

Lauren Baker has been recognized for her work including Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) award for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) where she earned a Master of Science Degree in Administrative Leadership and Educational Supervision. She was honored by Business Journal as a Woman of Influence. In 2010, Lauren was invited to the White House as a part of a small group advising the Obama Administration on equity in technical education for the National Educate to Innovate Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Lauren, her husband John Drew, a UAW labor leader and adult son, Nick, my friends. She has left a legacy of advocacy and compassion and is a true trailblazer. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from her dedicated service. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Lauren Baker, and wish her the best as she transitions into a new phase of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. on September 5, 2017 because my flight from Oregon was delayed due to weather. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2864, the Improving Access to Capital Act, and H.R. 3110, the Financial Stability Oversight Council Insurance Member Continuity Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVE NORTON AND HIS SERVICE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY STUDIES

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Norton as he moves on after twelve years from his role as Executive Director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies.

As Executive Director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, and previously as director of Medicaid Service for the N.H. Department of Health and Human Services, Steve made invaluable contributions to our community and our state. Through his commitment and compassion, he helped improve the lives of countless families and communities in need, and his vision has helped to create a better future for the Granite State and its residents.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and all those who have benefitted from Steve's work, I thank him for all he has done for our state, and I wish him the best of luck in his next step. I look forward to our continued work together to make New Hampshire be an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RON ARMSTEAD

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ron Armstead, the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust.

Mr. Armstead began his career in public service as the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust, a role he has served in since the program's inception. Since then, he has served under various members, including former Representative Charles Rangel and Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Currently, Mr. Armstead serves under Representative SANFORD BISHOP Jr. In addition, Mr. Armstead also served as a consultant to the late Secretary Jerry Brown's Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Mr. Armstead holds a Master's in City Planning with a concentration in Affordable Housing and Community Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is also a licensed social worker in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ron Armstead for his hard work with the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust.

HONORING SCOTT FRANZGROTE FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS FIRE CHIEF OF THE ROLLING MEADOWS FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Scott Franzgrote on the occasion of his retirement. On September 29th of this year, Mr. Franzgrote will conclude his loyal service as Fire Chief of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department.

Chief Franzgrote has served the community for a total of 27 years, including the last six years as Fire Chief of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department. Since joining the department in 1990, his extraordinary leadership has earned him great respect among colleagues and members of the community.

During his tenure, Chief Franzgrote led a consolidation effort for services with the Palatine and Palatine Rural fire departments. The "Rural Palatine Meadows" initiative has led to shared equipment, standardized training, streamlined responses to incidents, and has already saved the city of Rolling Meadows hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and wishing Chief Franzgrote every happiness in the well-deserved respite of his retirement.

DISCUSSION ABOUT REMOVING A PLAQUE ON THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following remarks by Peter Onoszko, President of the Jefferson County Commission:

"With malice toward none and charity for all" thus said President Abraham Lincoln in his Second Inaugural Address in 1865. Even though the Civil War would continue for several more months before the final victory over the Confederate States, President Lincoln was already setting the country on the path of reconciliation. Regardless of the military victory, the President knew that unless there was a reconciliation the military victory would be meaningless.

The path of reconciliation has been slow and tortuous. However, in the decades following the Civil War all but the most senior of the former Confederate military and civilian leadership had their United States citizenship restored by Congress. The post-War careers of Confederate general officers is illustrative of the reconciliation. Depending on how one counts, there were between 425 and 562 Confederate general officers. Of these numbers, 3 were recalled to active duty during the Spanish-American War and served in the United States Army. 51 were appointed to various federal civilian positions ranging from US ambassadors to foreign governments to US marshals to membership on various federal commissions to postmasters and so forth. 45 were elected to the US Congress as senators and representatives and at least one was appointed to a federal judgeship.

What of the ordinary soldiers and how they felt? In 1905 on the 40th anniversary of the Civil War, Congress authorized the first campaign medal ever awarded to members of the Armed Forces and this was the Civil War Campaign Medal awarded to all who had served honorably in BOTH the Union and Confederate armies. Perhaps the most poignant demonstration of reconciliation was the Battle of Gettysburg Reunion of 1913 marking the fiftieth anniversary of that great battle. Thousands of surviving veterans from both the North and the South gathered at the site of the battle. During several days of the reunion, Confederate and Union veterans toured the battlefield walking arm in arm as they revisited the site and reminisced with each other, recognizing that there was an unbreakable bond that had risen among all who had participated.

By 1978 the United States Congress had restored US citizenship to all of the senior leadership of the Confederacy, in some cases posthumously. The last was Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, who posthumously had his US citizenship restored by an act of Congress in 1978. In signing this act President Jimmy Carter observed that this was the final act of reconciliation.

