

families referred by local schools. As the agency developed, it began providing case management services to help recent arrivals adjust to their new homes.

The organization grew rapidly and started providing important educational services to school-age children, including early child care. Shortly thereafter, CPC launched Project Reach, which provided programs for at-risk gang youth in Chinatown. Today that initiative offers services for youth of all backgrounds.

Today, CPC has blossomed into a critical anchor in our community. Over 8,000 people are served every day through more than 50 programs in 33 locations throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. Early childhood services provide a nurturing environment that offers young Chinese New Yorkers an environment to grow and learn.

Workforce development initiatives create economic opportunity by providing our city's residents with training, new skills and employment placement. Through these efforts, over the past year, CPC assisted over 2,500 clients, enrolling more than 525 of them into English as a Second Language classes and training over 200 others in construction, hospitality and luxury retail.

CPC has also become an important safety net for some of our city's seniors. Senior centers in Manhattan and Queens ensure we are caring for and honoring New York's elderly Chinese. The centers' meals provide a popular reason for seniors to come together, while food is brought to those who are homebound. Programs focused on music, art and entertainment help keep seniors culturally and intellectually stimulated and engaged.

Mr. Speaker, since its founding five decades ago, the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) has become an invaluable and critical force for good in our city. Today, it helps some of our most vulnerable neighbors, while strengthening our community overall and making New York a better place to live. I would ask my colleagues to join me in saluting CPC as it celebrates half a century of service to New York's Chinese community and to our entire city.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS LEGAL SUPPORT ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Veterans Legal Support Act of 2015, a bill to allow the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide certification and support to law school clinical programs that provide pro bono legal and support services to veterans, including, among other things, assistance with disability claims and appeals and foreclosures. There are already at least 22 law schools that have clinics devoted to veterans' legal needs, including the William & Mary Law School Veterans Benefits Clinic, which serves as a national model for this idea, as the law clinic was the first in the nation to receive a "best practice" certification from the VA. There are many other law schools, such as the University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law, that are interested in starting their own VA-certified clinics.

More than 600,000 veterans are waiting for their disability claims to be processed by the VA. With the assistance of lawyers and law professors, clinical programs provide free legal resources to assist veterans with processing their claims. My bill would merely build on what some law schools have begun to do for the last several years. More needs to be done to sustain and increase these programs.

Just as we honored our veterans on Veterans Day, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, a concrete measure that would assist our veterans, who have repeatedly put their lives on the line for this country, in their daily lives.

DAN ARVIZU

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dan Arvizu for his exceptional work as Director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado.

Dr. Arvizu is retiring this year, but his legacy of leadership and innovation will endure for many, many years to come. I want to take this moment to say thank you for outstanding stewardship of our nation's premier energy efficiency and renewable energy laboratory.

In addition to his role at NREL, Dr. Arvizu is Chairman of the National Science Board, which is the governing board of the National Science Foundation. He will continue his role as Chairman of the National Science Board and he will also become a visiting professor at Stanford University.

On behalf of everyone at NREL, the people of the state of Colorado, and the United States of America, let me say thank you for a job well done. We wish you all the best on the next steps of your journey.

HONORING MARY V. KING

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend and colleague, Mary V. King. Mary was a lifelong resident of Oakland, California, and dedicated her life to public service. She passed away earlier this week.

During her three-terms as the first African American County Supervisor for Alameda County, she authored many policies with lasting impact on the Bay Area, including a values-based budgeting process still in use by the county, and the King Plan for land-use, which is now considered a model for smart-growth. She also served as the chair of several community-based and regional committees, including the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC's) Bay Bridge Design Task Force. Among her many roles in public service, she worked tirelessly as the General Manager of the Alameda Contra Costa Transit District, often called the

AC Transit District, carrying the agency through tough economic times.

