

I was thoroughly impressed to learn that, through his dedication to his studies; Mr. Shahdaiah earned a grade point average of 3.6 and was inducted into the National Society of High School Scholars.

As a highly accomplished student-athlete, he served the U.S.A. International Football Team as Captain, Team Ambassador and starting linebacker, in addition to exalting fervent school pride, during his junior year as a highly valued teammate of the Dekaney Wildcats, his high school varsity track and football teams.

Expanding the bounds of his requisite studies, he explored his curiosities for the world of science becoming a member of the Texas High School Engineering Career and Technology Council.

I join his family and many admirers in genuinely celebrating Mr. Shahdaiah's life and outstanding contributions.

Quincy was one of the world's best comedians; he had the ability to make anyone who came into contact with him laugh.

All who knew Mr. Williams admired his prowess for presentation. Deemed one of the "Sharpest" brothers you'd meet.

Mr. Williams was affectionately called by his parents a "Junior"; and was one of the most outgoing, lovable kids that a parent could ever want.

Although young in body Mr. Williams was old in song; he was a profound lover of any and all Motown Performers and would listen to them regularly.

While at Andy Dekaney High school Quincy became branded as the "Soul Brother" of the football team.

These two young men cultivated their efforts, positioning themselves to successfully matriculate in May of 2016; and, but for their ill-fated passing, would by all accounts have celebrated their well-deserved accomplishments with their families as a milestone achievement in their young lives.

While I have no doubt they would have realized countless ambitions, we are left to accept that their dreams of immeasurable magnitude now rest with them.

These young men worked hard.

I cannot think of a more solemn manner of celebrating their life than to honor their efforts by bestowing upon their families recognition of the achievement for which they so ardently strode.

In the words of Booker T. Washington "Character is power".

Character truly is power and that power was present in the lives of these prolific young men.

Yes, their lives were cut short, but with what time they did have they effectively made the best of it.

Heaven has truly gained a dynamic pair of angels, while young Mr. Shahdaiah's and Mr. Williams families lost their most promising stars.

Please join me in a moment of silence for the life of Sarid Chaim Shahdaiah and Quincy Gemal Williams.

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA THORSTENSON

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the lifelong service and success of Sandra Thorstenson, the Superintendent of Whittier Union School District, in my Congressional District in California.

You could say that the Whittier Union School District is part of Sandra's DNA. After moving to Whittier at the age of five, Sandy went on to graduate from Whittier High School, attended Whittier College, and from there, launched a 39-year career as a teacher, principal, and Superintendent of the district.

While I think Sandy's lifelong dedication to educating young people is reason enough to celebrate, I would be remiss not to mention the success that has made her a leader in improving education for low-income students. Under her leadership, Whittier Union's motto has been "demographics do not determine destiny." The results of this attitude are clear. In a district with nearly 70 percent economically-disadvantaged students, Whittier Union sports a 97 percent graduation rate and sends 95 percent of its students on for a higher education.

Ms. Thorstenson embodies the kind of public servant and leader we need more of in education, someone who is unwilling to settle for anything less than success for every student in her district. It is in that spirit that, on behalf of all the families who've benefitted from her service, I wish Sandra a happy retirement and thank her for inspiring generations of students in the Whittier Union School District.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE PEARSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Bruce Pearson, who has been City Manager of Pleasanton, Texas since 2012.

Mr. Pearson was born and raised in Waco, Texas where he attended Richfield High School. He later graduated Summa Cum Laude from Texas State University-San Marcos and received a Master's Degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio in Public Administration where he was a Recognized Scholar. Mr. Pearson also holds a Certified Public Manager's Certification from the William P. Hobby Center for Public Service at Texas State University.

In 2000, Mr. Pearson began working for the San Antonio Water System, where he was involved in the implementation of a revolutionary water recycling system that provides over 35,000 acre feet of water for non-potable uses throughout San Antonio. The water recycling program remains the largest in the country to date. The Water Reuse Foundation recognized Mr. Pearson for his contributions to water conservation efforts in 2005. Addition-

ally, Mr. Pearson advised on the design of a customer service and site certification manual for the Water Reuse Foundation, and worked on the Cibola Canyons Professional Golfers' Association Project for the San Antonio Water System.

