

HONORING DON AND PATTY JACKSON DOCTOR FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor Don and Patty Jackson Doctor for their tireless commitment to community service. Their volunteer efforts and investments in various worthwhile causes is a brilliant example of men and women in Western New York giving back to the region. Don Doctor has served as a committee member of the St. Thomas Aquinas Men's Golf Committee and the Notre Dame Golf Committee for fourteen years. He has been instrumental in organizing golf tournaments that have raised thousands of dollars for both programs. He also served as Director of the Board for the West Seneca Youth Baseball Association for six years and was the Assignor of the Umpires for the league. Mr. Doctor was active in the West Seneca Youth Hockey Booster Club, and he is also a scheduler and a team representative for the Cheektowaga Old Timers League. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Doctor participate in the "Fill the Boot" drive for the Spinal Muscular Atrophy Research Team and are active in local politics.

Mrs. Jackson Doctor is a Buffalo Public School Teacher and Coach—she currently coaches the Discovery School Swim Team along with Jenny Fitzpatrick Hart. Mrs. Jackson Doctor, with her committee, started the St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Golf Tournament which was successfully held for eight years. This fundraiser benefitted the St. Thomas Aquinas Sports Program until the school closed. The tournament was then renamed the Marie Jackson Women's Golf Tournament, which provides scholarships to four South Buffalo eighth graders from Notre Dame Academy and Discovery School in support of their attendance at the Catholic school of their choice. Mrs. Jackson Doctor was honored as a member of the "Race Day Ladies" at the 2012 Mt. Mercy 5k run. She continues to volunteer in road races throughout the year, and is also active in local politics.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Doctor will be honored at the upcoming 4th annual Ryan Purcell Memorial Run, a race held in Lackawanna, NY which celebrates the life of the young man whose life was tragically cut short. The couple will be awarded the 3rd annual Michael J. Diggins Community Service Award at the event, which takes place on October 3rd.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor and recognize Mr. and Mrs. Don and Patty Jackson Doctor. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating them on their accomplished careers and to commend them for their admirable service in the community.

RECOGNIZING DR. JUDY GENSHAFT'S LEADERSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article that appeared in the Tampa Tribune recognizing Dr. Judy Genshaft for her leadership as President of the University of South Florida. For the past 15 years, Dr. Genshaft has worked tirelessly to improve USF's academic successes, as well as expand USF's role in our local economy. It is my honor to recognize her achievements at the helm of USF, and we are fortunate to have her as a part of our Tampa Bay community.

EDITORIAL: GENSHAFT'S EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC SUCCESSSES

[From the Tampa Tribune, Sept. 12, 2015]

Judy Genshaft has enjoyed the longest tenure of any University of South Florida president, and by most measures the university has flourished under her direction.

But often overlooked is how her 15-year leadership also has boosted the local economy.

Improving USF's academic standing, to be sure, has been the priority, and results have been impressive. The graduation rate, a persistent trouble area, has jumped from 48 percent in 2008 to 67 percent, thanks to university initiatives. The average SAT test scores of incoming freshmen have increased by 159 points, reflecting USF's growing status.

The Tampa campus, once a barren collection of far-flung buildings, has been transformed into a beautifully landscaped and bustling community.

Also impressive is how Genshaft has tapped USF's potential as an economic engine. She strengthened its ties to the business community and made it a catalyst for innovation and investment. Former USF President Betty Castor, who served from 1994 to 1999, also deserves credit for highlighting the university's economic importance. Genshaft expanded that effort.

Genshaft, who has served as chair of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Tampa Bay Partnership, actively sought to recruit companies to the area, particularly those that needed the resource of a research university.

Indeed, the university has excelled at winning research grants. As the Tribune's Anastasia Dawson reports, when Genshaft came to USF it brought in about \$171.3 million in research funds. Last year that number was \$440.5 million—43rd in the nation among public and private universities.

These dollars have an impact far beyond campus. According to the National Institutes of Health, every \$1 in research funding brings in \$2.21 in local economic growth. So USF's research funds alone are calculated to be responsible for \$974 million in new economic activity and account for 5,900 jobs with an average salary of \$75,000.

The emphasis on innovation has helped USF become the No. 1 university in the state for patents, and 10th in the nation and 13th worldwide.

