

## IN RECOGNITION OF TERRY NAGEL

## HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 30, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Terry Nagel, the retiring Mayor and member of the Burlingame City Council. The word “indefatigable” comes to mind when reciting Terry Nagel’s public service.

Mayor Nagel joined the Burlingame City Council in 2003 after receiving the highest number of votes in any council race. She has served three terms as Mayor.

When she launched her council career, she had to do so in periodic darkness because the local power company frequently failed to supply Burlingame with electricity, largely owing to antiquated infrastructure that left the city prone to blackouts during storms. It should be noted that although the power company sometimes failed to provide electricity because of this old equipment, it found a way to buy modern equipment so that Burlingame customers could receive monthly bills for the erratic electrical service. Over several years, Terry Nagel pressured the power company to change its priorities and to spend millions of dollars to make sure the system is reliable, both for Burlingame and surrounding communities. She still receives phone calls during storms from residents who thank her for keeping the lights on.

While every council member shares in the success of a community, Terry Nagel initiated many of the most notable successes, including a recent rebirth of Burlingame Avenue that has given the town a beacon for families, newcomers and visitors. The project took many years to undertake and then to complete, but the results are indisputable. Burlingame’s main street is attractive and distinctive, with upgraded businesses to match the beautiful public infrastructure. Terry Nagel can rightfully claim that she helped to create a welcoming and charming cityscape that will be enjoyed by multiple generations.

Mayor Nagel has promoted open government, fiscal responsibility and championed emergency preparedness. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority. She started the Burlingame Pet Parade, a fun-filled family event in Burlingame’s community calendar. In conjunction with her public service, she created the Community Wish List that connects donors with over 80 community nonprofits.

She has extensive professional experience managing nonprofits and promoting such venerable institutions as the Stanford Law School. She is a former reporter for our local newspaper, and she is a graduate of the University of Washington, cum laude, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

Mayor Nagel and her husband Jim Nagel have lived in Burlingame for 32 years. If you do the math, you’ll realize that her family, including sons Matt and Greg and daughter Katie, have seen Mayor Nagel walk out the door in service to the public for nearly 40% of the time that she has lived in town. This represents thousands of hours outside the home, in dedication to her neighbors and generations yet to come. That’s thousands of hours away from her family, yet her family has been rock solid in its support of her vision.

We rise today to honor a great leader of the City of Burlingame and my friend and colleague Terry Nagel. She says that her focus is on communication and building consensus. In fact, it is all of those things and more. She is the penultimate community steward, and although we wish her well in her next adventures, we can also truly say that she will be missed in the years ahead.

## HONORING MARY V. KING

## HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 30, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congressman MIKE HONDA and Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, to honor the inspiring life of an exemplary member of the East Bay community, Mary V. King. With her passing on November 15th, 2015, we honor her career of extraordinary service to the East Bay community and her lasting legacy.

As a young mother on public assistance, Mary was drawn into politics to improve the economic conditions of lower income residents. She successfully led a county tax initiative campaign that created new sources of funding for public transit and other transportation projects. In 1988, she became the first African-American woman elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and was reelected twice. During her tenure, she authored several monumental policies, including the King Plan, a major land-use amendment to protect open space while maintaining sustainable development in unincorporated areas.

Mary also dedicated much of her time to improving the social services provided to lower income residents. Because of her advocacy, the Mary V. King Health Education Center, located at the Eastmont Wellness Center in Oakland, was named in her honor.

After leaving office in 2001, Mary worked as a private consultant specializing in government affairs, regional housing, and transportation issues. In 2009, she was appointed the General Manager of AC Transit, where she served faithfully until her retirement in 2012.

Mary also served on numerous local and regional committees, including the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), California Department of Corrections, and the Alameda County Central Committee. She also served as a Chief of Staff to Oakland Mayor Lionel J. Wilson and California State Legislator Bill Lockyer.

