

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING FIRST SELECTMAN PATRICIA MECHARE

#### HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Selectman Patricia Mechare, a tireless public servant for the town of Falls Village, Connecticut. First Selectman Mechare is retiring after 12 years as First Selectman, but her service to the town will continue, and her contributions to the community will be felt for years to come.

Pat comes from a long line of public service. Her father, Rolland, served on the Boards of Finance, Education, and Selectmen for the Town of Canaan. Pat followed his example and began her career in public service, joining Falls Village's Planning and Zoning Commission in 1977. As a public school teacher and a member of numerous town departments, including the Board of Education and the Day Care Building Committee, Pat quickly made her mark on the community.

In 2005, Pat was elected First Selectman of Falls Village. Her commitment to the role led to substantial community development for one of Connecticut's smallest towns. By working with all levels of government, Pat was a strong advocate for Falls Village, securing public grants to develop Main Street and kick start public works throughout the town. Even in her retirement, Pat plans to remain heavily involved in her community.

Mr. Speaker, First Selectman Pat Mechare is an exemplary role model for our community and for public servants everywhere. Falls Village and the entire State of Connecticut are better places because of her efforts. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

### RECOGNIZING MASTER HA HUYEN THANH

#### HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important figure in the Vietnamese martial arts community, Master Ha Huyen Thanh and his significant contributions to the General Association for the Development of World Martial Arts for over 20 years.

Master Ha Huyen Thanh was born as Ha Cong Huyen in Ninh Binh, Vietnam. He developed a passion for martial arts at an early age and pursued his passion through Shaolin, Judo, and self-defense martial arts when his family and he moved to the South of Vietnam in 1954.

Upon receiving his Black Belt, Master Thanh became a Judo instructor and continued his training to become a Master. During this time,

he became the Finance Commissioner for the "Vietnam Judo Association" and joined the Republic of Vietnam Air Force.

Master Thanh was invited to instruct Judo at various places including Ngo Quyen training center, Tinh Nghiem Temple, and Bien Hoa Orphanage. His great talents granted him the opportunity to become the committee member for Mekong Judo Competition—a competition which was organized in Saigon, Vietnam and had eleven countries worldwide participate.

When Master Ha Huyen Thanh came to the United States, he became a journalist and worked for various broadcasting stations in Orange County, California.

In 1993, Master Ha Huyen Thanh's continuous passion for martial arts urged him to establish the General Association for the Development of World Martial Arts. The association has been hosting the World Martial Arts festival every two years to gather over 500 martial arts Masters, instructors, and students to showcase various types of martial arts. The association has also made great efforts to help their members open more training centers. Master Thanh is currently the General Secretary for the Association.

On September 1, 2017, Master Thanh passed away, but his dedication to preserve and promote martial arts, and his impact on the Vietnamese martial arts community will remain a legacy.

### RECOGNIZING DR. ANTHONY LOCKHART, FLORIDA'S 2017 PRIN- CIPAL OF THE YEAR

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Anthony Lockhart, Principal at Lake Shore Middle School and Florida's 2017 Principal of the Year. Mr. Lockhart has shown outstanding merit and dedication to his profession. He has been a source of inspiration and courage for hundreds of students for more than 20 years with the Palm Beach County School District. He has gained well-earned accolades for his ability to connect with his students and has gone above and beyond his call of duty to improve the performance of a struggling school. Dr. Lockhart was named the Legacy Magazine 2015 Top High School Educators of the Year and was also named one of the top 50 most influential black professionals.

After graduating from Jackson State University, Dr. Lockhart worked as a counselor to young people—it is this critically important work that would eventually lead him to become a school guidance counselor and work his way up to principal. Dr. Lockhart believes that education is the great equalizer—that no matter what socioeconomic or racial background an individual comes from, they can accomplish anything if they obtain an education.

Lake Shore Middle School faced many challenges when Dr. Lockhart became Principal. Not shy about rolling up his sleeves and getting to work, he started interviewing teachers and community members to ascertain what needed to be done to make the school as successful as he knew it could be. Dr. Lockhart, armed with this information, then worked with teachers and community members alike to change the school culture. This diligent work resulted in the school going from being graded at a F– to a C rated school and being recognized by Florida Governor Rick Scott for being in the top ten percent of middle schools in five categories. Dr. Lockhart has no doubt that this achievement could not have been possible without the efforts from a supportive community, a focused group of educators, and a dedicated administrative staff. Instead of seeing students that embraced a failing attitude, he saw children that had not been given an opportunity to succeed; he saw teachers that needed encouragement, training and support; and a community that could be convinced that success was possible.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize and honor Dr. Anthony Lockhart today for his accomplishments and his dedication, may we also recognize the hope and light educators like Dr. Lockhart bring to the future of this country.

