

year she is celebrating a remarkable milestone reaching 65 years young; and

Whereas, Mrs. Dixon has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God, serving faithfully as a Deaconess and on the Hospitality Committee at Welcome Friend Baptist Church in Ellenwood, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mrs. Dixon is celebrating this day on her 65th Birthday with family, church members and friends at the Lou Walker Senior Center in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, she celebrates a life of blessings as a Wife, Mother, Grandmother, friend, community servant and leader; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd, guiding her life for 65 years allowing her to lead by example, serve as one of God's chosen servants as a faithful matriarch and a community leader; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating today with family and friends giving generations of loved ones the opportunity to give thanks and display their love for the blessings that God has bestowed upon the Dixon family; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Betty Dixon for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all, now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 23rd, 2015 as: Mrs. Betty Dixon Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 23rd day of October, 2015.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE  
JOHN E. McDONALD, JR., FIRST  
JUSTICE, EAST BOSTON MUNI-  
CIPAL COURT

### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of John E. McDonald, Jr., First Justice, East Boston Municipal Court, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to his hometown of Braintree and commend him for being named to the Judges Wall at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law.

John Jr. is the son of John E. and Patricia M. McDonald who raised John Jr. in the Town of Braintree. John relocated to South Boston where he made his residence from 1984–2011, there he met and married his lovely wife Melissa, and had three children, Andrew 13, Jack 5, and Kathryn 4, before moving back to Braintree in 2011, where he and his family now reside.

John attended Boston College High School graduating in 1984. Upon graduating Boston College High School, John was accepted to Boston College where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree, in 1988. John was then accepted at prestigious Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America where he obtained his Juris Doctor in 1991.

Upon his passing the Massachusetts Bar Exam, John worked in the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General as a Law Clerk. In 1991, John joined the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney where he served from 1991 until

1994. In 1994, John went into private practice by opening the Law Office of John E. McDonald, Jr., focusing on his practice as a Sole Practitioner of Criminal and Civil Litigation from 1994–2008. Upon completing his successful private practice, John was named Assistant Clerk Magistrate, Boston Municipal Court, Central Division, where he served until his appointment by Governor Deval Patrick as an Associate Justice of the Central Division of the Boston Municipal Court in May of 2013. In February 2014, John served as the Presiding Justice of the Dorchester Division Drug Court until his appointment as the First Justice of East Boston Division Drug Court where he presently serves.

John E. McDonald, Jr., has dedicated his entire professional career to the field of Law. His reputation is impeccable as a judge who goes above and beyond in helping others. John's commitment to the East Boston Community is only exceeded by his love for family, and the betterment of those less fortunate. John has served as the keynote speaker at the Norfolk County Bar Association, The Salvation Army Recovery Program, The East Boston Chamber of Commerce, and has volunteered his time in speaking at many Boston area schools on the issue of substance abuse, and the law. In addition, The Honorable Judge John E. McDonald was also named as a panel member of the highly prestigious "Panel on Recovery" and was asked by Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh to speak before the City of Boston "Recovery Forum."

Mr. Speaker, John is known for his quick sense of humor, and is a true gentleman in every sense of the word. He has earned the respect of his peers, and when people look back on Judge McDonald's legacy they will remember him as a person who was there for those struggling in the most difficult circumstances. Although the honor of being named to the Judges Wall will be one highlight of many in John's career, he will most assuredly be known for his caring and positive impact on the families of East Boston, South Boston, and Braintree.

Mr. Speaker it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with John E. McDonald's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank him for his remarkable service and to commend him for the difference he has made to the families of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HONORING MR. VERNON AND MRS.  
SHIRLEY HILL

### HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Vernon and Mrs. Shirley Hill of New Jersey's Third Congressional District as recipients of the Greater Philadelphia Area Leadership Award, and to express my sincerest gratitude to them for their continued service to our community.

The Greater Philadelphia Area Leadership Award recognizes business and community leaders who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the area through distinguished service and steadfast philanthropy. The Hill family has been active in various charitable

projects in the region through the operation of their family foundation. Whether it be their work with the University of Pennsylvania School Of Veterinary Medicine, or in supporting our troops through Operation Helmet, this award stands as a testament to their dedication to using their resources and experience to help promote the growth of society.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously proud to have Vernon and Shirley Hill as involved members of their community. It is my honor to celebrate their recent Greater Philadelphia Area Leadership Award and recognize their personal and professional accomplishments, as well as their significant contributions to our community, before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM B.  
BYNUM, 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 Dr. William B. Bynum, Jr., a 25-year higher education professional, who was unanimously selected to be the 7th President of Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board on October 8, 2013 and he began his presidency at "The Valley" on November 6, 2013.

