Settlement.

This historic settlement will allow hundreds of thousands of distressed homeowners to stay in their homes through enhanced loan modifications and principal reduction, and it will also provide payments to victims of unfair foreclosure practices. Unfortunately, under current law, those settlement payments would subject the homeowners and servicemembers who receive them to additional tax burdens. For instance, homeowners receiving relief in the form of mortgage debt forgiveness and direct cash payments for wrongful foreclosure could be subject to Federal income tax. Moreover, additional tax would be owed on the payments made to servicemembers who were wrongfully foreclosed on while deployed overseas.

To prevent that injustice, the Homeowners Tax Fairness Act would extend the exclusion for debt forgiveness on a primary residence and exclude the relief payments from income

for homeowners and servicemembers. This bill also considers the particularly egregious actions taken by the five largest banks in violation of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Over the past three years, the five largest servicers violated the law and wrongfully foreclosed or overcharged mortgage interest on servicemembers, many of whom were deployed overseas in combat zones. Accordingly, the Homeowners Tax Fairness Act not only excludes this relief from income to servicemembers, but denies these banks the ability to deduct these payments from their Federal income taxes.

The estimated 1.7 million homeowners eligible to benefit from this settlement deserve to receive the full benefit of this relief—relief that was negotiated in good faith by the States, the banks, and the Federal Government. Collecting Federal income tax on relief for struggling homeowners is not only bad policy, but is simply the wrong thing to do.

As we move forward from one of the worst recessions in American history, we must be vigilant and provide as much help to the American people as possible. This bill will do just that, and will ensure that our homeowners and servicemembers get every bit of relief they deserve.

HONORING KELLIE TERRY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month this year, I am honored to reflect on the everyday contributions African-Americans have within my district in Bronx County.

Creating sustainable change within the environmental justice movement is a daunting task that takes years of consistency, perseverance, and support. I would like to pay homage to the Bronx's premier leader in environmental justice, Ms. Kellie Terry. For more than a decade she has committed countless hours towards ensuring the South Bronx is free from harmful environmental elements and factors. Her work and her dedication to helping others has improved the lives of many of my constituents.

A native of The Bronx's Highbridge neighborhood, Kellie has always demonstrated a deep commitment to helping others. That commitment began early, as indicated by her participation in the "Take Charge Be Somebody" youth group, and her graduation with honors from the College of the Holy Cross. Since that time, Kellie has been devoted to public service.

As the Executive Director of THE POINT Community Development Corporation, Kellie has established a culture of leadership development that goes beyond the traditional youth development program. THE POINT is a non-profit organization dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx. The young men and women who work and participate at THE POINT learn how culture, the environment, food, and economics all play a critical role in transforming their neighborhood.

Kellie Terry's leadership has been recognized by The Bronx Chamber of Commerce,

El Diario/La Prensa NY, and the New York City Council. She is currently the Board Chair of The New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, the Board Chair of The Bronx River Alliance, and is a candidate for a Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning at Pratt Institute.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Kellie Terry for her selfless, dutiful commitment to the residents of Hunts Point, and for her tireless efforts in making The Bronx a place that is more livable for all residents.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF DOUG VOLLMER, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, March 14 will mark the end of the long and distinguished career of Douglas K. Vollmer, Associate Executive Director for Government Relations, for Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). Doug has spent nearly 35 years overseeing the congressional relations activities of PVA. His uncompromising leadership has advanced the cause of America's paralyzed veterans. In addition, his work on disability civil rights for all Americans highlighted a career which reflected the mission of his organization to provide opportunities that maximize the independence of its members.

Doug is a native of Toledo, Ohio. He attended Northwestern University and received his undergraduate degree in 1967. Upon graduation, Doug entered the U.S. Navy and was commissioned in May 1968. Doug went on to serve with the River Patrol Forces and as a liaison officer with elements of the 5th Special Forces in the Republic of Vietnam from November 1968 to October 1969. He then spent 20 months serving on the staff of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence for the Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT). Following his service in the U.S. Navy, Doug received his Masters Degree from the University of Hawaii and pursued post-graduate studies at the University of Maryland.

During his career at PVA, Doug has been involved with a broad range of issues affecting both the veterans' community and the larger community of people with disabilities. Since being named the PVA's Associate Executive Director for Government Relations in 1989, he has been involved in the passage of some of the most monumental legislation to be considered by the United States Congress including passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and healthcare eligibility reform for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). He was instrumental in the battle to make Washington's Metro system accessible to wheelchair users; the fight to ensure access to commercial aircraft for people with disabilities; efforts to ensure fair housing policy became a reality for those in need; and he always played a leadership role in defining the VA's budgetary needs for America's disabled veterans every year. Doug's involvement in legislative issues for

veterans with spinal cord injury and dysfunction resulted in numerous advancements in the areas of health care, benefits, and vocational rehabilitation. His unwavering commitment to assist both service connected and non-service connected PVA members was the hallmark of Doug's service to the PVA, and it reflected his belief that "a veteran is a veteran." As a result, thousands of veterans—disabled and non-disabled—and their families benefited from his work.

Since he began working for PVA, he has seen the VA grow from a regular federal agency to a cabinet-level department which enabled his advocacy for veterans to be recognized at the highest level of government. His close relationships with other leaders in the veterans and disability communities have been well established over the years and he has

been a highly valued resource for policy makers at the executive level across the government and non-profit world.

His long career of dedicated service is truly worthy of praise. As an executive at PVA, he created an environment for his subordinates that encouraged creative thinking, individualism, and productive team work. As the longest serving staff member at PVA, Doug has been the anchor for 15 PVA Presidents. He wrote hundreds of congressional testimonies and represented the organization at the White House, on Capitol Hill, and across the country. Notably, it was Doug who mentored his late friend Gordon Mansfield as PVA's Executive Director. Gordon went on to become the Deputy Secretary and Acting Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, following service as the Assistant Secretary for

Congressional and Legislative Affairs, as well as the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Doug's impact on veterans—particularly those who have experienced spinal cord injury or disorder—and their families cannot truly be measured.

Doug and Scottie, his wife of nearly 44 years, live in Washington, DC. They have one son, Zachary, who also lives and works in Washington, DC.

The legacy that he leaves can be seen in the vast advancements in medical care provided by the VA and the fact that the United States is the world leader in access for all people with disabilities. Doug Vollmer has lived a life that truly has made a difference. For that, we are sincerely grateful.