

Mr. Speaker, once again, congratulations to the Edina High School Girls' Swimming and Diving Team on a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF REPRESENTATIVES CHARLES B. RANGEL AND CORRINE BROWN

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the legacies of two of my esteemed colleagues, CHARLES B. RANGEL and CORRINE BROWN. At the close of this Congress, Representative RANGEL and Representative BROWN will be concluding a combined sixty-nine years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I am truly appreciative and honored to have worked with these two dedicated and respected individuals. Today, I want to especially recognize their work for the Veterans Braintrust Forum, founded by Congressman RANGEL in 1988. The Veterans Braintrust Forum serves as a virtual advisory group for the Congressional Black Caucus on veteran's issues. This year's forum focused on the VA's Commission on Care report. I am so thankful for the unwavering commitment that these two Members of Congress have for our nation's military, veterans, and African Americans, and I am proud to call them my friends.

Representative RANGEL began his work in Congress forty-six years ago, and I am proud to have been able to work beside him. A Korean War veteran, he entered public service fighting for civil rights and military veterans. In 1965, he participated in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery and in 1971 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives for the first time.

During his tenure in Congress, Representative RANGEL provided decades of leadership on veteran's issues by increasing educational and health benefits for the Vietnam Era and Desert Storm veterans, securing the creation of the Harlem Veterans Outreach Center, and implementing tax protection for members of our Armed Forces and veterans. He also was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, an organization dedicated to advancing the global African American community.

Representative RANGEL is not the only one transitioning from the House at the end of this term. Over two decades ago Representative CORRINE BROWN and I began serving together in Congress. She has been an effective advocate for our nations' veterans. Her leadership on the House Veterans Affairs Committee has helped to ensure that veterans have the resources they need to live healthy and productive lives. She also spent her time supporting the concerns of women veterans and fighting to end homelessness among veterans. Through her efforts, the first African American Marines, the Montford Point Marines, also were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Representatives CHARLES RANGEL and CORRINE BROWN, as they enter this next chapter in both of their lives. The U.S.

House of Representatives will surely not be the same without their leadership.

IN MEMORY OF JUDITH MONASTRA DAVIS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly, on November 24, 2016, the Midlands of South Carolina lost a beloved business leader and civic volunteer with the death of Judy Davis. As Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, she achieved extraordinary professional success. The following obituary was published in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina on November 30, 2016:

COLUMBIA.—Judith Monastra Davis, 57, of Columbia, South Carolina passed away unexpectedly on November 24, 2016 at Palmetto Health Richland following an extended illness. She was born on January 13, 1959 in Mansfield, Ohio to Basil Herman Monastra and Carmella Greer Monastra of Lexington, Ohio, who survive. She also is survived by her husband of thirty years, Gerald L. (Jerry) Davis, Jr. of Columbia, South Carolina. In addition, she is survived by a brother, James Monastra and aunt, Carol Greer, both of Lexington, Ohio.

Judy earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Ohio Northern University, graduating summa cum laude in 1981. She earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from The Ohio State University in 1984, where she also was recognized as the Moot Court Distinguished Oralist.

She began her corporate law career and met her husband at Lincoln National Corporation in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1984. They were married on March 15, 1986 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne where they have maintained their parish membership.

At Lincoln National, Judy worked in various legal, strategic planning, and domestic and international mergers and acquisitions positions over 10 years. She helped that company to develop and receive one of the first U.S. patents in the insurance industry for the use of artificial intelligence in the underwriting of life reinsurance and she led the spinoff of a subsidiary health insurance company in a billion-dollar public offering. Recruited to BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina in 1995 as Vice President and General Counsel, her intellect, expertise, broad and deep experience, and emotional intelligence made her a valuable member of the corporation's senior leadership team. In 2007, she was promoted to Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer where she served as the senior officer responsible for five of the corporation's subsidiaries including Companion Life Insurance Company, Companion Captive Insurance, Companion Property & Casualty Insurance Company, and UCI Medical Affiliates, as well as having three corporate divisions reporting to her—Law, Government Affairs and Corporate Marketing Communications. She also served as the corporation's Secretary.

Judy lived a full and engaging life as a champion for her community, leaving an indelible imprint. She served on the boards of directors and in leadership positions for many nonprofit, civic and educational entities, lending her gracious and genuine leadership style and skills to each organization.

In 2006, she was pressed into replacement service as chairman for the United Way of the Midlands campaign and helped to raise \$9.5 million. She worked tirelessly and shared her passion for connecting people and ideas with the United Way of the Midlands, the Central Carolina Community Foundation, the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Trinity Housing Corporation, EngenuitySC, SC Launch, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Columbia College and the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, as well as many other organizations.

Judy was especially known and appreciated throughout the state as a mentor, cheerleader and champion to countless people from all walks of life for whom she served as an inspiration and role model. She always valued kindness and often would wake up early in the morning and ask her husband, "Who can I help today?" She believed that if you put yourself out there and convince others to join in, meaningful differences can be made with only modest efforts to improve people's lives. For colleagues and friends alike, Judy took it as a personal responsibility and challenge to find ways to lift people up and to help them to realize their untapped potential. She did this because it was an important part of who she was. It was never a job requirement.

A recipient of numerous awards and accolades for her professional and philanthropic efforts, in 2010, the Girl Scouts of South Carolina Mountains to Midlands recognized her as a Woman of Distinction. In 2011, Insurance Networking News (INN) named her one of six nationally recognized Women in Insurance Leadership winners. In 2014, Judy received the prestigious Humanitarian of the Year award from the United Way of the Midlands.

Her family wishes to express its deep and heartfelt thanks to the caring and loving staff at South Carolina Oncology Associates in Columbia, as well as to the other health professionals who contributed to her care over the past year.