With USF badly in need of renovating its 40-year-old medical school facilities, Genshaft seized the opportunity to partner with Lightning owner Jeff Vinik in the redevelopment of downtown's Channelside District. Now, with the backing of the Legislature and Gov. Rick Scott, the USF Morsani

College of Medicine and the new USF Health Heart Institute will be the centerpiece of Vinik's downtown project, which will include residences, offices, hotels and retail shops. The school is expected to create 1,500 jobs and undoubtedly will attract other health-care enterprises.

Genshaft also is pushing to redevelop the challenged neighborhoods near USF into an innovation district that will attract and nurture new enterprises. Former Hillsborough County Commissioner Mark Sharpe is heading the Tampa Innovation Alliance.

Thanks to such diverse efforts, USF is widely recognized as a university on the move and is attracting widespread attention and support. It's nearing its goal of raising \$1 billion in donations.

Genshaft has had the occasional tussle with the Legislature, mostly stemming from lawmakers wanting more for USF branch campuses in their communities. The USF system includes St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee campuses. The Legislature, in an act of fiscal lunacy, transformed USF's Polk County branch into a separate university, Florida Polytechnic, in 2012.

Such dustups underscore the pitfalls of a branch campus system that invites meddling by lawmakers focused on bringing goodies to their districts.

Granted, USF's football and basketball programs have languished in recent years. But those rough spots pale in comparison to USF's progress during Genshaft's 15 years.

Her contract runs out next year, but she says she would like to remain. That decision will be up to the USF Board of Trustees.

But there is a good reason Genshaft has managed to stay at USF's helm for 15 years. She is getting the job done.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHWEST CENTER'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AND ADVOCACY FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th anniversary of Northwest Center. The Northwest Center is a leader in advancing equal opportunities for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Their unique social enterprise model provides services such as inclusive early childhood education, after school programs, job training and placement.

Founded in 1965, Northwest Center was initiated by parents who refused to accept that institutionalizing their children with special needs was the only option for their education and enrichment. Washington State is a place of pioneers and it was in that spirit that these parents effected positive change for children everywhere.

Fifty years later in 2015, Northwest Center continues to revolutionize the ways we think about people with abilities different than our own. Where Northwest Center's founding parents were once viewed as audacious for their advocacy, today there is a generation of people living rich, productive lives because they were given the opportunity to thrive as a part of a community that nurtured them as part of its whole, instead of isolating them as separate and distinct.

Northwest Center's 50th Anniversary celebrates the promise the organization made a

half century ago, “to promote the growth, development, and economic independence of persons with developmental disabilities through programs of education, rehabilitation, and work opportunity.” Its revolutionary approach recognizes that inclusion, not segregation, is a fundamental tenet of a strong community—at school, at work and in the world around us. In Northwest Center classrooms, children with and without disabilities share high expectations. Innovative companies like Amazon, Microsoft, and Starbucks have embraced the advantages of workforce inclusion.

Against this backdrop of revolutionary achievement, I salute Northwest Center and its founders for their leadership—not only in their programs, but in launching a groundbreaking attitudinal shift that impacts people across the state of Washington and across this country.

HONORING MICHAEL AND KELLY DIAMOND ANDERSON FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor Michael and Kelly Anderson for their dedicated commitment to bettering the community. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have supported various civic initiatives throughout Western New York in the last 15 years.

Mrs. Anderson, a Peer Review Coordinator at Catholic Health Systems, has demonstrated her passion for service through her involvement with the WNY Perinatal Bereavement Network, which provides support for families dealing with the loss of children at birth. She has chaired the WNYBPB's Walk to Remember and Elegant Evening to Remember events, and is also a coordinator for the WNY Perinatal Parent telephone support group. Mrs. Anderson has been a generous donor to the Sister's hospital foundation, and the Steven's Bereavement Fund. Like his wife, Mr. Anderson has been deeply involved in service efforts for the community. Mr. Anderson, an Area Sales Manager for First Niagara Financial Group, volunteers on several nonprofit boards in WNY; he currently serves as president elect for the University at Buffalo Alumni Association, in addition to being on the Board of Directors for the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Anderson is also a volunteer Youth mentor for Leadership Buffalo, where he is an alumnus of the Leadership Buffalo Class of 2010.

