

They provide spay and neuter services for community cats and run a pet food pantry to assist families during financial difficulties.

They do all of this, which would be impressive enough on its own, and yet the HSFC goes even further—they have made a conscious decision not to simply fix the problems that come their way, but to also seek out unaddressed problems and resolve them. They have been involved with legislative issues such as ensuring adequate shelter and veterinary care for animals and stopping the operation of rodeos and circuses. They employ investigators that, for over 40 years, have investigated thousands of cruelty and neglect cases. Finally, they have assisted with the Deer Spay Project for the past 2 years.

I hope I have made it as clear to you as it is to me that the Humane Society of Fairfax County is an outstanding, upstanding organization that has done more than can here be described for the animals and families in their community. I thank them for their valuable work and wish them many more happy anniversaries to come.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL CHARLES EDWARD COOKE

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a respected public servant and outstanding citizen, Colonel Charles Edward Cooke. Sadly, Colonel Cooke passed away on Sunday, August 2, 2015. Funeral services were held on Monday, August 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Andersonville National Cemetery in Andersonville, Georgia.

Colonel Cooke devoted nearly three decades of his life to protecting his country in the United States Marine Corps, an unwavering responsibility for which we are all greatly indebted. In his 31 years of duty, he was stationed in nine states and eleven countries. Though his responsibilities carried him across the globe, Colonel Cooke always enjoyed returning to his birthplace of Plains, Georgia and hometown of Americus, Georgia.

Throughout his career, Colonel Cooke impacted the lives of thousands of young service men and women who served under him. For his outstanding leadership he was awarded the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Gold Star, and the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Beyond these achievements and the respect held for him by Marines everywhere, he was an honorable human being who loved deeply and, in return, was deeply loved.

Following his retirement from the Marine Corps in 2004, Colonel Cooke worked for Northrup Grumman as an Information Assurance Specialist. His co-workers and fellow servicemen cherished the smile and boomerang laugh of a man with seasoned wisdom and a passion for reveling in the beauties of life. After 7 years, he retired to full-time community service with organizations such as the Semper Fi Community Task Force and Meals on Wheels.

Colonel Cooke was a resolute steward of Christ's message. His faith and spirituality al-

ways reminded those around him of the power of love and fellowship through Christ and his Church. He earned a Certificate of Biblical Studies from the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Institute of Biblical Studies and served as deacon of First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, Virginia for four years.

Colonel Cooke is survived by his wife of 44 years, Wilma; daughter, Mary; siblings Oscar, Josie, Lula May, Carrie, and Barbara; six grandchildren; and a host of other family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District salute Colonel Charles Cooke for his dedicated service to our nation and to his community. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Colonel Cooke's family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING MR. VU VAN LOC FOR HIS SERVICE TO SANTA CLARA COUNTY

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished member of my community, Mr. Vu Van Loc. Mr. Vu has been a leader in Santa Clara County for nearly forty years. As the founder of the Immigrant Resettlement & Cultural Center, Mr. Vu provided essential resettlement services to Vietnamese refugees immediately after the Fall of Saigon and for decades following. He pioneered the historical preservation of the journey of the Vietnamese Boat People when he created the Viet Museum in San Jose, which displays their journey.

Mr. Vu was born in 1933 in Nam Dinh, North Vietnam. He became a Lieutenant upon graduation from the Dalat academy in 1954. During the Vietnam War, he held multiple leadership positions in the South Vietnam Army, including Colonel Director for the General Logistics Department.

After the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, Vu Van Loc came to the United States and settled in San Jose, California. Shortly after his arrival, Mr. Vu began working with the Indochinese Resettlement & Cultural Center, or IRCC, to assist immigrants arriving from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos who were beginning to settle in Northern California. The Social Planning Committee of Santa Clara County created the IRCC as a temporary office in 1976, but it was Mr. Vu who spearheaded IRCC's efforts and ensured the organization's mission was fulfilled in the decades that followed.

Over forty years, Mr. Vu built the IRCC as a community-based organization to serve Vietnamese immigrants in resettlement. Due to his efforts, IRCC, which changed its name to the Immigrant Resettlement & Cultural Center in the 1990s, has provided over 20,000 immigrants with access to resettlement services, such as ESL classes, job training programs, housing assistance, U.S. citizenship applica-

tion assistance, and voter registration information.

