

Springfield Civic Association on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

North Springfield was forest and meadows when developer Edward R. Carr received the permits to create a community here. Construction started in 1954, and the first homes were occupied around July 1, 1955. The North Springfield Civic League (later renamed Association) was formed shortly thereafter with the first official meeting on January 25, 1956.

Over the last 60 years, the North Springfield Civic Association has led the effort to promote civic pride among its residents, inform the community about local and regional issues that affect the residents, and advocate for land use policies and public service investments that benefit the community. The quality of life and community spirit enjoyed by the residents now is a testament to their success.

As the former president of my own civic association, I know firsthand that when residents invest their time, care, and energies in their communities, it benefits us all. Fairfax County is considered one of the best places in the nation in which to work, live, and raise a family, largely because of the willingness of so many to become actively involved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the North Springfield Civic Association on its 60th anniversary and in thanking all of the residents for their tireless efforts and dedication to the community and region.

TRIBUTE TO ROCKY HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rocky Heights Middle School for being designated as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform this year. This designation recognizes Rocky Heights Middle School, as well as 145 other schools nationwide, as being on-track to fulfill the requirements to be designated as a school of high performance.

Rocky Heights Middle School's designation as a School to Watch places it in an elite tier of adolescent education institutions. The National Forum sets criteria for high performance in middle schools, which includes, creating an environment that challenges all students, setting up structures that address and account for the significant and unique challenges of students in early adolescence, and ensuring that students have access to high-quality teachers and resources. Rocky Heights Middle School, as a School to Watch, is well on its way to meeting these criteria.

Its high level of academic achievement and its strong community have fostered an excellent educational environment for the students of Rocky Heights.

This designation is an affirmation of the excellent achievements of Rocky Heights' students, as well as the continually improving work being done by the faculty. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the students and teachers of Rocky Heights Middle School for being one of the nation's premier adolescent education institutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 2016, I attended a funeral and I was unable to vote on H.R. 5325, H. Con. Res. 89, and H. Con. Res. 112.

If present, I would have voted "yea" on Ellison of Minnesota Amendment No. 2, "nay" on Blackburn of Tennessee Amendment No. 6, "yea" on Takano of California Amendment No. 11, "nay" on Pearce of New Mexico Amendment No. 13, "yea" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 5325 with Instructions, "nay" on passage of H.R. 5325, "nay" on H. Con. Res. 89, and "nay" on H. Con. Res. 112.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I regretfully missed the following roll call votes on Thursday, June 23, 2016. Had I been present I would have voted "NO" on the following roll call votes: Roll Call 341—H. Res. 797, the rule for the Conference Report for H.R. 2577. Roll Call 342—H.R. 2577, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017 and Zika Conference Report.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SALES & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT LIFE- TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RE- CIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2016 recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Awards presented by the Institute for Excellence in Sales & Business Development (IES).

IES was created to foster excellence in business sales and development practices and to help sales professionals and organizations maximize their efforts. IES conducts a variety of workshops and programs designed to provide the knowledge and tools necessary to advance the careers and growth of those who attend. Each year, IES recognizes individuals, teams, and organizations throughout the United States who demonstrate exemplary performance through leadership, risk taking, innovation, vision, and customer development. Awards are presented in categories including Excellence in Sales Innovation, Excellence in Sales Training, Excellence in Sales Management, Excellence in Customer Partnering, and Excellence in Strategic Alliances. In addition, Lifetime Achievement Awards are bestowed to a select few who have demonstrated continued success and have made significant contributions in their fields.

The recipients of the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Awards are the founders and leaders of immixGroup, a government contract management firm based in McLean, Virginia in the heart of the 11th District. I am pleased to congratulate Art Richer, Steve Charles and Jeff Copeland on receiving this prestigious award.

Mr. Richer currently serves as Vice-President, Arrow ECS. An accomplished sales and business development executive who has spent more than 25 years selling information technology products and services within the government sector, Mr. Richer has extensive experience working with technology manufacturers of all sizes, ranging very large and established companies to numerous high growth and emerging technology firms.