At Judy's request, the family will hold a brief reception for her friends and colleagues on Thursday, December 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the new United Way of the Midlands Center at 1818 Blanding Street in downtown Columbia, South Carolina. A private, family interment service will be held later in Mansfield, Ohio. Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel, is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the United Way of the Midlands Legacy Fund, the Central Carolina Community Foundation, Columbia College South Carolina, and The Northern Fund at Ohio Northern University.

JESS WIEDERHOLT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Jess Wiederholt for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Jess Wiederholt has used her medical knowledge and selfless heart to not only to make a difference in Jefferson County, but on a global scale as she strives to improve the

well-being of HIV-positive women and children in Africa. Mother of seven—four of which were adopted from East Africa—Jess entered the pediatric health care world as a therapist, helping patients in Illinois and Kentucky for 10 years.

Today, Jess pursues her passion for collaborating with other mothers to help them dream, grow and unleash their full potential through her personal health and wellness business, Isagenix, which assists parents and families in Jefferson County in finding solutions for weight loss, healthy aging, energy, performance and additional income opportunities. In addition to her passion for empowering families and promoting healthy lifestyles, Jess takes her family to Ethiopia and Uganda each year to give business grants to single mothers who are HIV-positive. Through this act of servitude, Jess demonstrates her belief that every woman deserves to be empowered to live out her life with hope, dignity and confidence—regardless of surroundings or circumstance.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jess Wiederholt for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

#### TRIBUTE TO EVAN BURNHAM

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Evan Burnham, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Evan is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. Evan is known for being a naturally good test taker, and went into the ACT examination well-prepared. He has not yet decided what will be his field of study but his interests are chemistry and environmental science. With the work ethic he has displayed on his ACT examination, I am confident he will excel no matter what route he decides to take.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Evan for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Evan and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 599 on final passage of H.R. 6392, the Systemic Risk Designation Improvement Act of 2016, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax Education Association (FEA) and two of its remarkable leaders.

For over 50 years FEA has served as the voice of Fairfax County educators. Throughout its history FEA has upheld its mission of service to educators while demanding the highest standards of education for the children of Fairfax County.

FEA leadership is largely responsible for setting the goals of the organization and focusing resources necessary to achieve those goals. Kimberly Adams, who has served as President of the FEA since 2013, has embraced the mission of the FEA and worked to expand community outreach programs to garner support for and understanding of the contributions of public education to the prosperity and quality of life for Fairfax County residents. Throughout her tenure, Kimberly has been a fierce advocate for funding our school system as well as providing support to our educators.

As a former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I understand firsthand that the success of our local communities is tied directly to the quality of our school system. I have been proud to partner with the FEA on many occasions to ensure that Fairfax County public schools remain among the best in the country.

I have often said that public service is a noble profession and this is especially true when it comes to the issue of education. I commend Kimberly for her advocacy and thank her for lending her voice for these last three years as FEA President. Although she may be returning to her "former life" as a librarian, I have no doubt that she will continue to stay engaged in the important issues facing our community, our educators, and our children.

Succeeding Kimberly in the role of President of the FEA is Kevin Hickerson. I congratulate him on his election and wish him great success going forward. Kimberly's shoes will certainly be difficult to fill, but I have no doubt that Kevin will continue the progress that has been made by the FEA during the last 50 years.

It is possible to tell a great deal about the health of a community by the level of civic engagement that is exhibited by its residents. If the spirited conversations held throughout our community on education are any indication, then Fairfax County remains a picture of civic health. The efforts of Kimberly Adams, Kevin Hickerson, and the FEA are a large part of that, and I trust that they and the FEA as a whole will continue to play a vital role in ensuring that our teachers and our students succeed for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Kimberly Adams and Kevin Hickerson as well as all of the members of the FEA for their immeasurable contributions to our community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND WORK OF ROBERT I. THOMAS

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the significant leadership of a selfless motivator and inspirational man, Robert Thomas. Robert Thomas touched countless lives in his storied career within the Dallas Independent School District as a teacher, coach and administrator. Though he is now passed, his attention to people will survive him.

Mr. Thomas is a real Dallasite and a native of one of the finest neighborhoods in south Dallas—Oak Cliff, or more specifically, "The Bottom." He attended Lincoln High School where he played football and ran track. After high school, Mr. Thomas went on to Wiley College for one year, before leaving to serve his country in the United States Army for two years. After his service, he returned to Wiley College, where he won two national championships in 1956 and 1957, and was named an All-American.

After his storied athletic career, he was determined to dedicate his passion for sports to the generation younger than he. In 1958, he became a physical education instructor at George Carver Elementary School, yet he would truly start his coaching career at Lincoln High School as a football and track coach in 1962. Robert would go on to enjoy a storied career in coaching and athletic administration work that included a staggering win record, city championships, two district championships and one co-championship.

In reward for his hard work, Robert was appointed to the position of Assistant Athletic Director for the Dallas Independent School District in 1982. He served in this position until 1993, when he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Athletics in 1993. He held this position until he retired in 2000.

Robert Thomas brought success in athletics to Dallas throughout his entire career. But more important than any of that, he touched the lives of so many young people, showing them that hard work can give them what they deserve, in a world with more resources than he ever enjoyed. He was never bitter, and always loving. He will be sorely missed.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife, Eula Faye Thomas, parents, Hester and Lindon Thomas, sister Dorothy Thomas Mayes. He is survived by his three sons, Kenneth, Gregory and Ricky Thomas; brothers, L.T. Thomas, Wilson Thomas and Bernard Thomas; three grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, as well as by several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and the children and adults that loved him so in Dallas.

#### CLERMONT COUNTY SHERIFF A.J. "TIM" RODENBERG

#### HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clermont County Sheriff A.J.