

and as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Army, retiring with the rank of Colonel.

Twice retired from the U.S. Army Reserve, COL Rubini was recalled to serve on the staff of the Hon. Paul Bremer, United States High Commissioner for Iraq. He was Senior Advisor to the Iraq Ministry of Justice and an integral part of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq. Prior to his Middle-East service, he received specialized training in civil affair terrorism and the law of war.

Today, he serves as Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania.

With sincere gratitude for years of service and heartfelt wishes for a very happy birthday—and many more.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DR. BRUCE HARTER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Dr. Bruce Harter as West Contra Costa Unified School District's (WCCUSD) Superintendent.

As the second longest serving superintendent in the history of WCCUSD, Dr. Harter has played a large role in the district both in and out of the classroom. During his tenure, WCCUSD experienced significant increases in the success of English Language Learners, increases in graduation rates, decreases in drop-out rates, and a significant increase in the proportion of graduates attending postsecondary education.

As a testament to his emphasis on addressing the whole child, WCCUSD has made great strides during his service to incorporate additional student services to help students learn and grow. To that point, WCCUSD is now the only school district in the Bay Area to have health centers in every high school, providing greater physical and emotional safety, and implementing social emotion programs that substantially reduced disciplinary actions.

Dr. Harter's commitment to promoting the success and well-being of West Contra Costa's students is deeply appreciated by the community that he serves, and he should be proud of the clear and steady improvement in overall student achievement during his service.

I thank Dr. Harter for his service and wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF WOODGROVE GIRLS' LACROSSE TEAM

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the girls' lacrosse team from Woodgrove High School in my District who recently won the 2016 4A Virginia State Championship. They practiced long hours as a team, and this extraordinary achievement shows how far dedication, hard work, and

commitment to teamwork can take a group as they played against some of the best competition in the nation.

Woodgrove girls' lacrosse team has made Virginia's 10th Congressional District proud and they have represented us well. Winning a state championship attests to their impressive athletic ability, unselfish mentality, and determination to succeed. I commend them for their tireless dedication to both their school and their teammates, without neither of which this could have been possible. It takes a delicate combination of superior skill and many hours of practice to win a state title. The Woodgrove girls' lacrosse team has certainly earned this honor and the lessons learned over the years will valuably serve them as they continue on in their lives.

They finished this year's season with an exceptional 18–3 record. The tenacity they brought to each game is truly impressive. This especially showed in the championship game as they exhibited their immense skill to beat George Mason by 12 points as they cruised to their 3rd straight state championship title.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Woodgrove High School girls' lacrosse team for their achievement and representing Virginia's 10th Congressional District with such distinction. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF JO COX, MEMBER OF BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS, WHO DEDICATED HER LIFE TO DEMOCRACY, EQUALITY AND PEACE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the senseless murder of Jo Cox, Member of the British House of Commons who was tragically taken from us on June 16, 2016.

Jo Cox was murdered in the street, while fulfilling her duties as a representative of the people.

I join in adding my voice to that of the civilized world in condemning this act of political violence.

I mourn Jo Cox's death and offer my deepest condolences to her family—particularly her husband and two children—as well as her friends and constituents.

Today, and far into the future, I will remember Ms. Cox, and honor her dedication to women's empowerment in the United Kingdom and across the globe.

Jo Cox was a tireless advocate for gender equity and human rights, even in one of the world's most challenging environments.

She carried this passion through at Oxfam, and later in Parliament.

Jo Cox chaired the Labour Women's Network, which works to engage and encourage women to run for political office.

She also founded UK Women, a research institute dedicated to better understanding the views and needs of women in the United Kingdom.

In what is a perfect testament to her spirit, one of Jo Cox's last acts in Parliament was to sign a motion recognizing and celebrating the early campaigners for women's suffrage.

Mr. Speaker, tragically, the loss of Jo Cox mirrors the experiences of women and girls all over the world, who are more likely than their male counterparts to be targets of violence in politics and elections.

This violence and intimidation has a real impact on women's participation as voters, candidates, election officials, activists and political party leaders, and therefore threatens the integrity of global political processes, as well as the commitment of governments to a credible democratic process.

This senseless act of violence perpetrated upon Jo Cox must strengthen our collective resolve to champion an authoritative effort to reduce and prevent violence against women in elections.

When public and private violence and intimidation does occur, resources must be available to help women access formal justice mechanisms as well as support informal efforts to resolve conflict, especially in local communities.

The fear of participation for all people must be taken out of politics.

Today, in honor and in memory of Jo Cox, I reaffirm my commitment to empowering women and girls all over the world to participate safely in political and public life.

I hope my colleagues will stand with me today to fight violence against women and girls, this month and for all the months to come.

I request that the House observe a moment of silence in honor of Jo Cox.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed Roll Call vote number 297 regarding "United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act of 2016". Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea".

I missed Roll Call vote number 298 regarding "Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Modernization Act". Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea".

IN HONOR OF LOUDOUN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the girls' soccer team from Loudoun County High School in my District who recently won the 2016 4A Virginia State Championship. They practiced long hours as a team, and this extraordinary achievement shows how far dedication, hard work, and commitment to teamwork can take a group as they played against some of the best competition in the nation.

This team has made Virginia's 10th Congressional District proud and they have represented us well. Winning a state championship attests to their impressive athletic ability,

unselfish mentality, and determination to succeed. I commend them for their tireless dedication to both their school and their teammates, without neither of which this could have been possible. It takes a delicate combination of superior skill and many hours of practice to win a state title. The Loudoun County High School girls' soccer team has certainly earned this honor and the lessons learned over the years will valuably serve them as they continue on in their lives.