Throughout her career, she received numerous awards including the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials; the “Allen E. Broussard Memorial Award for Outstanding Humanitarianism” from the Alameda County Bar Association; and the “George Moscone Memorial Award” from the American Society of Public Administration. In 2014, she was awarded the Metropolitan Transportation Grant award for her leadership as Chair of the Bay Bridge Design Task Force during the construction of the Eastern Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

On a personal note, I will always remember Mary for her many contributions as a public servant, but more importantly, as a loving

mother, grandmother, daughter, and friend. Mary always put her family first. She loved and cared for her beautiful mother, children, and grandchildren in ways that I witnessed and admired. I was inspired by how she balanced her work and her personal life, always rising to the occasion in both. Mary’s humanity was never destroyed by politics and power. She was authentic in all of her relationships, and she will be deeply missed.

Today, California’s 13th Congressional District salutes the life of a remarkable individual and devoted public servant, Mary V. King. Her service has helped countless residents of the East Bay community and her contributions are innumerable. I join all of Ms. King’s loved ones in celebrating her incredible accomplishments and offer my sincerest condolences.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE TAXPAYER RIGHTS ACT OF 2015

## HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 30, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I have been introducing taxpayer rights legislation since 2004, and today I am proud to introduce the Taxpayer Rights Act of 2015, a bill that contains important provisions to improve services for and protect the rights of American taxpayers, particularly those with modest incomes. Senator CARDIN, who previously helped lead efforts in the House to pass the original Taxpayer Bill of Rights, is introducing companion legislation in the Senate. Many of these provisions are based on recommendations from the National Taxpayer Advocate, Nina Olson, who has long been a champion of improving taxpayer services and tax administration at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

As former Nixon Treasury Secretary William Simon said, “The nation should have a tax system that looks like someone designed it on purpose.” As we look for ways to improve the tax code to make it fairer and more transparent for all taxpayers, it is critical that ideas to help improve IRS service and accessibility are included in this conversation. Every year, millions of taxpayers file their returns with the IRS and inevitably issues of tax administration come to the forefront. These issues range from taxpayers not knowing their legal rights when interacting with the IRS, to taxpayers enlisting unscrupulous or poorly-trained preparers to help them complete one of their most important financial transactions of the year. This legislation aims to help prevent taxpayers from finding themselves in these avoidable situations, and to build on and improve taxpayer services provided through the IRS.

The centerpiece of this Act is the requirement that Treasury publish a Taxpayer Bill of Rights. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights is a simple and straightforward statement that enumerates all taxpayers’ rights and obligations. As the National Taxpayer Advocate explained in her 2011 Report to Congress: “In a time when the IRS will feel pressure to bring in additional tax revenue, it is crucial to provide taxpayers with strong protection for their rights.” Currently, these rights and obligations are scattered throughout the tax code and Internal Revenue Manual, making them neither accessible nor written in plain language that most taxpayers can understand.

This Act also helps improve the quality and accessibility of tax preparation services and advice available to taxpayers in several different ways. First, it clarifies that the IRS has the authority to regulate tax return preparers. Ensuring tax preparers are trained, competent, and current on tax law developments will go a long way towards helping taxpayers during one of their most important financial transactions of the year. The Act also helps ensure moderate income taxpayers access qualified tax assistance by supporting a grant program for free income tax assistance services, like those offered by the Koreatown Youth and Community Center in my district in Los Angeles. It also allows IRS referrals to Low Income Taxpayer Clinics, which provide representation to modest income taxpayers in their disputes with the IRS. In addition, the Act puts new protections in place to ensure taxpayer information remains confidential, and increases penalties on preparers of fraudulent tax returns.

Finally, this bill includes several provisions that would improve IRS taxpayer services. One important provision provides greater protections for taxpayers when they are faced with a Notice of a Federal Tax Lien filing (NFTL). Filing of an NFTL can result in significant, longterm hardship to a taxpayer, and may adversely affect the taxpayer's credit, thus impairing his or her ability to conduct financial transactions or secure employment. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act requires the IRS to make individualized determinations before the filing of an NFTL, and also requires consideration of hardship factors and a taxpayer's history of compliance before these determinations are made.

Many of the issues identified in this bill have caused confusion and undue hardship for taxpayers across the country. I encourage all of my colleagues to support these common sense provisions to promote taxpayer rights and services for all Americans.

#### HONORING PETER DIPAOLA

##### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 30, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and a true community leader, Pelham Town Supervisor Peter DiPaola, who has served his community in elected office with distinction for close to 25 years.

