

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Gunasekara family and wish them all the best on their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF ELAINE MCCONNELL

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of my friend, Elaine McConnell. Elaine led a life of public service and dedicated her career to serving others in our community. Elaine is a Jacksonville, Florida native, but first moved to Fairfax County in 1961. Shortly thereafter, she took an interest in public service and safety. Elaine served as Springfield District Supervisor for 24 years and championed the construction of the world class McConnell Public Safety Transportation and Operations Center. She was a staunch advocate of transportation initiatives and went on to serve as the Chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Board. Many know her as the "mother" of the Virginia Railway Express because of her leadership as a founding board member. VRE serves an average of 20,000 riders per day and may not exist without Elaine's lifelong dedication to transportation infrastructure in the region. Most recently, Elaine served on the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Board as an appointee of Governor McDonnell.

Beyond her involvement in transportation initiatives, Elaine was the founder and CEO of Accotink Academy, an education center which serves children with learning disabilities throughout the region. She gained national acclaim for her study and work of handwriting and math disorders. The school has grown to 400 students and also opened a second location in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Outside of her volunteer work, she was an avid piano player and cook. Elaine will be greatly missed by her husband, Mac, and their three children, Susan, Mark, and Matthew, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. I am honored to recognize Elaine today for her outstanding display of commitment to our community. She was a true public servant and will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

WESTERRA CREDIT UNION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Westerra Credit Union for receiving the Large Business of the Year award from The West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

In 1934, eight visionary leaders organized a not-for-profit financial cooperative, whose purpose was to put the members first when offering financial services and to treat them as valued owners.

Following mergers and a name change in the early 2000s, the now Westerra Credit Union ranks among the top 150 credit unions in the United States and serves more than 95,000 members.

During 80 plus years of operation, Westerra's "people helping people" philosophy continues to benefit communities across the country by providing fundraising and grant programs. These programs provide money for school art supplies, sports fees and after-school activities.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Westerra Credit Union for their honor by The West Chamber. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same commitment to the community in the future.

RECOGNIZING BRAD COOLEY

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brad Cooley for winning the 2016 Congressional App Challenge for the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado. This competition receives app submissions from high school students around the country, and seeks to recognize the nation's best programming talent.

Mr. Cooley designed Crunch Time, an app which allows the user to view wait times for restaurants in their area. It also allows the user to submit their wait time for restaurants they have visited.

Entrepreneurs are the backbone of our economy and communities. It is the ingenuity and hard work Mr. Cooley embodied during this competition that makes America exceptional. He has shown true leadership in his school and community.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mr. Cooley as he pursues his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Brad Cooley for winning the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado's Congressional App Challenge.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1965

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, The Hamilton High School Class of 1965 is celebrating its fifty year anniversary today since its commencement as graduates of the DeKalb County, Georgia school system; and

Whereas, some of the members of the 1965 Class are here today, Brenda Anderson, Jerome Anderson, James Bugs, Annie Ruth Curney, Alice Collins, Josephine Crawley, Carolyn Davis, Ella Mae Crumley, Lucille Boyd Durden, David T. Griffin, Abel Johnson, Ora J. Lewis, Willie Martin, Gloria Sutton, Mattie Ruth Crawford Stroud, Jean Thomas, Audrey Swift Wilburn, Dorothy Morton Walker, Gladys Williams, Gwendolyn White, Johnny Williams, and Patricia Woods; and

Whereas, these remarkable men and women have been educated in our local public

schools, and after graduation have written their stories in assisting our nation to maintain greatness by becoming productive citizens, serving in our Armed Services, becoming small business owners, educators, mothers, fathers, civic leaders, civil servants and community advocates thus allowing our district to have pillars of wisdom and strength for many years to come; and

Whereas, The Hamilton High School Class of 1965 members are distinguished citizens of our district, they are spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all citizens that desire to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Hamilton High School Class of 1965 as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary in Clarkston, Georgia; Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 3, 2015 as: The Hamilton High School Class of 1965 Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 3rd day of October, 2015.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. DAVE HENDERSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dave Henderson who passed away December 27, 2015, at the age of 57.

Dave was born in Merced, California, on July 21, 1958. He attended Dos Palos High School and is the school's most celebrated athlete. During his high schools years, he was a star baseball and football player. Dave led the Dos Palos High Broncos varsity football team to two Central Valley championships. He had great success as a football player, but Dave decided to progress as a baseball player and accepted a scholarship to play baseball at California State University, Fresno.

In 1977, Dave was drafted number one overall by the Seattle Mariners, and his big league career began in 1981 as a center fielder for the Mariners. Dave played for the Mariners for six seasons.

Baseball fans will best remember Dave for his two strike, two out, ninth inning, game-tying home run as a member of the Boston Red Sox. Thanks to his heroics, the Red Sox won Game five in extra innings and completed a comeback from a three to one American League Championship Series deficit to win the pennant, earning a trip to the 1986 World Series.

Dave found his stride as a member of the Oakland Athletics where he played in three consecutive World Series and was a member of the 1989 World Series Champion team. He had career high statistics and was selected to be on the 1991 All-Star team.

In 1994, Dave ended his career as a baseball player after playing 14 seasons with five teams, including the Seattle Mariners, Boston Red Sox, San Francisco Giants, Oakland Athletics and Kansas City Royals. After retiring as player, Dave worked as a color analyst for the Seattle Mariners' broadcasts.

Dave was active in several philanthropic endeavors and believed that giving back was important. He raised money to support research

for Angelman Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder. Additionally, he was also one of the founders of Rick's Toys for Kids, a charity which provides dozens of agencies with toys so that thousands of children could receive Christmas gifts who would otherwise go without receiving one.

