

in 1989. But she continued to have influence in our community as a civic activist and supporter.

Ms. Jolivet was born in Tucson and grew up in an era when Tucson elementary and high schools were racially segregated. In 1950, she was one of three African-American women to graduate from the University of Arizona, where she received bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education and a doctorate in education administration.

She served her community primarily as an educator—but also as a community advocate and cultural leader. She served as a member of the boards of directors for numerous local, regional and national organizations.

Ms. Jolivet was the first African-American woman to be appointed principal of a Tucson Unified School District school. And in 1996, she was the first African-American woman to be named Woman of the Year by the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Jolivet was a founding member of the America-Israel Friendship League's Tucson chapter and of the Educational Enrichment Foundation. Anna and I founded the Educational Enrichment Foundation in 1983. The Foundation continues to serve children attending Tucson schools. In 2010, the Educational Enrichment Foundation honored Ms. Jolivet with its Ray Davies Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award for her involvement in programs and institutions that promote quality education and serve Tucson's youth.

On March 1, Ms. Jolivet will be honored by the Tucson Urban League at its first annual Equal Opportunity Day Awards Dinner—an event that will be held to remind the Tucson community that the greatness of our country rests upon the principle of equal opportunity for everyone. This principle was the foundation in which Anna served the children of Tucson and our community at large.

I am proud to recognize Anna Jolivet—an outstanding citizen of Tucson who has left a strong legacy that we celebrate today.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LORI EDWARDS

##### HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize the service of Lori Edwards. Lori has been the Supervisor of Elections in Polk County, Florida, since January 2001. As the Executive Officer responsible for administering fair elections, maintaining voter rolls, and providing voter registration services, Lori has conducted more than 150 successful elections while serving in this non-partisan elected position.

Lori is active in the leadership of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, where she currently serves as president. She has created a task force to recruit and train bilingual election workers to ensure Florida's growing population of Hispanic voters are accommodated. She has also conducted many regional educational workshops for election administrators focusing on a variety of topics including redistricting, voter education and absentee voting.

Lori's recent efforts have included an emphasis on modernizing Florida's voter registra-

tion system and advocating for the advancement in voting machine technology nationwide.

As a member of the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) Standards Board, she serves with advisors from around the nation who review voluntary voting system guidelines and provide guidance to the EAC on the administration of Federal elections.

In addition to state certification in her field, Lori earned designation as a Certified Elections Registration Administrator from The Election Center in cooperation with Auburn University. This is the profession's highest recognition, and serves as national certification. Most recently, she attended the International Center for Parliamentary Studies in London, England where she earned a Professional Certificate in Electoral Processes.

Prior to her service as Supervisor of Elections, Lori served four two-year terms in the Florida House of Representatives representing the residents of eastern Polk County in the Florida Legislature. Her major legislative projects included restructuring Florida's juvenile justice system, performance-based budgeting, worker's compensation laws, and welfare reform.

Lori has also worked for the Center for Policy Alternatives in Washington, DC, helping to develop curricula and train new State Legislators at bi-annual retreats. Training topics included conflict, values, power, and communications.

A committed environmentalist, Lori served as Florida Coordinator of the National Audubon Society's "Population and Habitat" campaign, organizing and training Florida activists to raise awareness of the impact of population growth on the environment. She is currently studying to become a Florida Master Naturalist through the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences program.

Lori is an alumna of Executive Education at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where she studied the Art and Practice of Leadership Development and participated in a program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. She was also chosen to participate in the Program for Emerging Political Leaders offered by the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia. Lori was a Flemming Fellow at the Center for Policy Alternatives in Washington, D.C. and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management from Warner University in Lake Wales.

I am happy to honor Lori Edwards, during Women's History Month, for her service to the Central Florida community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COMMISSIONER PATTY SHEEHAN

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize the contributions of Commissioner Patty Sheehan. Commissioner Sheehan was first elected to the Orlando City Council in 2000. She served as President of the Colonialtown North Neighborhood Association, and is proud to come from a servant leadership background. She attended the University of Central Florida where she earned her B.A. in art. Commissioner Sheehan was formerly an Administrator with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. She serves her constituents full time and is well known for her advocacy of pedestrian safety, safe neighborhoods, historic preservation, and a thriving downtown.

Currently, she serves as Vice Chair of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Coun-

cil. The Council established some of the first neighborhood horizon planning processes, which led to successful developments like SoDo, Mills Park, and Baldwin Park.

Commissioner Sheehan has been recognized multiple times by Orlando Weekly and Orlando Magazine. She was also named "Best Elected Official" by Watermark newspaper. She was listed as one of the "Top 25 Influential Women" by Orlando Life Magazine. Commissioner Sheehan was also awarded the "Diversity Champion Award" by the Asian American Chamber of Commerce in 2013. She has twice been a finalist for "Downtown of the Year." She was also recognized as a "Woman of Distinction" by the Girl Scouts of America, Citrus Council.