A native of Rocky Mount, N.C., Dr. Bynum earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Davidson College while on a student-athlete scholarship. While at Davidson, he also minored in Education and passed the National Teachers Exam. He was subsequently licensed and certified to teach Social Studies and Math in N.C. and Georgia. Dr. Bynum went on to earn his masters and Ph.D. in Sociology from Duke University while serving as a Duke Endowment Fellow. Dr. Bynum was also a member of the inaugural class of the NAFEO-Kellogg Leadership Fellows Program, a year-long program specifically designed to train the next generation of presidents/chancellors for minority serving institutions, which was led by then NAFEO president—Dr. Frederick Humphries; NAFEO chairman—Dr. Joe Johnson, and executive director—Dr. Arthur Thomas. As part of the program, Dr. Bynum "shadowed" Dr. Harold Martin, then chancellor of Winston-Salem State University and now chancellor of N.C. A & T State University.

As the 7th President, Dr. Bynum's vision for the University is to uplift 6 powerful words that are already deeply rooted in "The Valley" culture. The vision is: ONE GOAL. ONE TEAM. ONE VALLEY. The ONE GOAL is Student Success (increased enrollment, retention and graduation; holistic student development and career advancement); The ONE TEAM is University and Community Stakeholders Working Together; And the ONE VALLEY is students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends actively demonstrating School Pride and Spirituality that is second to none!

Prior to his appointment at MVSU, Dr. Bynum served as the Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Services at Morehouse College (2009–2013), where he

was mentored by Morehouse's 10th president Dr. Robert Michael Franklin. While serving at Morehouse, Dr. Bynum significantly enhanced student-administration relations, improved the efficiency and effectiveness of student services, started, envisioned and led the initiative which established the Parents Council and implemented the nationally acclaimed Morehouse "Appropriate Attire Policy."

Prior to Morehouse, Dr. Bynum served as the Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management (2000–2009) at The Lincoln University (PA). During his nine years of service, he was successful in nearly doubling Lincoln's enrollment and recruited the 4 largest new student classes (900+) in the University's 150 year history. Dr. Bynum also led the Board approved Student Enhancement Initiative, which entailed elevating Lincoln from NCAA Division III to NCAA Division II athletics, reactivated Lincoln's membership in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) conference, returned football to the campus after a 40 year absence and started the University's first marching band program: "The Orange Crush." At Lincoln, Dr. Bynum was mentored by Dr. Ivory Nelson, the University's 12th president, who garnered over \$200 million in capital construction to transform the campus physical plant.

Prior to LU, Dr. Bynum served as the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students at Clark Atlanta University (1993–2000), and he was the Number 2 person in the division that recruited the 4 largest classes (1500+) in the then 125 year history of CAU. While at CAU, Dr. Bynum was mentored by and developed strong strategic planning and assessment skills from Dr. Doris Walker Weathers. During his CAU days, Dr. Bynum was nicknamed "Bye-Bye Bynum" for his no-nonsense approach to judicial affairs and enhancing the campus culture and environment.

In addition to his enrollment management and student affairs work, Dr. Bynum has lectured and/or taught as well. He served as the Covington Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Davidson and at Morehouse, he was an adjunct professor in the Leadership Studies program and Sociology department. Dr. Bynum's other professional experience includes research and teaching positions at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), Duke University and Durham and Edgembe Community Colleges. He started his educational career as a teacher, football and wrestling coach in the Rocky Mount (N.C.) City School System (1984–87) and the Dekalb County (GA) School System (1987–88). Dr. Bynum has represented his institutions in numerous external programs and at professional conferences, while serving as a presenter or moderator. He has authored refereed articles in professional journals and presented papers with academic and social themes. Trained as a Quantitative Sociologist, Dr. Bynum still remains active in research and teaching. His research and teaching interests center around: (1) Black Church Studies; (2) Race, Gender and Ethnicity; and (3) Organizations, Markets and Work.