Mr. Vu's work with the IRCC has also ensured that the history of the Vietnam War, and the sacrifice of many South Vietnamese soldiers, is not forgotten. In 1993, Mr. Vu gathered contributions to help restore the abandoned Bien Hoa Military Cemetery in Vietnam. With this support he helped ensure the Vietnamese government would not destroy the site as it had other military cemeteries.

Mr. Vu also had a vision for the creation of a museum that preserved the history of South Vietnam, the Vietnam War, and the diaspora of Vietnamese Boat People. In 2008, the Republic of Vietnam Boat People Museum opened at History Park in San Jose. Mr. Vu's efforts were critical in building community support to establish the museum. Today, the Viet Museum is a San Jose treasure that ensures the courageous stories from survivors of the Vietnamese Exodus are never forgotten, especially by young people.

Vu Van Loc has been a dedicated leader within the Vietnamese community in Santa Clara County. I had the pleasure of first meeting Mr. Vu when I served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. He has been an important friend throughout my public service to Santa Clara County. I am grateful for his dedication, and through these remarks I hereby recognize and commend Mr. Vu for his service to Santa Clara County and our immigrant community.

HONORING CHANCELLOR JOSÉ ORTIZ

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Dr. José Ortiz, Chancellor of Peralta Community College District. The Peralta District spans six cities within the East Bay and serves over 60,000 students.

Dr. Ortiz has spent his career serving within institutions of higher education and in a variety of administrative positions. His career brought him to campuses in California, Maryland, and the University of Puerto Rico at Bayamon. His range of experience, both professionally and culturally, made him the ideal candidate to serve at Peralta, which is within my Congressional District; the most diverse Congressional district in the nation.

Prior to serving as Chancellor, Dr. Ortiz served as Vice President to Laney College, which falls under the umbrella of the Peralta Community College system. While there he was known for his deep understanding and commitment to the many challenges facing the extremely diverse student body.

Later, in 2005, Dr. Ortiz moved on to become President of Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California, where he served until 2012. Little did he know he would one day return home to Oakland and the Peralta system. Dr. Ortiz's appointment served as an opportunity for him to return home to foster his friendly relationships and spend more time with his family.

His appointment came in the years following the Great Recession, at a time when community college districts across the nation were

facing a multitude of challenges; Dr. Ortiz called upon his exemplary leadership abilities and relationship building with his colleagues to help lead the district through some of its most trying time.

While serving as Chancellor, he emphasized delivering programs and services that enhanced the region's human, economic, environmental, and social development. Dr. Ortiz provided leadership and advocacy for the diverse students of the four colleges while promoting his mission of supporting student academic access and success. His demonstrated commitment to students serves as a fine example to others working toward providing high quality educational opportunities and services to the marginalized and underrepresented.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I salute Dr. Jose M Ortiz, for his outstanding service and passionate commitment to the Peralta Community College District. Dr. Ortiz has touched many lives throughout his career, and I wish him and his loved ones continued success and happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICIA PENNISI

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia Pennisi as she retires after forty years of service to the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center. As her family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate her long list of accomplishments and years of service, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great individual who has served and contributed so much to the Sacramento region.

Since receiving her Master's Degree in Social Work in 1970 from the University of Kansas and shortly after her certification from the Academy of Certified Social Workers in 1972, Ms. Pennisi has been committed to the mission of social work. For the last forty years, Ms. Pennisi has been an integral part of the important programs that have made the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center an essential part of the North Sacramento community. As longtime Assistant Director of Stanford Settlement Neighborhood, she has been at the forefront of directing the center's children and youth services. With the leadership of Ms. Pennisi, both the Children's Program and the Teen Center Program have grown and flourished. In addition, to helping raise funds to support the center's many programs, she has been vital in ensuring its continued success.

Over her entire career, Ms. Pennisi has worked tirelessly to be a champion for children. She has been a remarkable influence on her colleagues, as well as the student interns that have had the privilege of working with her. Although she will be greatly missed for her vast contributions, she will be fondly remembered for her ability to make Sacramento a better place and for her contributions to the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center.

