

## RECOGNIZING RALPH HOLLMON

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2016*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ralph Hollmon who is retiring from the Milwaukee Urban League (MUL), on December 31, 2016. He has served the organization since 2002, when he assumed the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the MUL.

Over the 14 years at the helm of the MUL, he has been in charge of the organization's management, strategic planning and overall operation insuring that the League's education, employment, economic development and social justice programs are implemented in an effective manner. He was also the Central Region Vice President of the National Urban League Association of Executives. Mr. Hollmon has been a tireless advocate for the organization and its commitment to serving African Americans and others in need of assistance in order to improve the quality of their lives.

Mr. Hollmon has spent much of his career helping uplift those in need and has a wealth of knowledge gained by service in various governmental and community positions including: Director, Milwaukee County Department of Human Services, Chief Executive Officer of the Private Industry Council, Executive Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and held positions with the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration and the Social Development Commission of Milwaukee County. Prior to joining the Milwaukee Urban League, Ralph led his own company as President of Hollmon Management and Consulting LLC, (HMC) a project management and public affairs consulting firm.

Mr. Hollmon holds a long standing commitment to community service and has served on a variety of civic and community boards/commissions including: Co-Chair of the Milwaukee Commission on Police Community Relations, Co-Chair of the Governor's Business Opportunity Advisory Commission; member of the JP Morgan Chase Bank National Community Advisory Board; Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Board of Directors; VISIT Milwaukee Board of Directors; Milwaukee Succeeds Executive Committee; Greater Downtown Action Agenda Executive Leadership Committee; African American Chamber of Commerce and Member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee.

Ralph Hollmon is a homegrown Milwaukeean and graduated from North Division High School. He received his undergraduate degree at Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa, and earned his Master's Degree in Urban Affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also completed the Executive Education Program, "Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management" at the Harvard School of Business.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Ralph Hollmon for many years on issues at the various positions where he has had tenure. I join with his wife Margaret and friends in congratulating him on his many years of service to this community and the Milwaukee Urban League. Ralph has led the organization admirably and I wish him

much success as he transitions into a different phase of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ralph Hollmon, I am proud to call him a friend and thank him for all he has done. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of his ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Ralph E. Hollmon.

## TRIBUTE TO THERESA RANGEL

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2016*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Theresa Rangel. A beloved San Antonian, Theresa grew up on the West Side of the city where she attended Blessed Sacrament High School. She married her high school sweetheart, Ernest A. Rangel, with whom she traveled the world, had two children, and enjoyed 48 years of marriage.

Throughout her career, Theresa served the San Antonio community and strove to help the people of our city excel. She worked at the University of the Incarnate Word in career development, and later became a caseworker in the office of Congressman Albert G. Bustamante. She went on to work in the Small Business Administration before joining the office of legendary Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez where she was a caseworker. She remained in that position when Charles Gonzalez won the congressional seat in 1999, and eventually retired in 2013 after 28 years of dignified civil service.

After her retirement, Theresa remained active. She was a member of several Bible study groups, spent time scrapbooking, and was a devoted grandmother to five grandchildren whom she loved dearly.

Theresa touched the lives of so many in our city, and I join her family and those whom she helped in mourning her loss. She was an exemplary civil servant and American whose contributions to our community and Nation will not be forgotten.

## HONORING OFFICER CECILE FOCHA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Cecile Focha, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Sonoma County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A native of Oakland, California, Officer Focha received her B.A. in Integral Liberal Arts at St. Mary's College and her K-12 Teaching Credential at California State University, Hayward. Prior to her work in law enforcement, Officer Focha was an elementary school teacher.

Officer Focha joined the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office in 1998. Over the past 18 years, she has served as the first female Detective Sergeant in the history of the Office, the supervisor of the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Detective Unit, and the first Press Information Officer for the agency. Officer Focha was instrumental in the establishment of the Sonoma County Family Justice Center and is the President of the Board of Directors for Verity, Sonoma County's only rape crisis center. In recognition of her tremendous service, the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office awarded Officer Focha with the Bronze Medal of Merit, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors awarded her a Certificate of Commendation for her work with Alive at 25, a model teen driving program she helped establish.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Focha for her dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor her here today.