Commissioner Sheehan is proudest of her role in the restoration of the iconic Lake Eola Fountain, the addition of 1.3 acres to Lake Eola Park, the preservation of the Eola House, and construction of sidewalks for children walking to and from school. She was the first openly gay elected official in Central Florida, and passed domestic partnership legislation and non-discrimination protections for the LGBT community. She is an urban agriculture advocate, and championed community gardens and urban chickens. She also worked with the Trust for Public Land to acquire the Orlando Urban Trail (OUT).

Commissioner Sheehan is a huge supporter of small business and Orlando's Mainstreet Districts. She represents the Downtown South, Mills50 and Thornton Park Mainstreets. She also lobbied and passed a Florida State Law allowing for Doggie Dining on outdoor patios in downtown Orlando. She is also the founder and chairperson for Wheels for Kids, which has provided over 1,000 bicycles to needy elementary and middle school students in Reeves Terrace public housing.

Commissioner Sheehan enjoys many outdoor activities including gardening, paddle boarding and Dragon Boat racing. As a local artist who exhibits her "Bad Kitty" paintings in local clubs and shops, she is an avid proponent of the Arts and Culture in Orlando. She lives in a 1928 bungalow with her Chinese Crested dog, Maxine, Nina Simone (a diva kitty) and Jazz (a wild English Springer Spaniel), along with Peep, Cheep, & Bleep (her mini flock of urban chickens).

I am happy to honor Commissioner Patty Sheehan, during Women's History Month, for her leadership and service to the Central Florida Community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANNA ESKAMANI

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Anna Eskamani. An Iranian-American and Central Florida native, Anna graduated from the University of Central Florida (UCF) in the spring of 2012 with dual degrees in Political Science and Women's Studies, and a Certificate in Service Learning.

As an undergrad, Anna spent the majority of her time writing, advocating, and organizing for social justice. She first began her advocacy work in the environmental movement, but quickly became an advocate for international human rights via her Vice Presidency of the Iranian Student Organization. In the summer of 2010, Anna turned her focus to domestic issues, when she became Vice President of the College Democrats at UCF and the Women's Caucus Chair of the Florida College Democrats. In April 2011, Anna founded

"Keep PBS In Orlando," an initiative to preserve Central Florida's local PBS station. The campaign helped create WUCF-TV.

Anna continued to write, not only in leading publications like *The Huffington Post* and *Orlando Sentinel*, but also academically. In March 2011, Anna completed her undergraduate honors thesis focusing on feminism in Iran. Anna presented her thesis, which received high remarks, at several research conferences.

Upon graduation Anna was awarded the Order of Pegasus, the highest honor that a UCF senior can receive. She also graduated with the highest GPA in the College of Undergraduate Studies, an achievement that allowed her to be a part of UCF's Platform Party during commencement ceremonies.

Anna didn't stop there. Now a graduate student at UCF pursuing dual master's degrees in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management, Anna works full-time at Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando as the organization's External Affairs Manager. In her position, Anna maintains the organization's development and public affairs programs.

Anna continues to be very involved in the UCF and Central Florida community. In February 2013, she launched an on-campus initiative called "Project Bithlo," with the goal of engaging UCF students, faculty, and staff in the transformative work occurring in the historically neglected community of Bithlo. Only a year after its founding, Project Bithlo has connected hundreds of UCF students to Bithlo. The project is succeeding in bringing together both the College Democrats and College Republicans in an effort to show solidarity with the families of this overlooked community.

Anna also sits on the board of numerous organizations, including the Orange County League of Women Voters, Orange County Democratic Executive Committee, Democratic Women's Club of Greater Orlando, Democratic Women's Club Florida, UCF Women's Studies Advisory Council, and Planned Parenthood's Network of Volunteer Advocates.

A lifelong feminist, Anna is excited to continue her work to better the lives of women and her local community.

I am happy to honor Anna Eskamani, during Women's History Month, for her leadership and service to the Central Florida community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF IDA V. ESKAMANI

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Ida V. Eskamani, a young woman with a passion for public service. A first-generation Iranian-American born and raised in Orlando, Florida, Ms. Eskamani believes that individual success is directly tied to the success of her community, and is committed to serving underserved and underrepresented communities.

She began her career in public service as an undergraduate at the University of Central Florida (UCF), where she was active in several campus organizations focused on women's rights, equality, environmental justice, and social justice. As President of the College Democrats at UCF, she worked to empower and educate thousands of students through voter registration drives, rallies, and marches, and established the organization as an integral part of Central Florida's progressive movement. Ms. Eskamani earned dual degrees from UCF in Political Science and Sociology in 2012. She was also awarded the national President's Service Award for devoting more

than 500 hours to community service in a 12-month period; as well as UCF's most prestigious award, the Order of Pegasus, for exemplary achievements in academics, service, and leadership.

