

Westchester Jewish community and plays a key role in fostering relationships with organizations, law enforcement, and community leaders, both inside the Jewish community and the community at large. Additionally, their work involves interfaith initiatives and events aimed at communicating and coordinating services and programs for the Jewish community. Furthermore, the Westchester Jewish Council provides meaningful opportunities to engage in volunteer work throughout the community.

The Westchester Jewish Council also sponsors various educational roundtables which foster Israel advocacy and Jewish education, initiatives that are paramount to the organization's mission. The Westchester Jewish Council works together with 150 other organizations to help facilitate Westchester Jewish traditions and culture by supporting and hosts various community-wide events aimed at celebrating Jewish history and heritage. The wide variety of services they offer are meaningful, indispensable, and cultivate the important traditions of the community.

On February 6th, 2016 the Westchester Jewish Council will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary Gala. I want to congratulate the entire organization on the occasion, and thank them for the invaluable work they have done for the entire Westchester community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 102, H.R. 4238, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities, had I been present, I would have voted yes.

#### HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. ROSE BAENKE

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Rose Baenke was born on February 24, 1926, in Chicago, Illinois. At an early age, she developed a passion for politics. When she turned 18, she voted in her first election and has taken pride in the honor and privilege of voting ever since.

In 1992, Mrs. Baenke and her husband moved to the community of Nesbit, Mississippi. She became involved in the local political scene and was a charter member of the DeSoto County Republican Women, a group in which she remains an active member. At age 90, she participates in the club's events and dedicates her time and effort to the group's mission.

Mrs. Baenke has been politically involved at the state level as well. She says that her crowning achievement was assisting Governor Phil Bryant's successful campaign to be Mississippi's 64th Governor. She has served in

leadership positions with the DeSoto County Republican Women, which has enabled her to become an effective voice in the Republican Party. As an active citizen, she also served two terms on the Mississippi River Commission.

Currently, Mrs. Baenke resides at Wesley Meadows Retirement Community in Hernando, Mississippi, where she works tirelessly to urge other residents to remain engaged and informed on political issues. Specifically, she asks other residents to exercise their right, which was earned at a very high price, to vote.

I would like to wish Mrs. Baenke a Happy 90th Birthday and extend my deepest appreciation for her passion and dedication to her country and state.

#### CAPTAIN WIELENGA ASSUMES COMMAND OF HESPERIA SHERIFF'S STATION

### HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Captain Gregg Wielenga, who was recently promoted to the position of Captain for the Hesperia, California Sheriff's station. Captain Wielenga is a twenty-five year veteran of law enforcement and has served with the department since 1990.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Captain Wielenga has served the citizens of San Bernardino County in a variety of ways. His assignments have included Patrol Deputy in Needles, Detective in the Victor Valley, and Sergeant at the county's jail facilities. Prior to Captain Wielenga's recent promotion he served as the Lieutenant at the Hesperia station.

I would like to congratulate Captain Wielenga on his new position. He exemplifies the professionalism of the men and women of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. I am honored to have him serving the people of Hesperia and wish him the best of luck.

#### WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK

### HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, March 6th marks the beginning of Women in Construction Week. The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) takes this week to highlight women in the construction industry. Chapter 11 of NAWIC is located in San Antonio, which I represent. This week allows thousands of NAWIC members across the country to raise awareness of the opportunities available to women in the construction industry and emphasize the growing role of women in the industry.

In sincere appreciation, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this week as Women in Construction Week.

#### HONORING DAVID FORD

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend and trusted employee, David Ford, who today is being honored by the Black Dems of Westchester for 50 years of incredible service to the community.

David has been a resident of Mt. Vernon for 53 years and an active member in the community his entire adult life. He has pursued his two great passions—community service and politics—with great vigor and has accomplished a great deal in both fields over a long and impressive career.

First elected Chairman of the Mt. Vernon Democratic Party in 1969, David inherited a club in a rock bed of Republican politics. For the next 27 years he served as Chairman and oversaw a complete political switch in the area. When he left the position in 1996, every elected official in Mt. Vernon was a Democrat, whereas none were in 1969.