Mr. Speaker, as Patricia and her family, friends and colleagues gather to celebrate her retirement, I am pleased to honor and recognize her for her hard work to help the Sac-

ramento community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her the best in retirement and thanking her for her service to the Sacramento region.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
ROSELLLEN KERSHAW

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Rosellen Kershaw who recently passed away at the age of 87. She leaves behind her loving family, including her daughter Julie, and granddaughters, Taylor and Morgan Marsoobian. Fresno County is truly indebted to Rosellen's legacy of service, integrity and love.

Rosellen Kershaw was born on August 29, 1923, to Charles and Pinkie Kershaw in Fresno, California. She spent almost her entire life in the Central Valley, graduating from Fresno High School and Fresno State College. She received her Master's Degree from San Francisco State University.

Rosellen taught school at the elementary, high school and college levels. However, she consistently referred to herself as a "professional volunteer," having dedicated more than 50 years of her life to the causes and organizations in Fresno that she felt most passionate about. Ms. Kershaw was committed to improving her community one hour at a time.

The fruits of Rosellen's labors were reflected in her involvement with local organizations and clubs, such as the Ani Guild of the California Armenian Home, of which she was a founder and board member for over 40 years. She was also President of the League of Women Voters of Fresno, California State President of American Association of University Women, Chair of the Fresno Housing and Community Development Commission, Chair of the CSUF Arts and Humanities Advisory, board member of the Fresno Regional Foundation, Secretary of the Fresno County Grand Jury, board member of the California Journal, President of the Fresno Art Museum, and President of the Friends of Fresno County Library. In addition, she was a founder and first general manager of Valley Public Radio. Among her many achievements, Rosellen received the California Rotary Paul Harris Fellow accolade, and was awarded the CSU Fresno Top Dog Award for Service.

Rosellen Kershaw was an extraordinary woman with a commitment to family, friends and her community. Her service will forever be remembered by the lives she so graciously touched. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Rosellen Kershaw, a true pillar of our community who will never be forgotten.

HONORING SHARON SILVA

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Turlock Chamber of

Commerce Chief Executive Officer Sharon Silva for her many years of profound service to Turlock. After fifteen years of dedicated work, she retired on August 31, 2015.

Born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, Sharon moved to the small town of Turlock, California with her family. Sharon found the time to further her education at Modesto Junior College and California State University, Stanislaus where she received her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Communications. In addition, she graduated from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. with a Main Street Certification Institute Certification in Historic Preservation and also from the US Chamber Institute in Chamber Management at the University of Arizona in 2004.

For eight and half years, Sharon served as the Executive Director of the Turlock Downtown Association, where she made enduring contributions to beautifying and restoring the historic downtown of Turlock. Among numerous activities that celebrated the culture of Turlock, she planned major community events such as the Festival of Lights Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Fourth of July parade. During Mrs. Silva's last three years with the Downtown Association, she was promoted to the position of Chief Executive Officer for the Turlock Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and diligently oversaw all three agencies. Sharon has been a beacon in the community and an integral part of the non-profit organization's success.

Volunteering is second nature to Sharon; she has been a part of several different boards and a vital member of many different clubs and organizations. Appointed by the Mayor of Turlock and confirmed by the City Council, Sharon was one of nine committee members to become a part of the Development Collaborative Advisory Committee, and provide advice and recommendations to the city for improving the business climate. Furthermore, Sharon was co-chair of the Turlock Centennial Celebration in 2008, sat on the Board of Directors for the Turlock Community Theatre, and is a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Turlock. Sharon is a past member of the Turlock Unified School District Board and sits on a number of CSU Stanislaus committees: the President's Advisory council, the College of Business Board, the Alumni Board, the CSUS Warrior Association, and lastly, and the Center for Public Policies Studies Advisory Board. She served on Stanislaus County's Economic Development Committee and on the Board of Directors for the Stanislaus County Alliance Workforce. She was also the chair of the county's Redistricting Committee in 2011. Mrs. Silva stands as a role model for community dedication. Being actively involved and connected within the community as Sharon Silva has been, it comes as no surprise that she has received numerous awards and recognitions. In 1995, she received the Turlock Citizen of the Year Award and Volunteer of the Year Award at the Best of Turlock Awards Dinner. While serving as the Executive Director for the Turlock Downtown Association, the organization received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Revitalization Achievement in Design. The Turlock Chamber of Commerce was one of ten chambers in the state of California to be a CalChamber's President Circle Recipient for six years in a row. In 2011, Sharon Silva was named the Western Chamber