Since 2011, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have helped organize a local fundraiser called RTG for a Cure, which raises money each year to help support pediatric cancer initiatives. Mrs. Anderson is also an ardent supporter of the Red Cross, and donates her time to the City Mission and St. Vincent DePaul Society. Kelly and Michael will be honored at the upcoming 4th annual Ryan Purcell Memorial Run, a race held in Lackawanna, NY which celebrates the life of the young man whose life was tragically cut short. The couple will be awarded the 3rd annual Tim O'Neil Good Samaritan Award at the event, which takes place on October 3rd.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor and recognize Mr. and Mrs. Anderson. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating them on their accomplished careers and to commend them for their admirable service in the community.

RECOGNIZING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEECH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 160th Homecoming and Anniversary of the Beech Creek Baptist Church, in Spurter, Texas.

Charter members were James G. Collier, his wife Elizabeth Collier, his half-sister Mary Caswell, his stepmother Mary Keith, his daughter Lucy Ratcliff, his brother Thomas Collier and his nieces Volumnia Freeman and Mary Baker.

With no Baptist church in this area at the time, eight community members came together on September 24, 1855 to organize a church by the name of Beech Creek.

As the oldest Baptist Church in Tyler County with complete records of its existence, Beech Creek is an important and treasured place of worship for our area.

As we pause to celebrate another important milestone, let us remember those who faithfully and humbly came before us in service to God at Beech Creek Baptist Church.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. WILLIE MAE SEATON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Willie Mae Seaton, longtime owner of Willie Mae's Scotch House in New Orleans. Ms. Seaton passed away on September 18, 2015, at the age of 99.

Ms. Seaton was born in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, and moved to New Orleans during World War II with her husband who worked at the Higgins Shipyard. For several years she drove a taxi, worked at a dry cleaner, and was a licensed beautician. Ms. Seaton's true ambition, however, was to own a bar.

In 1957, Ms. Seaton turned her corner beauty shop into Willie Mae's Scotch House where it quickly became a neighborhood favorite. While cooking out of the bar's kitchen, patrons encouraged her to open a restaurant. Famous for its fried chicken, Ms. Seaton ran her business for decades.

Ms. Seaton represented everything that is great about New Orleans. She had a wonderful spirit and always greeted everyone who came to visit her restaurant with warmth and love. To this day, Willie Mae's is among the best fried chicken you will ever find. In fact, when President Obama visited New Orleans for the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, we ate at Willie Mae's.

Ms. Seaton was named an America's Classic by the James Beard Foundation in May

2005. Later that year, the floods that followed post-Katrina levee failure destroyed Willie Mae's Scotch House and Ms. Seaton's home next door. A testament to her impact on the New Orleans community, waves of volunteers helped to rebuild her neighborhood restaurant.

New Orleans will not be the same without her, but her legacy will forever be a part of the city. Her story of turning her small beauty shop into a world-renowned establishment exemplifies the spirit of New Orleans. Stories like hers will show generations of Americans that if we work hard, our dreams can become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Ms. Seaton, a beloved mother, grandmother, and example to African-American entrepreneurs everywhere.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL SHELTON KEM

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Lieutenant Colonel Michael Shelton Kem. Lieutenant Colonel Kem has served our country for 26 years with the United States Air Force and New York Air National Guard. Lieutenant Colonel Kem has been decorated with numerous medals, awards, and service distinctions and will retire from military service on October 1st. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and airman.

Lieutenant Colonel Kem began his military career in 1989 when he received his commission after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Human Factors Engineering. Lieutenant Colonel Kem served active duty from May 1989 through September 2000. Lieutenant Colonel Kem had a very successful active duty career; after commissioning he attended pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas and remained there after graduating as a First Assignment Instructor Pilot (FAIP) in the T-38. During his time at Laughlin Air Force Base, he flew as a check pilot, was an assistant Flight Commander, and the Runway Supervisory Unit Training and Standardization Officer-In-Charge.

Lieutenant Colonel Kem then flew the C-141 at Travis Air Force Base, California, working as a training officer and flying missions to all points of the world. His final active duty assignment was at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, as a Pilot Instructor Training (PIT) instructor in the T-1A. While stationed at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, he served as the assistant Chief of the Standardization and Evaluations division.

Lieutenant Colonel Kem joined the New York Air National Guard in 2002 and served with the 152nd Air Operations Group as an Air Mobility Liaison officer. While in that unit he was deployed overseas for the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom in early 2003. After returning from that deployment, Lieutenant Colonel Kem joined the RC-26 program at Hancock Field, supporting law enforcement throughout the Northeast, performing airborne counter drug surveillance operations.