They outlasted Salem 1–0 to achieve the team's 2nd state title in as many years. The game's only goal was an impressive header directed into the goal following a long free kick. The teamwork these girls used to get to this moment was on display the entire game as they sprinted and dribbled to victory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Loudoun County High School girls' soccer team for their achievement and representing Virginia's 10th Congressional District with such distinction. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING SUSAN H. WARNER

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Susan H. Warner, the former District Director for Virginia's 8th District.

Susie Warner worked with great cheer and with a wry sense of humor for 25 and a half years as the district director for the congressional district just across the Potomac River. She sat at the helm for twenty-four years for Congressman Jim Moran—his entire tenure—and the last year and a half before her retirement for me, graciously schooling the staff in the thorniest case work issues, how to handle every last constituent with grace, and how to keep a warm office environment to boot.

During those 25 years, Susie was a pillar of her community in the Lee district of Fairfax County, and a fixture of political life in Northern Virginia. And I'm sure she will continue to be. So often, when a member of my staff meets a constituent the first thing they hear is "Do you know Susie Warner? I love Susie Warner." Susie loves all of us right back, and often lets us know. "How ya doin', kid?" is a routine greeting for almost anyone. "I love you babes," she told the staff, often as her parting farewell at the end of the workday.

Susie's approach to problem-solving was old-fashioned, in the best sense of that phrase: She is friends with almost everyone she ever met. This included many, many liaisons in the federal government, who were indispensable to solving case work problems. She built those friendships over years of chats and commiseration, and at least one of her federal liaisons cried when told that Susie was retiring. She would draw upon that vast reservoir of friends and acquaintances in the community to find the answer for a constituent, or to identify and connect someone with exactly the right person in an organization who could fix the problem. She used her

sweet talk and her smarts to solve many, many intractable problems for many people in need. Reciting the list of those she helped would keep me on the floor for hours if not days.

I learned very quickly to value and rely on her sage advice and judgment, just as Congressman Moran had for all of the years in which they worked together. Her leadership will be sorely missed.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OFFICER
ENDY EKPANYA OF THE
PEARLAND, TEXAS POLICE DE-
PARTMENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Officer Endy Ekpanya of the Pearland, Texas Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on June 12, 2016, when his patrol car was struck by a drunk driver as he was responding to a call for assistance.

Officer Endy Ekpanya was just 30 years old at the end of his watch.

On behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas that I am privileged to represent, I extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and loved ones of Officer Endy Ekpanya.

President John F. Kennedy stated: "A man does what he must in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures, and that is the basis of all human mortality."

Officer Endy Ekpanya upheld this lofty standard.

Endy Ekpanya was born in Nigeria and immigrated to the United States with his family in 1996.

One of the happiest days of his life was August 22, 2012, when he was naturalized as a citizen of the greatest nation in the history of the world.

Endy Ekpanya excelled academically, graduating from high school in 2004, and earning two baccalaureate degrees, in Psychology and Sociology, from Hofstra University in 2008.

After completing his first year of law school at Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, Florida, Endy Ekpanya felt a strong calling to serve as a law enforcement first responder and changed his program of study to Criminal Justice.

Endy Ekpanya earned his Master of Science degree in Management and Criminal Justice Management from the University of Maryland University College in 2014 but he did not stop there; he went on to earn his MBA from the University of Maryland University College the following year.

Endy Ekpanya chose to begin his law enforcement career with the Pearland Police Department because he wanted to put his knowledge, skills, and servant's heart in the service of a medium-sized department that had a reputation for excellence and offered the opportunity for professional development and career growth.

Endy Ekpanya joined the Pearland Police Department as a Police Cadet in June 2015 and graduated from the Alvin Community College Police Academy in December, 2015.

Endy Ekpanya was sworn in as a police officer with the Pearland Police Department on December 10, 2015, successfully completed the Field Training Officer Program in May, 2016, and was assigned to Night Shift patrol on D Squad.

Endy Ekpanya had a bright future ahead of him but, sadly, it was cut short by his tragic death on June 12, 2016.

Officer Endy Ekpanya, exemplified the incredible sacrifice that police officers make every day when they head out into the community to protect and serve their family, friends, and neighbors.

Officer Endy Ekpanya, who is survived by wife, Lucy Lugo Ekpanya, and young son, Julian Ekpanya, leaves to cherish his memory his brothers and sisters on the Pearland Police Department and a host of relatives, neighbors, and friends whom he loved very much.

Mr. Speaker, I am at once proud and sad to pay tribute to the memory of Officer Endy Ekpanya.

I ask that the House observe a moment of silence in honor of Officer Endy Ekpanya of the Pearland, Texas Police Department.

IN HONOR OF THE WOODGROVE
GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the girls' softball team from Woodgrove High School in my District who recently won the 2016 4A Virginia State Championship. They practiced long hours as a team, and this extraordinary achievement shows how far dedication, hard work, and commitment to teamwork can take a group as they played against some of the best competition in the nation.

Woodgrove High School girls' softball team has made Virginia's 10th Congressional District proud and they have represented us well. Winning a state championship attests to their impressive athletic ability, unselfish mentality, and determination to succeed. I commend them for their tireless dedication to both their school and their teammates, without neither of which this could have been possible. It takes a delicate combination of superior skill and many hours of practice to win a state title. The Woodgrove High School girls' softball team has certainly earned this honor and the lessons learned over the years will valuably serve them as they continue on in their lives.

This team has captured three state titles in the past five years and their dominance was on display during 2016's title game where they crushed Fauquier an impressive 19–0. I am proud that their efforts this year paid off as they won a much-deserved state title.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Woodgrove High School's softball team for their achievement and for representing Virginia's 10th Congressional District with such distinction. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.