His publications include: A co-authored article with Duke colleagues in the sociology journal Social Forces entitled "Race and Formal Volunteering"; a chapter entitled "The Black Church in America: Demography and Current Trends" in the book: Exploring The African American Experience (3rd edition); and a short

story entitled "For the Love of J-Ski" in the NASPA produced book: Stories of Inspiration: Lessons and Laughter in Student Affairs. Dr. Bynum is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Chi Alpha Epsilon and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

A God-loving, God-fearing man, he is married to Deborah Elaine Bynum, a manager and 34 year employee with AT&T Mobility Services, and they are the proud parents of six children—Tyrone (a student at Georgia State University), Tyler (a student-athlete graduate of Truett-McConnell College), Chelsea (a student at Clark Atlanta University and Army Reservist), Zack (a student at Morehouse College), Jordan and Jazz (both of whom are Atlanta Public high school students).

Dr. Bynum's personal and professional motto is "Look back and thank God. Look forward and trust God. Look around and serve God. Look within and find God."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. William B. Bynum, Jr., a teacher, professional and educator for his contribution to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

#### LAKE ARROWHEAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOST AWARDS GALA

#### HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in special recognition of the Lake Arrowhead Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala that was held on February 20, 2016. Lake Arrowhead is an unincorporated mountain community in San Bernardino County and is located in my district.

This year, Billie and Harold Weiss will be honored as "Citizens of the Year" for their contributions to their community. This amazing couple volunteers countless hours to several organizations, including Meals on Wheels, Arrowhead Arts Association, Operation Provider, and the Rim of the World School District. I would like to thank Billie and Harold for the positive influence they've provided mountain residents.

I would like to congratulate LouEddie's Pizza for receiving recognition as the "Business of the Year." Located in Skyforest, LouEddie's is not only well known for their delicious cuisine but also for their contributions to local causes, which include the Skyforest Festival and the Special Olympian dinner.

Finally, it is an honor to recognize the Rim Educational Foundation as the "Non-Profit of the Year." Founded in 1987, the foundation raises money for local schools to cover gaps in state public education funding. Last year the foundation raised \$450,000, with 75 percent of those funds going directly to classrooms and the remainder was donated to the Advancement through Individual Determination (AVID) program. This certainly is a remarkable achievement. Congratulations to all the honorees who make the 8th Congressional District of California a special place to live.

HONORING

CHRISTENSEN UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BARBARA

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Barbara Christensen upon her retirement as a senior administrator in the San Mateo County Community College District. In the manner of an Olympic decathlon athlete, Barbara Christensen has exceeded the bar in the full range of professional activities over the years, and the people of San Mateo County have been the beneficiary.

Hired forty years ago by the district to handle public affairs, Barbara performed her job well but quickly realized that a reorganization was needed. Soon, each campus of the community college district was communicating professionally with the public, leading to greater responsiveness to the public and to the development of an individual identity for each campus. It is a brave professional who defines her way out of a job, but Barbara quickly moved on to even greater challenges.

This job title doesn't formally exist at the college district, and I'll admit that it's a mouthful, but Barbara Christensen should bear the title of "Chief Land Use Wonk and Go-To-Person With Respect to Frogs and Butterflies." While guiding the district's various developments, she oversaw the creation of four CEQA compliance documents, one of which involved the creation of a habitat conservation plan for frogs and butterflies. Her leadership in the development of apartments for faculty and staff of the district, renting at 50% of market rate in the Bay Area's challenging housing market, has thrilled employees and concretely demonstrated that the district cares about them and their families. The two developments that she shepherded through sometimes contentious public hearings earned national recognition and have inspired other local agencies to seriously consider constructing affordable housing for public employees.

Barbara Christensen led the effort to establish the relationship between the universities and community colleges in San Mateo, and we now have four year degree programs taught at Canada College, offering this campus' diverse student body, many of them first-generation college students, an affordable, convenient option to obtain a four year college degree. She secured a \$1 million state grant to begin this University Center at Canada College.

As our community colleges flourished, Barbara's contribution to their success became even greater. She spearheaded three successful bond measures totaling \$1 billion. Today, the stunning community college campuses of San Mateo County look like every modern and highly selective college in the nation.

The list of Barbara's successes in the community college professional decathlon is too long to recite, but her willingness to find "win-win" choices for contentious issues placed her at the center of four decades of successful negotiations with local taxing entities, nearby homeowners, other districts, and the State of