A resident of Pelham Manor since 1952, Peter has always had a love affair with Pelham Manor and its residents. He attended Siwanoy Elementary School while his future wife attended Prospect Hill, beginning a family legacy in the Pelham Elementary School system that has lasted three generations.

In 1991, Peter began his life of public service as a member of the Pelham Manor Planning Board, and never looked back. To call Peter's career in elected office diverse or extensive would be an understatement. He served as Pelham Manor Trustee, with oversight for administration, planning, and finance; Fire Commissioner; Police Commissioner; Commissioner of Public Works; was elected Mayor of the Village of Pelham Manor in 2001; Town Councilman in 2004; and finally Pelham

Town Supervisor in 2012, the role in which he currently still serves.

As Town Supervisor, Peter has worked diligently to maintain the beauty and charm that has defined Pelham for decades. In spite of state mandated tax caps, he has overseen a redesign and improvement of the Town Court, a renovation of Gazebo Park, an expansion of the offerings by the Pelham Recreation Department, as well as an improvement of town services and programs, all while staying under the 2 percent tax cap. He has also worked hard to obtain vital funding through local, state, and federal grants, some of which my office has helped procure, for initiatives ranging from Superstorm Sandy repairs to improvements to Trotta Park. Peter's ability to deliver the services Pelham's residents have come to expect from their local government, while exhibiting strict fiscal responsibility, has been masterful, and as Pelham's Congressman I have always counted myself fortunate to have such a wonderful partner in government.

Peter and I may not come from the same side of the aisle, but we have always had a great relationship, built on a foundation of mutual respect while working together in the spirit of bipartisanship. As the American Legion Pelham Post 50 honors Peter at their annual Veterans Week Dinner Dance, I want to take a moment to honor him as well, and thank his wife, children, and grandchildren for sharing him with the entire community. There is no more fitting honoree than Peter, and he is most deserving of this recognition.

#### UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

##### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 30, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,719,613,274,893.51. We've added \$8,092,736,225,980.43 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### HONORING SHAWN FRIEDKIN

##### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 30, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shawn Friedkin for receiving the Arnold H. Snider Visionary Leadership Award from the Reeve Foundation, recognizing his many years of tireless work on behalf of disabled people.

Twenty years ago, Shawn was a newly married man with a young daughter when his life was forever changed. After a terrible car accident, Shawn experienced unreparable damage to his spinal cord and would never walk again.

On November 19, the Reeve Foundation held its 25th Annual "A Magical Evening" fundraiser in New York, where Mr. Friedkin's

hard work was recognized. In 1997 Shawn founded Stand Among Friends, an organization to help people with disabilities live life to their full potential. Since then he has been involved in raising funds for neurological research and creating programs to support people with disabilities in our community. As President of this organization, Mr. Friedkin opened a disability center on Florida Atlantic University's campus in 2006, which has helped place over 800 people in jobs.

Shawn is an inspiration, and I am pleased to recognize him today and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 30, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 643 on final passage of H.R. 4038, the American SAFE Act of 2015, I would have voted aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 30, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay on March 23, 2015, I was unable to attend House Roll Call Vote numbers 130 and 131. If present, I would have voted yes on H.R. 360 and H. Res. 162.

#### HONORING MASTER SERGEANT FRANK NORWOOD

##### HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 30, 2015

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Master Sergeant Frank Norwood, an outstanding Maine veteran and patriot who has distinguished himself with his outstanding service to our country, state, and veterans.

Master Sergeant Norwood is well known in my state for his role as the Maine Military Funeral Honors Coordinator, a post in which he has earned statewide respect from military, government, and civilian communities. Since 2005, his team has performed 12,000 military funerals and, over the last five years, has been at every single Maine veteran's funeral. This incredible feat—unmatched by any other state—is a true show of respect to the veterans who have defended our country.

In addition, Master Sergeant Norwood has led the Maine State Select Honor Guard to become the pride of the Maine Army National Guard. During his tenure there, he has coordinated over 700 events and personally participated in over 500 of them, ranging from gubernatorial inaugurations, posting colors at major sporting events, and performing military funerals for our fallen heroes. Additionally, he has instructed numerous veterans' organizations and community groups on ceremonial