## RECOGNIZING THE 2016 INDIANA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR NATHAN BOYD

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2016*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grissom Middle School Principal Nathan Boyd, who was recently named the 2016 Indiana Middle School Principal of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

Principals from across Indiana selected Mr. Boyd for this great honor due to his commitment to excellence in education and his tireless work to give all his students the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Each year, the IASP recognizes outstanding leaders in education for their contributions to the profession and the difference they make in students' lives. Since becoming principal of Grissom Middle School in 2013, Mr. Boyd has been an exemplary educator and administrator. He has maintained the school's record of academic achievement and its A rating from the Indiana Department of Education. He has introduced innovative programs and strategies to motivate and inspire students, including the "Grissom Drum Brigade" and the popular "Club Honors." And he has fostered a culture of excellence among the school's teachers to best prepare students for the future.

As principal, Mr. Boyd works each day to create a shared vision and purpose that stays true to Grissom Middle School's motto: "Good, Better, Best." Under Mr. Boyd's leadership, Grissom Middle School is providing students a positive, challenging, and academically-oriented learning environment with a focus on building knowledge, reinforcing values, and developing a strong sense of self-worth for every student.

Having received the Indiana Principal of the Year Award, Mr. Boyd will represent the Hoosier State at the National Association of Secondary School Principals Recognition Program in the Fall of 2017. Mr. Boyd's energy and passion for serving his students and his ability to inspire enthusiasm in his team distinguish him as an exceptional leader. He exemplifies

the work ethic and humble leadership for which Hoosiers are known, and I am proud that a Hoosier from Indiana's 2nd Congressional District will be representing our great state next year.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Grissom Middle School Principal Nathan Boyd for his boundless passion for working with parents, teachers, and staff to build a strong community and a bright future for students. I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nathan Boyd for his tireless dedication and wishing him and everyone at Grissom Middle School all the best.

HONORING CHRISTINE M. WISEMAN ON HER RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY IN CHICAGO

### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Christine M. Wiseman, who is retiring from her position as president of Saint Xavier University in Chicago. She has served as Saint Xavier's President since June 2010.

Throughout her illustrious career, President Wiseman has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to students in higher education. Her career in higher education started at Marquette University, where she was a tenured member of the law faculty and earned the Marquette University Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence in 1991. She became Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Marquette University Law School and later the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, making her the first woman to serve in Marquette's senior administration. After Marquette, she held the same position at Creighton University.

President Wiseman arrived in Chicago in 2007 as professor of law and Provost of Loyola University Chicago. As Provost she oversaw the academic division of the largest Catholic research university in the country.

Between her career in academics and her public service, President Wiseman has been awarded and honored on many occasions for her work. She was named the Wisconsin Civil Liberties Union Volunteer Attorney of the Year in 1989 and the Spirit of the Law School recipient in 2003 at Marquette for being a role model to the school's students. In addition, she has been recognized as one of the "Most Powerful and Influential" women in Illinois by the National Diversity Council, and was appointed by the Governor to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Her long list of qualifications and achievements led to her hiring as the 19th President of Saint Xavier University Chicago. Saint Xavier University is in the Mt. Greenwood neighborhood of Chicago and has just over 5,000 students studying in 43 undergraduate majors and 25 graduate programs. In 2016 the Online Graduate Nursing Program was ranked number 3 in the country by US News and World Report. Saint Xavier University will surely miss the academic and administrative stewardship provided by President Wiseman.

I ask you to join me in honoring President Christine Wiseman on her retirement as Presi-

dent of Saint Xavier University, and congratulate her on her outstanding work at the university.

### RETIREMENT OF CIRCUIT JUDGE BERLIN JONES

### HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fixture of the Arkansas Judiciary. The Honorable Berlin Jones of the Eleventh West Judicial Circuit in Pine Bluff was originally appointed to the bench by then-Governor Bill Clinton on July 11, 1987, serving the remainder of a term that ended on December 31, 1988.

Judge Jones ran for a full term four years later, taking office January 1, 1993. Since assuming the bench more than 20 years ago, Judge Jones has heard a magnitude of criminal, civil, and probate cases in the Delta.

Among Judge Jones' accomplishments since taking the bench has been the Jefferson County Drug Court, for which he has been the presiding judge since its formation in March 2004. In the time Judge Jones and his staff have been managing the drug court program, 106 citizens have graduated and started on the path to a new life free from drugs.

