

evolved with technology and the changing needs of its patrons, providing computers and free Wi-Fi access, career services, research assistance, literacy and citizenship classes, and homebound library services among many other vital services. The Long Branch Free Public Library also serves as a place for the community to come together, offering programs for children and young adults, book clubs, cultural events, historical programs and activities for all ages.

The Long Branch Free Public Library is a welcome place for the community to share and has been recognized for its efforts to offer an outstanding space for learning and civic involvement. It was selected by Asbury Park Press readers as one of the Best Libraries in Monmouth County in 2015 and received the 2014 New Jersey State Library Innovation Award. Its Director, Tonya Garcia, was also named the New Jersey Library Association 2016 Librarian of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Long Branch Free Public Library. The library continues to uphold its mission to assist the community and its efforts are to be recognized.

IN HONOR OF RAMON "CHUNKY"
SANCHEZ

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ramon 'Chunky' Sanchez, an exceptional musician and activist for the community of San Diego. Chunky Sanchez passed away on Friday, October 28, 2016, a few days before his sixty-fifth birthday.

Chunky Sanchez was born in 1951 in Blythe, California to Mexican immigrant parents. He was a talented musician, who was taught traditional Mexican music by his mother and uncles.

Chunky Sanchez quickly learned how to sing, play ten different instruments, and compose his own music. In 1969 he attended San Diego State University on a scholarship and began performing with La Rondalla Amerindia de Aztlan, a noted musical group composed of students and professors.

Later, Chunky Sanchez became a vocalist for the folklore group Los Alcranes (The Scorpions) which he co-founded along with his brother Ricardo. They recorded their first album in 1977. Through his music, he would tell the story of the Chicano movement and of the Mexican American bi-cultural experience.

Chunky Sanchez was so well received that labor leader Cesar Chavez would often invite him to play at union rallies. Chunky Sanchez was also an incredibly active member of the San Diego community. In his song 'Rising Souls', he sang that we needed to 'educate, not incarcerate, so that humanity will shine.'

During his lifetime he embodied these lyrics as he worked with local youth as a coach, an educator, a youth center director, and a gang intervention counselor. His passion and care for the community garnered numerous awards and honors from organizations across California and throughout the City of San Diego.

Chunky Sanchez is best known for his song "Chicano Park Samba", which narrated the

struggle for and successful creation of Chicano Park in San Diego. A City Historic Landmark, Chicano Park honors the history of the Chicano Mexican people through monumental murals, sculptures, earthworks, and an architectural piece.

Earlier in the 114th Congress, I introduced H.R. 3711, the Chicano Park Preservation Act to preserve Chicano Park as part of the National Historic system. Coincidentally, this bill is being marked up by the House Natural Resources Committee later today. I would like to thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for supporting this legislation. It's a fitting way to honor Ramon 'Chunky' Sanchez's memory.

Ramon Chunky Sanchez will be missed by his family—his wife Isabel, five children, many grandchildren and the San Diego community.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the lyrics of the Chicano Park Samba.

CHICANO PARK SAMBA LYRICS

LOS ALACRANES MOJADOS: CHUNKY SANCHEZ,
RICARDO SANCHEZ, MARIO AGUILAR, MARCO
ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ

In the year the year 1970, in the city of San Diego, under the Coronado Bridge, I led a little piece of land, a piece of land that the community of Logan Heights wanted to make into a park . . .

A park where all the chavalitos could play in so they wouldn't have to play in the street and get run over by a car . . . a park where all the viejitos could come and just sit down and watch the sun go down in the tarde . . .

a park where all the familias could come and just get together on a Sunday afternoon and celebrate the spirit of life itself.

But the city of San Diego said, "Chale. We're going to make a highway patrol substation here, man."

So on April 22nd, 1970, la raza of Logan Heights and other Chicano communities of San Diego got together, and they organized . . .

and they walked on the land, and they took it over with their picks and their shovels and they began to build their park. And today, that little piece of land under the Coronado Bridge is known to everybody . . . as Chicano Park . . . Orale!

It began in 1970, under the Coronado Bridge En mi barrio, in San Diego

Where my people began to fight
For Chicano Park, for Chicano Park
Under the bridge, under the bridge, under the
bridge . . .

