

TRIBUTE TO LARRY AND GLORIA SOUTH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry and Gloria South of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1960.

Larry and Gloria's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, Dee, Tammie, Judy, Margaret and Alice, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Souths that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 55th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

THE OCCASION OF MR. PAT CORELLA'S RETIREMENT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and congratulate Mr. Pat Corella on the occasion of his retirement from his post as Deputy Director of the Pima County Library.

Mr. Corella has dedicated over fifty years to serving his community with distinction. Born from humble beginnings, Mr. Corella has become a symbol of hard work, perseverance, and selflessness. A Tucson native, Mr. Corella is one of six siblings with strong family ties. Since a young age, Mr. Corella has borne much responsibility whether helping his family harvest crops in California during the summers to becoming an independent young man. He graduated from Pueblo High School in 1965 and soon began his involvement with the Pima County Public Library system. As a library page, he assisted in shelving, book circulation, operating equipment and researching.

In 1970 after marrying and beginning a family, he enrolled in the University of Arizona as a full-time student. In less than four years, Mr. Corella earned his bachelor's degree in Government and Public Administration. During that time, it was his job to drive the "bookmobile" to areas in Tucson and Pima County where he provided imperative library services to low-income and underrepresented communities.

Mr. Corella was instrumental in the opening of library branches in Tucson's barrios and surrounding rural communities. Due in part to his leadership, nineteen library branches were opened and sixteen others were either expanded or remodeled. Mr. Corella has always understood that libraries were educational institutions full of opportunity for underserved communities. He helped transition these library branches to modern technology and expanded the role of providing more services and resources beyond books. Today, Pima County branch libraries provide literacy programs for adults and children, after-school tu-

toring and access to computers and community services.

Mr. Corella's final day was November 26, 2015, exactly fifty years to the day he began as a library page.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honor to recognize the commitment and dedication to our Southern Arizona community and the library system that Mr. Corella has demonstrated for well over fifty years.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Northern Virginia Community College. Over the past two decades, the National Capital Region, especially Northern Virginia, has experienced explosive growth, becoming one of the most economically vibrant and diverse regions in the country. Northern Virginia Community College has been a major contributing factor to this success.

Established in 1964 under the name Northern Virginia Technical College, the school opened with 761 students in a single building in Bailey's Crossroads. Renamed in 1966, Northern Virginia Community College, known locally as NOVA, now serves more than 100,000 full and part-time students at six campuses and three satellite educational centers, and through online learning.

NOVA graduates who receive passing grades in designated courses are guaranteed admission to more than 40 area four-year colleges and universities. An in-state student can save approximately \$15,000, or 30% of tuition and fees, for a baccalaureate degree by attending NOVA for two years and then transferring to a public four-year institution. High school students can take advantage of this opportunity beginning at age 16.

It is the largest public educational institution in Virginia and the second-largest community college in the United States. It is also one of the most internationally diverse colleges in the nation, with 20% of the student population consisting of individuals from more than 180 countries. Nearly 4,000 faculty and staff members serve the students and the broader community. Nearly 300,000 individuals attend community activities on NOVA campuses each year.

NOVA offers a wide variety of programs that support academic achievement and personal growth, and that promote civic engagement, leadership development, community involvement, health & wellness, and culture. Dozens of student-led organizations enrich campus life and specialized populations such as the disabled or current and former members of the military receive services tailored to their unique circumstances.

Our local economy and our nation's security have benefitted from NOVA's innovative workforce development programs and cybersecurity curricula. Employers can rely on new-hires with credentials from NOVA and can partner with NOVA to develop customized training solutions so that recent graduates or current em-

ployees possess cutting edge skills required to succeed in a dynamic economy. The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated NOVA as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance, and representatives from the intelligence community routinely recruit graduates with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Cybersecurity from NOVA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating NOVA on 50 years of delivering world-class post-secondary education and workforce development to ensure our region and the Commonwealth of Virginia continue to have such a highly-educated population and a globally competitive workforce. NOVA truly exemplifies the crucial role that publicly-supported higher education plays in our society. I look forward to seeing what NOVA will accomplish in the next 50 years.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO DEFEAT ISIS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday evening, President Obama addressed the nation and detailed his four-part plan, as Commander-in-Chief, to keep the American people safe from terrorist acts committed by terrorist groups like ISIL and al Qaeda or by persons abroad or lone wolf "franchise terrorists" at home who are inspired by groups that profane the peaceful religion of Islam.