Mr. Charles co-founded immixGroup in 1997. Over the past two decades he has helped hundreds of technology manufacturers succeed in the government marketplace. Mr. Charles is actively involved in government-industry associations including TechAmerica, ACT-IAC, Coalition for Government Procurement, and the National Contract Management Association. A recognized expert in every dimension of the government technology ecosystem, he meets regularly with leaders in government and industry to increase understanding and positive action.

Mr. Copeland began his career with immixGroup as co-founder of the company along with Mr. Charles. Beginning in 1997, he served as Chairman and CEO before transitioning to Executive Chairman in 2013. Mr. Copeland has earned a reputation for building and managing highly effective government teams that set records for revenue and profitability.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Art Richer, Steve Charles and Jeff Copeland for their innovative and effective leadership and in congratulating them on receiving the 2016 IES Lifetime Achievement Awards.

RECOGNIZING FATHER GEOFFREY BARAAN ON HIS SERVICE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Father Geoffrey Baraan in celebration of over a decade of dedicated service as Pastor of St. Anne Catholic Church in Union City.

Before Father Geoffrey became a priest he was a counselor, a role that helped him understand the many needs and concerns of the people to whom he has ministered.

He entered St. Joseph College Seminary in Los Altos in 1990 and completed his studies at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. Diocese of Oakland Bishop John Cummins ordained him to the priesthood in 1997, and he began serving as parochial vicar at St. Augustine Parish in Pleasanton. Later he was appointed parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Pinole and then as parochial administrator at St. Ignatius Parish in Antioch in 2001. In 2005, he assumed the role of Pastor at St. Anne.

During his time as Pastor, Father Geoffrey was a beloved figure who inspired countless people. His compassionate communal leadership fostered unity in one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse parishes in the

Diocese. He shepherded a "living church" where parishioners practiced their faith through service to others.

Today, due to Father Geoffrey's leadership, St. Anne is one of the largest parishes in my congressional district, with over 5,000 parishioners. In addition, ministry groups have thrived while faithfully and effectively serving Union City and the entire Tri-City area. They have established a variety of programs to assist the homeless and hungry in their community.

Father Geoffrey was also instrumental in establishing S.M.A.R.T., which stands for "St. Anne Medical Action Response Team." He helped assemble a medical team of over 80 volunteers, including doctors, nurses, medical students, and other health professionals to provide first aid and basic care to parishioners during all of the often-crowded weekend services.

Father Geoffrey will begin a new ministry starting on July 1, 2016, when he becomes Pastor of St. Joseph's Church and School in Pinole. I wish to thank Father Geoffrey on his contributions to the 15th Congressional District during his time at St. Anne, and I wish him well in his new assignment.

IN HONOR OF MARILYN BITTERMAN AND HER RETIREMENT FROM COMMUNITY BOARD 7 IN NEW YORK'S 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Marilyn Bitterman. Marilyn is a beloved member of the Queens community, who plans to retire after 40 years of service to Community Board 7.

Marilyn has been working part-time for the Community Board since 1976 and was promoted to Assistant District Manager in 1984. In 1988, she was appointed to the position of District Manager, and she has worked diligently for the people of Queens ever since. She has been a blessing to the community for over four decades and the Community Board, and surrounding community, will miss her dearly.

Marilyn is an extremely active member of the Queens community in many ways. She has worked on the Borough President's Flushing Meadows Corona Park Coordination Committee and the Queens Traffic Safety Board. She currently sits on the Community Advisory Boards of Flushing Hospital and the New York-Presbyterian Hospital Queens. She is a graduate of the Citizens Police Academy and presently serves as co-president of the Bay Terrace Garden Jewish Center. Marilyn is an incredible and giving individual, who has dedicated her life to the betterment of her community.