Following graduation, Ms. Eskamani led the development team of the Orange County Democratic Party, helping them to break fundraising records. She also joined Senator BILL NELSON's re-election campaign as the youngest staff member, working as a Press and Research Assistant. Following the 2012 elections, Ida was selected out of thousands of applicants to serve as a White House Intern in the Office of Presidential Personnel for the spring 2013 term. Upon her return to the Sunshine State, she spent her time as a Digital and Community Organizer with Florida CHAIN, an organization dedicated to increasing access to affordable healthcare, and as a member of the finance team for State Representative Joe Saunders' re-election campaign.

Ms. Eskamani joined Equality Florida, the states' lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization in 2014 as a Development Associate based in Orlando. In her role she assists in organizing and executing fundraising and development programs in Sarasota, Orlando, Jacksonville, and Tallahassee. She is also currently pursuing dual master's degrees in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management at UCF.

I am happy to honor Ida Eskamani, during Women's History Month, for her leadership and service to the Central Florida community.

#### HONORING ODESSA WOOLFOLK DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2014

#### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2014*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I continue to pay tribute to outstanding African Americans from Alabama. Today, I rise to honor one of Alabama's most beloved and brilliant civic leaders, Ms. Odessa Woolfolk. As a student in Birmingham's segregated public schools to, later, becoming one of the city of Birmingham's most persuasive civic leaders, Ms. Odessa Woolfolk transcended the racial and socioeconomic challenges of her time.

Ms. Odessa Woolfolk was born in the Titusville Community of Birmingham, Alabama and graduated from A.H. Parker High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Talladega College and later went on to earn her Masters in Urban Studies from Occidental College in California. She completed additional graduate work at the University of Chicago and was a National Urban Fellow at Yale University.

Ms. Woolfolk began her career as a teacher at Birmingham's Ullman High School, at the height of the civil rights movement. She displayed outstanding and fearless leadership both in her classroom and community during this turbulent time. Following her tenure as an educator, Ms. Woolfolk worked in public policy with the following organizations: the Urban Reinvestment Task Force in Washington, DC., New York State Urban Development Corporation in New York City, the YWCA in Utica,

New York, the Arbor Hill Community Center and the Inter-Racial Council in Albany, New York.

After working in New York and Washington, DC., Ms. Woolfolk returned to Alabama to serve as executive director of the Birmingham Opportunity Industrialization Center and associate executive director of the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity. For twenty-one years, she served as director of the Center for Urban Affairs at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and lectured in political science and public affairs. She also served as staff associate at the Center for International Programs and was an Assistant to the President for Community Relations.

Ms. Odessa Woolfolk's tremendous contributions to the University of Alabama at Birmingham were recognized with the establishment of the Odessa Woolfolk Presidential Community Service Award. Due to her outstanding and extensive service at UAB, Ms. Woolfolk received the UAB Honorary Alumni Award, Outstanding Faculty Award, the President's Medal, and many other awards.

Ms. Woolfolk is most known for her instrumental role in creating the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. She was its founding administrator and chair of the task force that planned and directed its development. Annually, nearly 150,000 people honor her as they pass through the Odessa Woolfolk Gallery at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Throughout her life, Ms. Woolfolk has served on the boards of numerous Birmingham and statewide organizations, including the YWCA, Region 2020, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, UAB African American Studies Program, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, UAB Educational Foundation, Birmingham Museum of Art, and the Birmingham Urban League. Ms. Woolfolk served as the State Chair of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, was the first African American President of Operation New Birmingham's Board of Directors, founding member of Leadership Birmingham and was the founding co-chair of the Martin Luther King Unity Breakfast.

Because of her influence in the city of Birmingham and the state of Alabama, Ms. Woolfolk was honored by Birmingham's Mayor and City Council and was inducted into the Birmingham Gallery of Distinguished Citizens. She was also inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor and is the well-deserved recipient of the Humanities Award from the Alabama Humanities Foundation. She has received honorary doctorates from her alma mater, Talladega College, from Birmingham-Southern College and the University of the South in Tennessee.

Ms. Odessa Woolfolk is one of Birmingham's brightest luminaries. Through her continued commitment to improving her community, the State of Alabama and her nation, she remains an inspiration to all who know her. And as one of her mentees, it is my honor to recognize her on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. Our generation owes trailblazers such as Ms. Odessa Woolfolk a debt of gratitude. Today, I invite my colleagues to pay tribute to Ms. Odessa Woolfolk, an exceptional woman whose contributions have made her a shining example of exemplary service to all mankind.