Mary and I became friends when we served together on MTC and worked together on the Caldecott Tunnel, which connects Alameda and Contra Costa counties and contributes to the economic development of our region. She used her considerable expertise in government to develop and advocate for efficient transportation systems, smart land-use planning, housing, and other policies that have helped to create opportunities throughout the Bay Area. She also worked to improve economic conditions and social services for lower income residents, promoting health and education, and youth violence prevention programs. The Mary V. King Health Education Center is named in her honor as part of the Eastmont Wellness Center in Oakland. She also founded the Alameda County "Women's Hall of Fame Awards," which recognizes the accomplishments of other women and has recognized more than 200 honorees.

Among her many accolades, Mary has been awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, the "Allen E. Broussard Memorial Award for Outstanding Humanitarianism" by the Alameda County Bar Association, the "George Moscone Memorial Award" by the American Society of Public Administration, the Community Leaders, Recognition Award by the Black Elected Officials and Faith Based Leaders of the East Bay, and was named the "Legislator of the Year" in 1992 by the Arc of the United States.

Mary is survived by her mother Victoria King, two daughters Kimberly and Vikki King, and two grandchildren. She leaves an indelible legacy on the East Bay, and will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the extraordinary life of Mary King, and I send my sincere and deepest condolences to her family, friends, and loved ones.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JUDGE TALMADGE LITTLEJOHN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Chancery Court Judge Talmadge Littlejohn of New Albany, Mississippi who joined his Heavenly Father on Monday, October 26, 2015.

Judge Littlejohn had a long, distinguished career as a public servant, including service as a district attorney, state legislator, and chancery court judge.

He served in our state house from 1960 to 1964 and the state senate from 1964 to 1968. In 2010 he was honored by the Mississippi Bar for his 50 years of practicing law. He was in his fourth term as a judge in the First Chancery Court District of Mississippi, which includes Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tishomingo, and Union counties.

Judge Littlejohn always conducted himself as a selfless public servant dedicated to fulfilling any task that was assigned to him.

He was an active member of First Baptist Church of New Albany, where he faithfully

served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. Judge Littlejohn was a man of family, faith, and a servant of God.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Julia Gray Littlejohn; his daughters, Lisa Gault (Phil) of Huntsville, Alabama and Christy Adair (Avery) of New Albany; his son, Bradley Littlejohn (Morgan) also of New Albany; his six grandchildren, Phillip Gault, Justin Gault, Katie Allison Gault, Julianne Littlejohn, Gray Littlejohn, and Ivy Littlejohn; one sister, Ivy Jean Weeden (John) of New Harmony; one aunt, Elaine Pannell of New Albany; and many nieces and nephews.

My thoughts and prayers are with Judge Littlejohn's family and friends during this difficult time.

THANK YOU MIKE PODEGRACZ
FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE
CITY OF HESPERIA

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, over my time representing the citizens of California's Eighth Congressional District, I have been able to spend time with and learn from some of the best community leaders America has to offer.

Today I rise to speak about Mike Podgracz, the City Manager of the City of Hesperia.

Mike was first appointed City Manager in 2005. During his time as City Manager, he has overseen the completion of the Ranchero Underpass and Interchange projects, the G Avenue Lead Track and the completion of the Hesperia's Civic Plaza Complex. Being fiscally conservative, Mike led the organization through the recession without staff layoffs while maintaining a balanced general fund budget. Having spent the first half of his career in the private sector, Mike understands the impact of superior customer service on the community, and places a special value on this trait across all city departments. Hesperia is a city known for its excellent customer service, and Mike has made this possible through all he has been able to accomplish.

I wish Mike the best in all that is yet to come. He has left a huge imprint on the City of Hesperia and I'm proud to have worked with him.

MARYANN PROCTOR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize MaryAnn Proctor for receiving the West Chamber's 2015 Celebrate Women Award. This award celebrates local women leaders with drive, perseverance and service to their community.

Whether it was tutoring second graders through the Bring up Grades (BUGS) program or volunteering at the Tennyson Center for abused children, MaryAnn lived to help others. On a daily basis, she oversaw the complex operations of Propp Realty leading the staff

and making business connections, not only from tenant to tenant, but with every person she met. She insisted on quality work, respect among coworkers, and encouraged potential leaders to conduct business fairly and professionally.