In addition to being an advocate for those in recovery, Judge Jones has also served on the Arkansas Sentencing Commission and has been an active member of the Arkansas Bar Association, where he was admitted in 1976.

Men like Berlin Jones are hard to find today. Not only did he serve his country in uniform during the Vietnam War, but he has devoted his life to the people of Jefferson and Lincoln Counties as an attorney and judge. I thank him for his decades of dedicated service to the Pine Bluff region, the state of Arkansas, and the United States. May God bless him.

### HONORING TERESA DEPPNER OF HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

### HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teresa Deppner, the clerk of the U.S. District Court Southern District of West Virginia, who recently received this year's U.S. Courts Director's Award for Outstanding Leadership.

In 1976, Ms. Deppner started her career as deputy clerk in Huntington. Her commitment to public service is exemplary, as she has spearheaded innovative initiatives to make her courts more efficient in the handling of lawsuits, improving document accessibility, and tackling an always increasing case workload. Her appreciation and respect of the arts is noteworthy, and I commend her on her role in bringing the first-ever judiciary fine arts program to the courthouse in Charleston for lawyers, judges, jury members and constituents to enjoy.

A staunch supporter and advocate for her hometown of Huntington, her vision, experi-

ence, and strategy in her professional life have paved the way for a plethora of successful philanthropic projects for the tri-state area.

I wish Ms. Deppner well and send my best to her husband, Greg, and their two huskies, Sapphire and Aurora. I offer her my appreciation and gratitude for her commitment to her neighbors and our state.

### TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN L. MICA

### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, this will be my final official submission as I complete my service in the U.S. House of Representatives. It has truly been an honor to represent the people of Florida's 7th Congressional District and to serve the nation in six Congressional leadership positions, including being the first Florida Congressman to Chair the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

As you and our colleagues can attest, serving in Congress requires the assistance and work of many. Today, as I reflect upon my years of service, the challenges we have faced and overcome as a nation and our work to make the federal government more responsive and efficient, I believe it is important to recognize the staff who have worked with me and dedicated outstanding service to our 7th Congressional District and our nation.

They are: Tim Anderson, Agustina Andisco Pardo, Keith Appel, James Bailey, Zane Beard, Aaron Bivens, Collier Black, John Booker, Sue Bower, Patrick Bowl, Casey Brinck, Beth Ann Bryant, Elizabeth Buckles Deck, Gary Burns, Alan Byrd, Jean Carrero, John Ciccone, Jessie Cleveland, Mike Cosio, Barry Cotton, Marshall Critchfield, Stephanie D'Angelo, Greg Davis, John Day, Wiley Deck, Brian Dempsey, Laurel Edmondson, Ted Edwards, Jan Farnsworth, Andrew Fiorelli, Joe Freeman, Josh Gaboton, Ashley Galloway, Allison Galovic, Andrew Giacini, Alan Gilbert, Stephen Goldie, Andrew Green, Matt Grimison, Dick Harkey, Susan Hast, Lou Hayden, Cheyne Hicks, Julie Hogan, Jared Houghton, Kellie Huckeba, John Hudiberg, Krystal Hudson, Dan Hughes, V. Thane Hutcheson, Eric Jontz, Ashley Jordan, Randall Judt, Patrick Kelly, Cheryl Kimball, Mary Klappa, Barbara Koch, Thomas Larsen, Alexandra Lovelace, Sally Lum, Lawrence Lyman, Gerry Lynam, Laura Mathews, Michael Matousek, Tara McBride, Sean McMaster, Katie McMichael, Alicia Melvin, Janet Mines, Dan Moll, Kiernan Moylan, Chelsey Neuhaus, Brian North, Sharon Pinkerton, Marshall Polston, Kristen Pugh, Gail Reese, Paul Reynolds, Joel Rivera, Rusty Roberts, James Rockas, Debby Roeder, Jason Scism, Talia Shabat, Kathleen Smoak, Caragh Stichter, Kevan Stone, Charlene Swartz, Tanice Tait, Chrissy Tellalian, Evonne Torres, Joseph Trovato, Patrick Tuohey, Toni Tury, Brian Waldrip, Lisa Wandler, Robert Wehagen, Nicholas West, Gregory Williams, Michael Willis, Leslie Windram O'Shaughnessy, Jillian Wist and Sally Zarnowiec.

I thank them for their public service and for the opportunity and privilege to work with each of them. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these committed Congressional staff