Paralleling the reconciliation of "the Boys in Blue and the Boys in Gray" was the reconciliation between white and black Americans. This also followed a tortuous path. Starting with the Emancipation Proclamation promulgated in 1863 and continuing with the ratification of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution between 1864 and 1870, slavery was abolished and black Americans were recognized as full citizens of the United States with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

Unfortunately the full acceptance of black Americans was legally obstructed in many

sections of the country for the next century with the enactment of “Jim Crow” laws which made racial segregation and discrimination legal (“Separate but equal” as the US Supreme Court ruled in *Plessy v. Ferguson* [1896]). However, the path toward racial reconciliation continued. The Armed Forces were racially integrated by President Harry Truman during the Korean War and *Plessy v. Ferguson* was overturned by the US Supreme Court in 1954 with the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision which ruled that “Separate but equal is not equal at all” to cite several examples of the country moving toward complete reconciliation. The struggle to legally abolish racial discrimination and insure civil rights for all Americans of whatever racial background, in which struggle both black and white Americans participated, came to a head in the civil rights protests and demonstrations of the 1960s. This resulted in the landmark Civil Rights Legislation of the era which ended racial segregation and outlawed discrimination on the basis of race.

In our lifetime we have had an African American president, African American cabinet officers, including two secretaries of state, two African American Justices on the Supreme Court, several African American four-star generals including one Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, many Members of Congress in both the Senate and House, along with African American leaders in business, industry, science, medicine, academia, and the arts.

Tragically today there exist small radical minorities among both white and black Americans who seek to undermine over a century and a half of progress toward the reconciliation between regions of America and the races of Americans, creating harmful division and discord between our people and threatening to destroy our country. This has got to stop. We are ALL Americans and as Abraham Lincoln said in 1858 “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed Roll Call vote number 480 regarding Motion to Concur (H.R. 601). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes; I missed Roll Call vote number 481 regarding On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 55 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted No; I missed Roll Call vote number 482 On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 56 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted No; I missed Roll Call vote number 483 regarding On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 57 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes; and I missed Roll Call vote number 484 On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 63 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted No.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MICHAEL DURANT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of Senior Deputy Sheriff Michael Durant of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and to thank him for his unwavering commitment to making California—and the United States—a safer place.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all of our nation's law enforcement officers, but Californians are especially thankful for the impact that Mike has made in his community and state. Over the course of his law enforcement career, which now spans more than three decades, Mike has held a number of important roles. He has been assigned to patrols and field trainings, conducted numerous investigations, and done extensive work with the canine unit.

At each step as Mike rose through the ranks, he gained experience and expertise that prepared him well for the position he currently holds with the Peace Officers Research Association of California, more commonly known as PORAC. PORAC's mission is to identify the public safety needs in communities and help to provide the services necessary to adequately meet those changing needs. After serving for seven years as the group's Vice President, in 2013 Mike was unanimously elected President and has since led the association with distinction.

As leader of the largest law enforcement organization in California and the largest such statewide association in the nation with over 70,000 active members, Mike has strengthened the association and enhanced PORAC's voice at the state and national levels. I have seen firsthand Mike's passion for enacting public policy aligned with PORAC's honorable mission, at both the state and federal levels.

When PORAC meets with Members of Congress this week, it will be the last time it does so under the leadership of President Durant. With Mike's productive tenure as PORAC President coming to an end, I want to thank him for his service to California, congratulate him on a job well done, and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to Mike's wife, Roxanne, and his three children—because as a son of a police officer and brother of two members of law enforcement myself, I recognize the sacrifices such families make while their loved ones serve in the line of duty.

HONORING DELPHINE METCALF- FOSTER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Delphine Metcalf-Foster, who is the National Commander of Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Along with her position with DAV, Ms. Metcalf-Foster serves on the First Data Mili-

tary Advisory Council, is a member of the DAV Department of California Claims and Service Committee, and has served as Chairman of the DAV Department of California Resolution Committee. In November 2015, she completed a four-year appointment as a member of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster has served in multiple tours and units. In 1991, she was injured while serving in Saudi Arabia as a part of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield. She has also served with the U.S. Army Reserve, 689th Quartermaster Unit, 6253rd Hospital Unit and 6211th Transportation Unit at the Letterman Army Medical Center. In 1996, Ms. Metcalf-Foster retired from the Army Reserves with the rank of first sergeant.

She is a graduate of Solano Community College and Sonoma State University, where she majored in psychology and liberal studies, respectively.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and honoring Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster.

REMEMBERING JOSE RAMOS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember my dear friend, and fierce advocate for his fellow veterans, Jose Ramos. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and my thoughts are with his wife, Sylvia, and his family at this very difficult time. Jose was a member of my Veterans Advisory Committee and a well-respected resource for veterans throughout our community. He will always be remembered for his tireless work to gain national recognition for Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

Jose Ramos was born in 1948 to Augustine and Herminia Ramos. He attended Garfield High School but chose to enlist in the Army when he was in 10th grade. He worked as an Army Combat Medic, and in 1968 he received the Purple Heart. After returning home, Jose worked at the Los Angeles County USC Medical Center and at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital. He retired in 1999.

Like his fellow Vietnam veterans, Jose Ramos returned home from an unpopular war only to face hostility and resentment. And like his fellow soldiers, Jose quietly went back to his normal life, built a family and stayed in touch with his veteran friends. He became a powerful advocate for veterans in our community and across the country. It was his personal experiences, and those of his fellow GIs, that motivated him to work toward establishing a national day of recognition. He inspired many, including me, to help give Vietnam veterans their long overdue welcome home.

His legacy lives on as several states all across the nation have already adopted Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. It is long past time for our country to officially recognize and commemorate their service. I will continue to introduce and advocate for legislation to establish a national 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day' on behalf of Jose Ramos and all of our veterans who fought bravely in the Vietnam War.