She served as a board member for the West Chamber, President-elect for Lakewood Kiwanis, a volunteer at ARC, The Action Center and Lakewood High School Key Club. Additionally, she served on several City of Lakewood committees and belonged to the West Colfax Business District. MaryAnn unexpectedly passed away at the end of 2014, leaving behind a tremendous legacy.

Thank you for recognizing MaryAnn Proctor with the 2015 Celebrate Women Award. Her leadership and service to the community will forever be remembered.

MARKING 20 YEARS SINCE THE
SIGNING OF THE DAYTON
AGREEMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, November 21 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Dayton Agreement, which ended the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

As a member and later Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I remember those events vividly—many Bosnians and Serbs testified before the Helsinki Commission in the 1990s (including victims of human rights abuses and human rights defenders) and some have since played leading roles as elected officials. In 1991, Frank Wolf and I visited Vukovar in neighboring Croatia while it was still under siege. With a group of other Helsinki Commissioners and Members of Congress, I urged a decisive international response under U.S. leadership from the very beginning of the war. In 1995 we spearheaded a movement to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia, so that it would not present such an inviting target to Serb militias. Sadly the embargo was lifted too late for the Bosniaks in Srebrenica.

Just last month I met with a group of young Bosniaks belonging to Voices of the Bosnian Genocide. It was so moving to meet with these young people—many of them were from Srebrenica—and to learn how many of them had taken up work or study that sought to bring some good out of the horrors of 1995. Many studied human rights law, or conflict resolution, or medicine.

Their lives were shaped not only by Srebrenica but also by Dayton, which brought an end to the killing. Yet as public officials we have a responsibility to remember that robust action earlier in the conflict could have saved many more lives and produced better prospects for the future.

Twenty years later, this Dayton anniversary offers the opportunity to assess what has been achieved in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The agreement should rightly be remembered for restoring a peace that has held to this day, and for ensuring the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Dayton gave the country time to begin to heal from a horrific conflict infamous for ethnic

cleansing and atrocities against innocent civilians, including the genocide at Srebrenica—which we remembered with the unanimous passage of House Resolution 310 this past July—as well as the shelling of Sarajevo and other urban centers, and the rape and death camps established by Serb militant forces at the beginning of their aggression. In this small country, over two million were displaced by the conflict, more than 100,000 were killed, and tens of thousands were raped or tortured. Scars made by crimes of this scale still remain.

Dayton was a central part of an effort that helped the international community transition from a world divided between East and West in order to meeting post-Cold War challenges, including the extreme and violent nationalism and its inherent hatred for others which manifested itself elsewhere in the Balkans and Europe. For the first time since World War II, an international tribunal was established to hold persons accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Determining the fate of missing persons, using new technology such as satellite photography to locate mass graves and DNA testing to identify remains, became a priority. The NATO Alliance, previously confined to the borders of its member states, expanded its security role to operate “out of area,” first to restore peace and then to keep it. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also evolved to include significant field operations and new mandates ranging from election observation to police training. These developments remain relevant today.

As we commemorate the accomplishments of Dayton, Mr. Speaker, we also must remember that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina must live in its wake. It is my hope that, at the 30th anniversary of the end of the conflict, Bosnia will have made more progress and we will have more to celebrate.

STATEMENT PUBLISHED BY MRS.
MARYAM RAJAVI OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RESISTANCE OF IRAN, CONDEMNING THE RECENT TERROR ATTACKS IN PARIS

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following statement published in the Washington Times on November 18, 2015, by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, condemning the recent terror attacks in Paris.

On behalf of the Iranian people and the Iranian Resistance for freedom and democracy, I strongly condemn the terrorist attacks and massacre of defenseless people in Paris on November 13, 2015.

I extend my condolences to the Republic's President and government as well as the French people for the loss of life in these attacks, which are true examples of crime against humanity.

I express my heartfelt sympathies to the victims' families. Today, our hearts bleed for the French nation. The people of Iran deeply feel the bitterness of these crimes.

In these difficult moments, the Iranian people can empathize with the French people