We shall continue to live my brother,
We shall continue to fight my friend
For Chicano Park, under the bridge . . .
Raza!, Que vivan, que vivan, Los barrios
unidos!

RECOGNIZING 1ST CONGRESS-
SIONAL DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
SCHOOLS FOR ACHIEVING THE
NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calvary Day School and Jacob G. Smith Elementary School in Savannah as well as Midway Elementary School in Blackshear for being awarded the National Blue Ribbon in 2016 by the U.S. Secretary of Education, John B. King, Jr.

These outstanding schools won the blue ribbon for their overall academic excellence, progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups, and demonstrating that all students can strive to achieve peak levels in education.

The award is an extraordinary achievement for these schools. The selection process for National Blue Ribbon Award is highly competitive and schools from all over the country compete for this prestigious honor.

I am proud to rise today to congratulate the principals, staff, students, and families of the schools for their hard work in achieving this national recognition. I wish them the best of luck this school year and encourage them to continue their impressive work in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

CONGRATULATING TAYLORVILLE
AS THE CHILLI CAPITAL OF IL-
LINOIS

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate my hometown of Taylorville on its designation as the Chilli Capital of Illinois.

Taylorville hosts five International Chilli Society cook-offs every year, in addition to numerous local and regional events. Each summer, Taylorville is home to the Christian County Ag Fair's chilli cookoff and in October, Taylorville hosts its own "Chillinois Regional" Chillifest.

Annually, these competitions bring twelve chilli-cooking world champions to Taylorville and as many as ten thousand chilli connoisseurs. Earlier this year, the Illinois General Assembly passed H.R. 1357, which officially named Taylorville the Chilli Capital of Illinois.

I am very proud of my hometown and I would like to commend Mayor Brotherton and the City of Taylorville on this distinction. I look forward to celebrating many more years as the state's chilli capital.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GERTIE
FLETCHER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the life of Mrs. Gertrude "Gertie" Mae Smith Fletcher of Ashburn, Virginia. Throughout her life, Mrs. Fletcher was a respected leader in the community as she and her husband Charlie were founding members of Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. Her dedicated service has kept the people of the Ashburn community safe for over 60 years.

One morning in 1947, Gertrude was busy preparing for an event at the fire station when an alarm was dispatched. Her brother-in-law, Carly Fletcher, was the only fireman that responded to answer the call that morning. Realizing that he may need help in this situation, Carly called for Mrs. Fletcher to get in the

truck with him and promptly deputized her as a volunteer firefighter. Ever since that day, Mrs. Fletcher supported the Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department through her service as an officer of the Ladies Auxiliary. Her selfless legacy will forever be a part of both organizations.

Always willing to lend a hand to a neighbor in need, Gertie was an irreplaceable pillar of our community. Mrs. Fletcher was active in all phases of community life in Ashburn, from her leadership at the Calvary Baptist Church to her role in forming the Blue Ridge Speech and Hearing Center. She always worked tirelessly to better her community. Mrs. Fletcher is survived by her son, Tom Fletcher, two grandchildren, Brian and Catherine, and two great-grandchildren, Taryn and Brock and a sister, Aileen. She will be missed by the countless lives she has touched over her years of public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of, and bidding farewell to, Gertrude Mae Smith Fletcher. May she rest in peace, and her family be comforted.

RECOGNIZING IMPACT BROWARD

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Impact Broward and the critical work they do in South Florida. This vital organization has served Broward County through a dedicated commitment to providing at-risk children, veterans, senior citizens, and other individuals with the resources and care that they so urgently need.

Each day, Impact Broward provides students with academic assistance, offers support to veterans, assists struggling senior citizens, and supports Broward County Non-Profits. These programs exist because of the strong commitment of all Impact Broward's staff, and I would like to especially acknowledge their President and CEO, Peter Kaldes, for the exceptional work that he has done to ensure that all Broward County residents get the care and support that they need.

Congratulations to today's honorees: Dr. Philip Greenberg of the William "Bill" Kling VA Clinic, receiving the 2016 Edith S. Lederberg Wisdom in Action Award; Bruce Williams of the Pride Center, receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award; Deputy Lauren Apollo of the Broward Sheriff's Office, receiving the Individual Award; Whole Foods Market, receiving the Award of Excellence; Flora Lathem of the Foster Grandparent Program, receiving the Robert Scott Public Service Award for Volunteering with Children; Jacqueline Coleman, receiving the Senior Companion Volunteer Award; Lisa Pohle, receiving the RSVP Seniors, Teachers Achieving Reading Success Volunteer Award; and American Express receiving the Corporate Excellence Award.