David has also made his mark in the community through engagement with various civic organizations and as Commissioner of the Mt. Vernon Water Department, a role he served in for 33 years until his retirement in 2009. He has been President of the Mt. Vernon Lions Club, the Mt. Vernon YMCA, and the Citizens Veterans Association. As Board Chairman of the Mt. Vernon Neighborhood Health Center for 30 years, David was instrumental in turning a small program with 19 employees into one of the largest Health Care Centers in the region, employing over 400 people serving 40,000 patients annually. It is no wonder then why David has received countless honors in the community, including the Torch Liberty Award from the Anti-Defamation League and the "Citizen of the Year" Award from the YMCA.

But for all of his accomplishments in the community, I will always value David's incredible hard work as one of my most trusted and talented special assistants, a role he still serves in to this day. I congratulate David on this well-deserved and wonderful recognition from the Black Dems of Westchester, and thank him personally for all he has done to better the Mt. Vernon community. I am proud of David for all of his hard work, but I am even more proud to call him a friend.

#### HONORING STEVEN AND KATHERINE DIEBERT AS THEY CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steven and Katherine Diebert on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Steven and Katherine Diebert were married on February 26, 1966 in Fresno, California. They met as young students at Roosevelt High School by the drinking fountain; however, their paths unknowingly had crossed as children in 1953 when Steven was one of

Hopalong Cassidy's cowboy sidekicks at a Fresno department store called Coopers. Katherine's mother brought her to meet Hopalong Cassidy on that day, and little did she know that the boy by Hoppy's side would one day be her husband and that they would raise two beautiful daughters together.

In December of 1965, Steven proposed to Katherine and they were joined in marriage on February 26, 1966 at the First Baptist Church in Fresno. Despite many opportunities to leave the Central Valley over the last 50 years, they chose to remain in Fresno and raised their family here. The highlight of their marriage have been their two daughters, Stephanie (along with her husband, Kenneth) and Melissa (along with her husband, Layne), who have blessed them with five grandchildren, Leo Stephen, Ari Benjamin, Kaitlin Jade, Ella Rose, and Harrison Steven.

Steven Diebert was born on July 10, 1943 in Fresno, California to parents of Volga German descent, who were also born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley. Steven was a highly regarded football player at Roosevelt High School, where he proudly graduated from in 1961. Following high school, Steven attended Fresno State University where he graduated with a degree in Political Economy in 1966. Upon receiving his bachelor's degree, Steven went on to work for the Xerox Corporation where he worked for two years. In 1968, he returned to Fresno State to continue his education and received a graduate degree to become a Certified Public Accountant. Following

graduate school, he worked for the national accounting firm Touche Ross and in 1975, he was appointed by then California Controller, Ken Cory, to serve as a California Probate Referee. Steven is regarded as one of the finest probate referees in California and has carefully developed a reputation as a straight shooter and as a man of great integrity.

Katherine Diebert was born on November 6, 1944 in Fresno, California. Her parents were of Armenian, English and Irish decent and lived the majority of their lives in Fresno. Katherine graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1962 and went on to attend Fresno City College. In 1964, she began working in the medical administration and billing department at Fresno Medical Group. Katherine continued to work at Fresno Medical Group until she and Steven were blessed with their first daughter, Stephanie in 1971. Upon the birth of their second daughter, Melissa in 1975, Katherine decided to take some time off of work to raise her children. In 1977 Katherine returned to work for Internal Medicine and Associates where she worked until her retirement in 2008. While, building a beautiful family and successful career, Katherine has maintained a beautiful home and has continued to keep a meticulous and stunning garden.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Steven and Katherine Diebert on their fifty years of marriage and may they be blessed with many more. They serve as a prime example to us all of what it means to be committed to strong family values.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that yesterday, February 29, 2016, I was detained in my district and missed the one roll call vote of the day. Had I been present I would have voted:

AYE—Roll Call No. 102—H.R. 4238—to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 102 I was inadvertently detained and missed the vote on H.R. 4238.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.