At the end of August, Marilyn will be retiring as District Manager from the Community Board. She has worked for much of her life to improve her community, and I would like to personally thank her for her dedication to serving the residents of Queens. I also would like to acknowledge Marilyn's loving husband, Jack, two children, Noel and Tracy, a son-in-

law, Michael, and three grandchildren, Gabriel, Sadie and Cassidy, and thank them for sharing Marilyn with the people of Queens for so many years. While the Community Board may be losing an asset to their team, the whole community is extremely grateful to Marilyn for her many years of selfless service.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in honoring Marilyn Bitterman's service to the Queens community and in wishing her a happy retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF AMBASSADOR RUTH A. DAVIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Ruth A. Davis on receiving the prestigious Lifetime Contributions to American Diplomacy award. I want to give thanks to this exceptional public servant for her exemplary service to her country as a United States diplomat. Her contributions to American diplomacy over the length of her impressive career with the Department of State, as well as in retirement, have contributed to making the world a safer and more peaceful place. Her vision has especially ensured that the future of America's diplomacy reflects our country's strength—its diversity.

Ambassador Davis was born in Phoenix, Arizona, but was primarily raised in Atlanta, Georgia during the Jim Crow era. She graduated magna cum laude from Spelman College where she studied abroad in Europe and the Middle East as a Merrill Scholar. She later received her Master's Degree from the University of California at Berkeley. In 1969, she embarked on one of the most challenging and rewarding careers as a U.S. diplomat.

Among her many notable accomplishments, Ambassador Davis was the first African American to become a Career Ambassador, the highest ranking position within the Foreign Service. At the time of her retirement, she was the longest-serving Career Ambassador in the department's history. Her hard work, sacrifice, and dedication to public service allowed her to serve her country all over the globe including in Porto, Benin, Nairobi, Kenya, Tokyo, Japan, Barcelona, Spain, and Naples, Italy. As the Consul General in Barcelona, Spain, she played an important leadership role in the organization of the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, and later utilized her experience to help Atlanta's successful Olympic bid in 1996. As a colleague and a friend, I have always admired her strength, tenacity, and selflessness in choosing to serve on the frontlines of American foreign policy at a time when the participation of African Americans and women was not welcomed at home or abroad. Through her leadership, she emulated the excellence of our society to America's global partners and pioneered a path and secured a place for minorities to represent our nation as diplomats.

Her unique talents and skills continued to bring greater understanding of and interaction between domestic and foreign policy matters. As a Pearson Fellow, she worked as a Special Advisor for International Affairs for the Washington, DC Municipal Government where she

substantially enhanced the city's involvement in the international, economic, cultural, and diplomatic fields. In 2002, she was nominated by Secretary of State Colin Powell and appointed by President George W. Bush as the Director General of the U.S. Foreign Service. As the Director General, Ambassador Davis managed the promotion, discipline, career development, recruitment, and retirement policies and for all of the State Department's Foreign and Civil Service employees. During her time in Washington, she generously imparted her knowledge, expertise, and wisdom as the Distinguished Advisor for International Affairs at Howard University.

I am lucky to count Ambassador Davis as a friend and a fellow advocate of civil rights. She has dedicated her life in the Foreign Service and beyond to fostering the next diverse generation of diplomats. Her work as a mentor and supporter of those from underrepresented backgrounds will ensure that America's diplomatic force mirrors the beautiful mosaic of races, religions, and ethnicities in our country. From her service at Howard University, to the President of the Thursday Luncheon Group, an affinity group at the State Department, to her helping found the International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge, to her endless support for the Charles B. Rangel Fellowship, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Foreign Service is a more inclusive, and thus a more effective institution. I am certain that her efforts in diversifying the American diplomatic corps and mentoring rising diplomats will continue to advance the safety, security, and prosperity of our country for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, for this, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues in Congress join me in applauding this extraordinary public servant, whose service to our country has made the U.S. and the world a better place.

RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS ON OBTAINING CERTIFICATIONS AND RENEWALS FOR THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Prince William County Public School Division and congratulate the following educators on being certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The National Board is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting excellence in education and is governed by classroom teachers, school administrators, school board leaders, governors and state legislators, higher education officials, teacher union leaders, and business and community leaders.

To qualify for certification, each teacher must meet or exceed the demanding standards established by the National Board and must successfully complete a rigorous multi-component assessment that demonstrates that he or she has mastered the knowledge, skills and practices required of an accomplished educator. A National Board Certification denotes