I express deep appreciation for Impact Broward's great work. Their dedication to provide struggling individuals with critical attention and support is noble.

RECOGNIZING DIRECTOR GALE MCCOY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Gale McCoy and all of her accomplishments as Director of the Atlanta Passport Agency.

Over the last 5 years, the Atlanta Passport Agency has assisted a copious amount of Americans with passport issuance for immediate travel since the agency opened in 2011. This year alone the Atlanta Passport Agency has helped more than 38,000 citizens.

Director McCoy has worked with the Atlanta Passport Agency since its inception, providing a service which is important to residents across Georgia because, otherwise, Georgians would need to travel to New Orleans, Miami, or Washington, DC, to gain an urgent, new passport. In addition to her time working with the Atlanta Passport Agency, Director McCoy has worked for the U.S. Department of State in various other capacities for more than 30 years.

Later this year, Mrs. McCoy will retire as the Director of the Atlanta Passport Agency. I rise today to recognize her effort and accomplishments in assisting U.S. Citizens and thank her for the service she has provided to many people in the First Congressional District of Georgia. I wish her the best with her future endeavors.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. With the mission of promoting self-sufficiency among low-income and vulnerable populations by confronting the causes and reducing the effects of poverty, CEO has consistently advanced the wellbeing of my constituents and our community in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Commission on Economic Opportunity was established in 1966 as a multi-service, nonprofit organization. With its central office in Wilkes-Barre, CEO has expanded to include offices throughout my district in Hazleton, Tunkhannock, and Kingston. CEO operates more than 20 community development programs, and, with over 150 full and part-time employees, their work serves over 32,000 individuals in Northeastern Pennsylvania each year. CEO's ability to adapt to the changing nature of poverty has been a key part of their success, and this allows them to use flexible and local solutions to promote self-sufficiency in our region.

When I was mayor, I worked with Gene Brady and CEO to develop the Pine Street neighborhood in Hazleton. This area was in need of renovation, and after a four block section of land was donated, Gene and I brought

the community together to build single-family homes. Staying true to their mission, CEO helped these families take control of their mortgages and become self-sufficient homeowners. Over ten years later, the Pine Street neighborhood is still thriving thanks to the work of Gene and all of the employees and volunteers at CEO, and this truly exemplifies their ability to increase the standard of living for all.

As a father of four and grandfather of four, I recognize the importance of providing our children with every opportunity to succeed. That's why I am grateful that an organization like CEO has taken a leading role in creating child and family-centered services in my district to ensure that the challenges of poverty do not limit anyone's potential. The Commission on Economic Opportunity also understands the need for strategic partnerships to address the root causes of poverty. Their efforts to provide funding and leadership for groups such as Luzerne County Head Start, the Child Development Council of NEPA, Rural Health Corporation of NEPA, and Maternal and Family Services of NEPA, have allowed them to reach the community at large, while efficiently using their resources to establish more low-income organizations in the region. The Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Center for Healthy Living exemplifies their strategic partnerships, as they utilize their own Weinberg Food Bank to store and distribute food to a network of regional agencies, with the intent of helping people go "from hungry to healthy."

Mr. Speaker, with 50 years of successful service in Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Commission on Economic Opportunity has consistently set an example of what can be achieved when a private organization engages with their community. On behalf of my constituents, I want to thank the board of directors, staff, and volunteers that have worked tirelessly to make their goal of "People Helping People" possible, and I look forward to their continued success in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAXINE PRATHER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge one of my constituents, Maxine Prather, who turned 99 years old on September the 19th. Mrs. Prather's life has been a truly American story. Born in 1917, Maxine lived through some of the most uncertain times in American history during which she not only endured, but flourished.

Maxine Prather, affectionately called Gigi by her grandkids, worked as a secretary for many years. She was a devoted wife to her husband who was a Methodist Minister. Through the years, the family travelled the country to preach the scripture. It was through these travels that Maxine developed an interest in collecting beautiful china for her home. To this day Maxine Prather still enjoys entertaining guests, shopping and visiting the great museums our nation has to offer every chance she gets.