Beginning in high school and into his career in the major leagues, Dave was known by his teammates and coaches for his ever-present smile and positive demeanor. As his former coach Mike Sparks said, "I will always remember that big smile . . . He treated everyone like they were a friend."

Dave is survived by his sisters Jeannie, Terry, Patricia, and Michelle, brother Al, first wife Loni, wife Nancy, and his two sons Chase and Trent, and Trent's wife Dani.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a great man, Dave Henderson.

SUZIE SHRIDE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Suzie Shride for receiving the Member of the Year award from The West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

Suzie is the owner of Mathnasium of Littleton. She jumped into the West Chamber with both feet and has been running ever since. Suzie has been instrumental in growing The West Chamber's presence in South Jefferson County, and helping to grow the first leads group in the area which now has two leads groups.

One of the biggest projects Suzie took on was spearheading The West Chamber's Women in Business breakfasts last year. This event has continued to grow in popularity with the first breakfast of 2016 seeing more than 80 women business owners in attendance.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Suzie Shride for her honor by The West Chamber. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and commitment to the community in the future.

HONORING JOHN A. WICKS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, John A. Wicks, Jr., who is a native of Jackson, Mississippi.

John A. Wicks, Jr. is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Wicks, Sr. of Jackson. He attended Jackson Public Schools and graduated from Murrah High School. He then matriculated at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi where he received a B.S. degree in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics and was the valedictorian of his graduating class. While at Alcorn, Brother Wicks was active in many organizations and served as president of both Alpha Kappa Mu honor society and the Alpha Zeta chapter of Phi

Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Brother Wicks went on to obtain a M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from North Carolina A & T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia where he also served as president of the Black Graduate Student Organization. He has taught Computer Engineering at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama and Computer Science at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

In October 1977, Brother Wicks accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, uniting with New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, where he was active in the youth department. In May 1997, while working as an instructor at Tuskegee University, he acknowledged the call to preach the gospel. Subsequently, he attended the Montgomery Bible Institute in Montgomery, Alabama and served as an associate minister at Greater Peace Baptist Church in Opelika, Alabama. In August 1998, Brother Wicks began service as an associate minister at New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson. In August 2000, he accepted the call to serve as the interim pastor of Mount Nebo Baptist Church in Jackson. On January 18, 2001, Brother Wicks was elected to serve as Mount Nebo's sixth pastor and was installed on March 25th.

In addition to his pastoral duties at Mount Nebo, Brother Wicks has served on various community boards including the Mission Mississippi Resource Development Committee. He has also served as a writer for the Clarion-Ledger Faith Forum and is currently serving as the State Director of Education for the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, Inc., and the Senior Vice-Moderator of the Jackson District Missionary Baptist Association.

Brother Wicks has been the recipient of various awards and accolades including the Metro-Jackson chapter of the NAACP 2008 Medgar Evers Award winner, a Mississippi Gospel Music Awards 2011 Pastor of the Year honoree, and the 2011 Image Award Winner for Religion bestowed by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He is married to the former Felice L. Dowd, a native of Marks, Mississippi, and they have three children, John Arthur III, Faith Alexandria and Grace Elizabeth. Finally, Brother Wicks' motto is traditional, tried and true: "To God be the glory for the many wonderful things He has done!"

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor John A. Wicks, Jr. for his dedication to serving others.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH L. CAMPBELL UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend, Joseph L. Campbell of Clayton, California, upon his retirement from the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) Board of Directors. Mr. Campbell has been an extraordinary community leader throughout

Contra Costa County, and I wish him well in retirement.

During his 21 years of service at CCWD, most recently as President of the Board, Mr. Campbell never missed a board meeting. He served as co-chairman and a key fundraiser for the successful campaign to approve bonds for the District's \$450 million Los Vaqueros Reservoir Project, and helped lead the effort against the Peripheral Canal in 1982.

Mr. Campbell served our community in innumerable leadership roles over the years at various important community organizations, including the Contra Costa County Airport Land Use Commission, the Walnut Creek Child Care Task Force, the Walnut Festival Association, the Northgate High School Sports Boosters, and the American Red Cross.

Mr. Campbell also leveraged his vast experience as a business owner and engineer, as a Vice President of the Concord Chamber of Commerce, and served as a member of the Concord General Plan Committee and the Founder Advisory Board of Concord Commercial Bank.

Mr. Campbell is also past president and a founder of the Concord Economic Development Corporation, a partnership of the Concord Chamber of Commerce and the City of Concord. In addition to these many roles, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Leadership Council and a member of Concord Rotary Club. A longtime resident of the area, Mr. Campbell is an Honorary Board Member of the Concord Historical Society.

I am grateful for Mr. Campbell's many accomplishments and contributions to the success of our community. I wish Mr. Campbell all of the best in his retirement.

Congratulations, Joe, on a remarkable legacy of public service in Contra Costa.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER (JCBRC)

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jefferson County Business Resource Center (JCBRC) for receiving the Nonprofit of the Year award given by The West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

JCBRC is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the small business community in Jefferson County. The group partners with businesses to find solutions for doing business in Jeffco.

JCBRC helps professionals from planning a start-up enterprise to an established business. They provide a multitude of resources and services to the business community, including free business counseling, business classes and training. Through the annual business expo, JCBRC brings businesses together to foster "economic gardening" where entrepreneurial activity is fostered by providing information, tools, and connections needed for business development and growth.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Jefferson County Business Resource Center for being honored by The West Chamber. Thank you for your commitment and service to the business community of Jefferson County, Colorado.