

75 years. The Integrity Awards were established in 1993 to recognize exemplary businesses while promoting the BBB's mission of leadership in advancing marketplace trust.

Children's Cancer Connection has lived up to these goals and provided excellent service since 1988 to children battling childhood cancer. They offer their service at little or no cost to the families dealing with this devastating disease and do not turn away patients because of their finances.

I applaud and congratulate Children's Cancer Connection for earning this prestigious award and for their dedicated service to our community. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Children's Cancer Connection and wishing them nothing but continued success in their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT  
OF CHANCELLOR WILLIAM  
ENGLISH "BRIT" KIRWAN

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brit Kirwan, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland on his recent retirement. Dr. Kirwan has been a strong and inspirational leader of the university system in our great state, and we are sad to see him go.

Dr. Kirwan first left his mark on the University of Maryland when he served as an educator and instructor at our flagship campus in College Park for 25 years. When he left Maryland in 2002 to become President of the Ohio State University, he did so after having risen from an assistant professor in the mathematics department to department chair, provost, and eventually university president.

When Dr. Kirwan returned to Maryland in 2002, to become chancellor of the University System of Maryland he quickly set to work, helping to shift the focus of the system and create innovative ways to support student development. To do so he often used technology and the unique resources of the state of Maryland and national capital region to do so. Since Dr. Kirwan became chancellor, enrollment has risen 24 percent and the number of students receiving bachelor's degrees has also grown significantly, by 36 percent.

When he retired on June 30, completing a proud career of public service, Dr. Kirwan had led significant improvements to our university system that will benefit both students and faculty for decades to come. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Kirwan for his dedicated service to our students and congratulate him on an impressive career. The entire Maryland congressional delegation is proud to have worked alongside him and we wish him well in his hard earned retirement.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF  
VIVIAN E. JONES

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great sadness as I announce the passing of my longtime District Administrator, Vivian E. Jones. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable woman who, over her 45 years of service to me and this body, etched her name in the walls of Congress as one of its longest serving staff members.

Vivian's death on July 2, 2015, brought immense sorrow and loss to me, my staff, and to the countless constituents that counted on her assistance. The many who met and were touched by Vivian and her life's work can attest that she was equal parts strong mind and ample heart, a humble soul who cared deeply about the issues of the day and their impact on everyday people. And yet she was able to influence public decision making, develop activities of enormous impact and provide motivation, inspiration, and consolation to the younger members of my staff.

Vivian Jones goes back to my days at law-firm Weaver, Evans, Wingate & Wright. She was my administrative assistant when I first practiced law. Vivian became a part of my campaign staff in March of 1970, when I, then a young New York State Assemblyman, challenged the legendary Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. for the Congressional Seat.

Upon election to the Congress, she joined the Congressional Staff as my Executive Secretary. As a freshman Congressman, I was the beneficiary of Vivian's previous experience with secretarial and paralegal work. She immediately became responsible for my schedule and constituent services in the district office, which was all done without computers in those early days of my career in the House.

In 1975, Vivian succeeded Virginia Bell as the District Administrator (District Director). In her new role, Vivian's responsibilities expanded to the role of a Chief of Staff in the District. She managed the local district offices, directed work activities, supervised staff, and oversaw and coordinated activities in the different communities of the Congressional District. As a woman in this role in the 1970's and proceeding decades, she was quite an effective leader and powerful force in pushing my agenda forward in the district. She continued this role until January 1999, when Vivian relinquished her role, reducing her work load, and began working part-time.

Although only part-time, a loyal colleague, Vivian Jones, continued to coordinate my schedule in conjunction with the scheduler in Washington, DC. She handled all personnel matters pertaining to district staff, and prepared correspondences of varying complexity for my signature. Vivian continued to arrive at the office in the wee hours of the morning on her assigned days. As always, she remained committed to offering a sympathetic ear or to jump start a slow or reluctant bureaucracy for a constituent.

For over 50 years, Vivian's dynamic spirit and sense of purpose served me and all of her past colleagues as a motivation and driv-

ing force. She provided the people of the Congressional District incredible assistance over her many years of service to Congress and was a devoted friend to her colleagues and agency staff.