First, the plan calls for our military to continue hunting down terrorist plotters in any country where it is necessary.

In Iraq and Syria, American airpower has been used to great effect, taking out ISIL leaders, heavy weapons, oil tankers, and infrastructure.

Second, the plan calls for the United States to take away safe havens for terrorists by continuing to provide training and equipment to the tens of thousands of Iraqi and Syrian forces fighting ISIL.

The third part of the plan involves working with friends and allies to disrupt ISIL's operations by cutting off access to financing and disrupting recruitment efforts.

Finally, the plan calls for continued American leadership, working in conjunction with the international community, to establish a process—and timeline—to pursue ceasefires and a political resolution to the Syrian civil war.

Ending the civil war in Syria will allow the Syrian people, our allies, and also Russia, to focus on the common goal of destroying ISIL.

Critics have every right to disagree with the President's approach but they also have an obligation to propose realistic and practical alternatives to the President's plan, which, by the way, has been designed by American military commanders and counterterrorism experts and supported by the 65 countries that are part of the American-led coalition.

Our quarrel is not with Islam so I also commend the President's appeal for calm, unity, and cooperation among all persons of goodwill both in the United States and around the world.

The terrorist attacks in San Bernardino were horrific acts on innocent civilians perpetrated

by depraved individuals who pledge allegiance to organizations that misuse the peaceful religion of Islam for their own misguided purposes.

Such horrible and heinous acts are the responsibility of the perpetrators, and theirs alone, and for which they can be assured that they alone will be held accountable.

This was one of the central messages conveyed during the Prayer Vigil and Unity Press Conference I led last Sunday afternoon in Houston, the 4th largest and most diverse city in the United States.

In addition to the steps laid out by the President, I also believe there are additional steps the Congress should take, including bringing to the floor for debate and vote to pass H.R. 48, the “No Fly for Foreign Fighters Act,” that I introduced earlier this year.

This legislation would require TSA to check the Terrorist Screening Database and the terrorist watch list used in determining whether to permit a passenger to board a U.S.-bound or domestic flight and to take appropriate steps to ensure that those who pose a threat to aviation safety or national security are included in the Terrorism Database.

I ask a moment of silence for the victims killed and injured in the attacks by franchise terrorists last Wednesday in San Bernardino, California.

IN HONOR OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY
OF RAYMOND COCHRAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Pastor Raymond Cochran on his 80th birthday on December 13th.

Raymond was born in Lee County, Alabama in 1935 to John and Lucille Cochran.

Mr. Cochran found a passion for religion at an early age, having joined the Ebenezer Baptist Church at age seven. He holds Bachelors and Masters of Bible Theology degrees from the International Institute and Seminary in Plymouth, Florida, in addition to a Bachelor of Arts degree from Selma University in Selma, Alabama.

He also holds two honorary doctorates, in divinity and law, from the Union Theological Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Cochran has received numerous awards in recognition of his long service, and is involved in numerous community groups.

He served as the Pastor of seven different churches throughout Alabama and Georgia, before joining the Franchise Missionary Baptist in Phenix City, Alabama, where he has been the pastor for the past 47 years. Mr. Cochran and his wife Mary have six daughters, two sons, nineteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Mr. Raymond Cochran and wishing him a happy 80th birthday!

TRIBUTE TO MARK LARSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mark Larsen, of Mount Ayr, Iowa for being selected as a member of the Mount Ayr Community Hall of Fame.

Mark was hired as a math teacher and girls' basketball and track coach at Mount Ayr Schools in 1970. He coached six-on-six, and later five-on-five basketball, winning 286 games in total. His girls basketball teams won six conference titles and qualified for the state tournament in 1998. His girls track teams claimed 15 conference titles and four district championships. He also started the girls softball program in 1972, and on the softball diamond his teams amassed over 700 wins. Mark was inducted into the Iowa Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998 and was elected to the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Mark's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him and Iowans like him in the United States Congress. As a coach, teacher, and athletic director, he has had a profound impact on the lives of thousands of Iowa's young people. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mark for his achievements and wish him nothing but continued success.