Mr. Pearson began his career in public service in 2008 when he was named Assistant City Manager for the City of Cibola. As Assistant City Manager, he oversaw the implementation of a capital improvement project that allowed the city to build a new police and fire Station, a public park, and to reconstruct the city's Main Street. In 2012, Mr. Pearson was named City Manager for the City of Pleasanton; a position through which he contributed to the city's growth, development, and prosperity. He oversaw the development and implementation of a multifaceted city master plan, a parks master plan, and contributed to the design and construction of a civic center, library, and the Freedom Center Project. Mr. Pearson has done an extraordinary job of bringing a vision of long term progress in every community he has worked in.

In addition to his impressive career in public service and municipal development, Mr. Pearson is a devoted father and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Bruce Pearson for his extensive achievements and important contributions to the communities of Cibola and Pleasanton, Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded this week. I was absent because I was traveling with President Barack Obama to Vietnam. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call No. 235: Aye; Roll Call No. 237: Nay; Roll Call No. 238: Aye; Roll Call No. 248: Nay; Roll Call No. 250: Nay; Roll Call No. 266: Nay; and Roll Call No. 268: Nay.

HONORING MS. FIONA BULLOCK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fiona Bullock, who will retire after 26 years of service as an educator and institutional leader at Pacific Union College.

Ms. Bullock completed her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work at Pacific Union College in 1983, before going on to earn her Masters of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley in 1990.

After completing her degree, Ms. Bullock spent 26 years in the Social Work Program at her alma mater, Pacific Union College. During her time at Pacific Union College she has held positions, including Associate Professor, Field Supervisor, Forum Sponsor, and Program Director. Ms. Bullock has also contributed to the field of social work through her research and the numerous books and articles she has authored. Throughout her career, Ms. Bullock

dedicated her time and energy to supporting students' success, including connecting her students with invaluable internships and work experiences.

A long-standing member of the National Association of Social Workers, Ms. Bullock has earned certifications in Critical Incident Stress Management and is a Board Certified Expert in War Trauma and Bereavement Trauma. Ms. Bullock earned recognition from both the National Association of Social Workers of California and the California Assembly for her support of academic freedom in higher education.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Bullock has dedicated her career to serving her students and community through the study, teaching, and practice of social work. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement and many happy memories to come with her family.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF SUSAN TOLCHIN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Susan J. Tolchin, someone who I had the privilege to work with and who I had long admired for her curiosity, her judgment, and her concern for others.

An ardent feminist, who along with her husband Marty, brought attention to the plight of middle-class working women, a class of Americans often overlooked and rarely chronicled, Susan and Marty authored several books together, all of which highlighted the mechanisms that the Tolchin's considered "occupational hazards of democracy."

As an author and a professor, Susan focused on and scrutinized political patronage and its many pitfalls, and was one of the first political scientists to identify growing voter disenchantment and disillusion with their government. She wisely concluded that these concerns were deeply rooted in the women's and worker's rights issues, largely discounted and ignored by policymakers, but which she sought to highlight through her teaching and writings.

In her seminal and sage work on political patronage, Susan redefined political patronage as that which "includes the vast range of favors awarded by constantly expanding governments." Likewise, her work on evolving voter anger was cutting-edge analysis, far ahead of her peers.

For those who had the fortune to know her, Susan was an engaging and charming conversationalist, with a natural curiosity and ability to learn from others. She was always learning and seeking new ideas, and applying this knowledge to her scholarship in the classroom and in her writings in political journals, magazines and books.

Susan's legacy of scholarship has provided those of us who also champion women's and laborers' rights with a critical knowledge base. Her work was inspirational, and insightful, and helped me and many others to understand trends and the undercurrents that caused them which others might have missed.

Susan was not only dedicated to struggles of the working, middle-class women, but also

to her family, whom she loved dearly. She and her husband Martin worked closely together for many decades, authoring many books. She adored her daughter Karen, also a professor, and their charming grandson, Charlie. They were quite a team, Susan and Marty, always joyful and supportive of each other.