A simple speech from the floor of this sumptuous body will never ease the pain of losing such a precious soul. I can only hope that all of those whose lives were touched by her can take solace in knowing that all of her hard work, guidance, and care throughout the years exceeded all measures of selflessness and devotion to our country. As I stand here with my heart filled with grief, I honor her, not only for her courage, loyalty, faithfulness, and generosity, but also for her simply being a true embodiment of the vision and determination of women that have strengthened and transformed America. No one can ever replace such a precious human being. She is survived by her brother Neil Jones and her niece Joyce Rodriguez.

Mr. Speaker, rather than mourn her passing, I would hope that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of our beloved Vivian Jones by remembering that she exemplified greatness in every way. She was, in life, a shining example of all the best in our land. There is no doubt that she will always be remembered for her extraordinary commitment, energy, wisdom, principle, and clear purpose which won the admiration of all those who were privileged to come to know her. As stated in Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." In rest, may she find the peace we all seek.

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE  
FLAG

**HON. LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, each day, as we begin our work in Congress, we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, a flag that preserves our republic's promise of liberty and justice for all.

This is not the message of the Confederate battle flag. We all know this flag represents hate, intolerance, and bigotry. Like the Nazi flag, the Confederate flag must be retired to history books and museums. It has no place in the public square.

Unconscionably, House Republicans are defending the Confederate flag by blocking Democratic efforts to remove this rebel flag from the U.S. Capitol grounds. This comes just hours after House Republicans offered an amendment to undo Democratic amendments that bar the display of the Confederate flag in federal cemeteries, and bar the National Park Service from doing business with gift shops selling Confederate flag merchandise.

It is a cold, cruel irony that just as South Carolina votes to finally remove the Confederate flag at their statehouse, House Republicans now seek to protect this symbol of hate at the federal level.

Let us remove the Confederate flag from the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. Doing so will honor our country and show respect for the flag of the United States of America, which is the symbol of freedom, justice, and democracy for all.

TRIBUTE TO MIDWEST  
CONSTRUCTION & SUPPLY INC.**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Midwest Construction & Supply Incorporated of Grimes, Iowa. Midwest Construction & Supply was recently recognized for their outstanding commitment to business ethics by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and presented with a 2015 Integrity Award.

The Better Business Bureau has been developing and administering self-regulation programs for the business community for the past 75 years. The Integrity Awards were established in 1993 to recognize exemplary businesses while promoting the BBB's mission of leadership in advancing marketplace trust.

Midwest Construction & Supply has lived up to these goals and provided excellent service and customer satisfaction for 57 years and over three generations. This attitude spreads throughout the entire organization from their President, Kalliope Eaton.

I applaud and congratulate Midwest Construction & Supply Inc. for earning this prestigious award. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Midwest Construction & Supply Inc. and wishing them nothing but continued success in the future.

HONORING COLONEL PETER  
AHERN ON HIS RETIREMENT**HON. MARTHA MCSALLY**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Peter Ahern on his many years of service to our country, and to wish him well on his upcoming retirement.

Colonel Ahern received his Bachelor's Degree from St. Ambrose University and was commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Course program in May of 1986. In 2007, he received a Masters of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the National War College.

Colonel Ahern served 29 years in the Marine Corps. His assignments included, but were not limited to, serving as Company Commander, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, MCRD San Diego; Battery Commander, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division; Future Operations Division (J35) United States Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany; Commanding Officer Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF), II Marine Expeditionary Force; and culminating as Director, Strategic Initiatives Group (SIG), Headquarters Marine Corps.

Colonel Ahern participated in combat operations in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait (Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm), Iraq (Operation

Iraqi Freedom, OIF-II); and planning/advisory duties with the Ugandan Peoples Defense Force; and humanitarian assistance disaster relief operations in Japan (Operation TOMODACHI).

Colonel Ahern has received a number of awards over the course of his career, most notably the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars, the Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars, the Joint Meritorious Achievement Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Navy-Marine Corps Expert Parachute Wings.

It's not an overstatement to say Colonel Ahern was one of the finest officers with whom I served. He and I were part of the initial cadre tasked to stand up Africa Command, and we worked closely on many security and humanitarian issues that arose anywhere on the continent. Colonel Ahern was an operationally-focused leader, a brilliant strategist, and utmost professional. He was instrumental to the success of Africa Command, not just while we served there, but long after he was reassigned as well.

I thank Colonel Ahern for his many years of service to our nation. It was a privilege to serve with him and call him a colleague, and I wish him all the best in his upcoming retirement.