Those who were fortunate to have known and loved Susan, or who had followed her work, will miss her terribly. Her passion was an inspiration for many, and one can only hope that her passing will not be the last chapter of her story, but that she will continue to inspire countless others. She certainly inspired me.

MONTENEGRO SHOWS THE VIRTUE OF SELF-DETERMINATION

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, the right of self-determination is today manifested by unhappy ethnic and national groups in almost every corner of the world—Scotland, Catalonia, Baluchistan, Biafra, or Kashmir. Current national establishments, as well as international organizations and alliances, however, fear changing the map, terrified by any proposal to dissolve the legal, political, and economic bonds between peoples that creates two countries where there is now one.

Self-determination and secession are, in the global establishment's mind, synonymous with instability, chaos and bloodshed. And, yes, that is what has happened all too often when a dominant ethnic group has refused to recognize rights of a minority to a vote on sticking with the status quo or governing themselves in a new or different country.

But chaos need not be the outcome of people exercising their right of self-determination.

Ten years ago this week, voters in Montenegro went to the polls in a referendum that posed the question, do you want Montenegro to be an independent state? When the votes were counted, 55.5 percent chose to peacefully dissolve their union with Serbia. Shortly thereafter, all five members of the United Nations Security Council recognized the newest country in the world.

In a region not known for a peaceful resolution of disputes, the peoples of Serbia and Montenegro have written a praiseworthy chapter in the history of democratic government and self-determination.

So what made it work so well this time? First and foremost, credit needs to be given to the Serbian government that permitted this referendum to occur. By doing so, made force and violence unnecessary and even counterproductive in the cause of Montenegrin independence. Belgrade, which has made its share of bad decisions, should be praised for making the right decision—right for the people of Serbia and Montenegro.

There are only a few examples of such an amiable separation. The Czech and Slovak split into two countries is certainly one example. We remember elections in Scotland and Quebec, where voters did not choose to be a new nation. Clearly it is better to let the future be determined by ballots, not bullets, and in such a democratic environment, fewer people

will want to vote for a split. If a minority decides to go for it, it will not result in a far-reaching trauma and decades of dissolution and animosity.

Today, for example, Montenegro is poised for a better future. It is advancing toward Euro-Atlantic integration, increasing its ability to fight organized crime and corruption, and strengthening its civil society and democratic structures. Yes, there are vexing problems, but with independence, the people of Montenegro know they themselves will determine if Montenegro is to be on the right track. With such a dynamic in play, there is every reason for confidence that problems will be solved and the building of a better country will get done.

As the chairman of the Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee, I have followed the volatile situation in those areas that are under pressure from such nationalistic movements. Economic stagnation and corruption feed the desire for self-determination and continue to be the biggest hurdle to developing countries like Montenegro, even now when the people there are free to control their own destiny. Forging new standards for transparency and accountability should cut down and make all the difference in situations like this. Montenegro's success in achieving membership in the EU and NATO depends on it. The government of Montenegro now points to its macroeconomic predictability, educated workforce, and openness to incentivized tax structures to lure direct foreign investment and serve as fuel for economic progress.

Their future is in their hands. Thus, they know they must act—or they lose. So after decades of being a backwater country, literally and figuratively, Montenegro is on the move. Stratex Group, for example, is now the largest American investor in Montenegro. The CEO was one of many Jewish families that fled Soviet Communism and settled in the United States. As Montenegro develops, more international and domestic entrepreneurs, like Stratex, can be expected to take advantage of opportunities in this beautiful, free and independent country, opportunities brought on by the triumph of self-determination, sidelining conflict and corruption.

The more success stories there are in the wake of amicable separation, the more peaceful independent movements can be expected to emerge. New nations like Montenegro can be expected, and once in control of their own destiny, people in these new independent countries can be expected to prioritize critical reforms and educate their new generations about corruption, free enterprise, and democratic government in the 21st century. I congratulate Montenegro on ten years of independence, and recommend others look to its experience as an example of gaining freedom and prosperity through self-determination.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, May 24, 2016, I was not present for call votes number 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, and 238 due to a family obligation. If present,