### HONORING CHARLIE MAE DAVIS

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary mother, grandmother, activist, and public servant, Charlie Mae Davis. With her passing on September 9, 2017 the East Bay lost a champion for justice, and many of us lost a life-long friend.

Charlie Mae was a Texas transplant to California. She was born in Rockdale, and graduated from high school in Waco. In 1950, she moved to California where she met her future husband, Arthur Lee Davis. Charlie Mae and Arthur Lee were married in 1964, and raised a wonderful family together.

During this period when she was raising her family, Charlie Mae was very active in her community, and eventually went to work at Brookfield Elementary, where she would later retire after working as an assistant to the principal.

Charlie Mae gave selflessly of her time to help improve her community, and was passionate about improving the lives of her neighbors in Oakland. In 1992, she, along with a core group of activists, worked to establish the Martin Luther King, Jr. March and Rally, which is the longest continuously held celebration in Oakland to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King. I was grateful to participate in this past year's Oakland MLK Day rally, marking the event's 25th anniversary. This wonderful event's continuation for future generations is a great legacy for Charlie Mae.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Charlie Mae was also instrumental in the establishment of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Center in Oakland, an organization that I helped found and am particularly proud of. In the mid-1990's, we had this idea to create a leadership academy for students, inspired by the teachings of Dr. King.

I was in the state legislature in California at the time, and I proposed a bill to establish a memorandum of understanding between the City of Oakland, the East Bay Park District and several other local agencies in order to provide the resources for the MLK Freedom Center to exist. Charlie Mae, who was one of the principal founders of the center, helped organize busloads of my constituents from Oakland up to Sacramento to testify on the importance of the project, and why the bill was so important.

That effort was essential to the passage of the bill and the formal creation of the center, which now has taught hundreds of young people from the East Bay about leadership, conflict resolution, violence prevention and civic engagement and is really helping to create the next generation of social activist leaders.

On a personal note, I was proud to call Charlie Mae my friend for decades, and am indebted to her for her leadership in empowering Oakland residents to work together to create a better city and world for themselves, their neighbors, and future generations. It was such an honor this past May to present Charlie Mae with the first Mildred Parish Massey Legacy Award, named after my late mother. It was a happy moment for Charlie Mae, and inspiring for me to know that I had the chance to say thank you to her for her service, her friendship, her leadership and her love.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District honors Charlie Mae Davis' memory, and her lifetime of service working on behalf of social justice and equality. I join her loved ones in celebrating her incredible life with a promise to honor her tremendous legacy.

#### HONORING STEVE MCKERNAN

#### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2017*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor to recognize Steve McKernan, Chief Executive Officer of University of New Mexico Hospitals, as he prepares for his retirement after 37 years of service to the people of Bernalillo County and the State of New Mexico.

In 1980, Mr McKernan began his career at the University of New Mexico Hospital. Mr. McKernan began as a staff accountant and worked his way up through the organization, becoming CEO in 1996. During his 21 years as CEO, Mr. McKernan was an integral part of a team relentlessly focused on improving the care of the people of New Mexico.

Thanks to Mr McKernan's vision and leadership, UNM Hospitals provide the level and specialties of care that are only available in the largest teaching hospitals in the country. During Mr. McKernan's tenure, the Barbara and Bill Richardson Pavilion opened in 2008 and a network of community-based clinics was established, providing healthcare throughout the City of Albuquerque.

In addition to his achievements in growing the mission and reach of UNM Hospitals, Mr. McKernan has gained national prominence in the hospital community, serving on the Board of the America's Essential Hospitals. He has also been involved in a variety of local community and business groups, including the Rotary Club, the New Mexico Hospital Association and the Boy Scouts of America.

It is with great honor and privilege that I take this moment to thank Steve for his service and commitment to our community, the lives of New Mexicans are forever changed because of his work. I wish him and his wife Becky an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING PETER HARVELL

#### HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2017*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize Peter Harvell, who will retire as Director of Veterans Benefits and Services of Framingham, Massachusetts on September 28, 2017. Peter's lifetime of service shows us how one person's undeterrable mission to help others can positively impact his broader community.

Peter has dedicated the past 13 years to helping veterans by connecting them with state and federal benefits, partnering with community organizations, and ensuring the stability and growth of their mental and financial health.

Peter has been one of our veterans' strongest advocates in the towns of Sudbury and Framingham. He partnered with local food banks, jail diversion task forces, and legal aid services to help veterans and service members who fell on hard times. He worked with the VFW, the American Legion, and local National Guard units to host welcome home ceremonies. He paid our veterans their due respect on national holidays. Above all, Peter maintains relationships and provides support to our Gold Star families.

Prior to his service to the towns of Sudbury and Framingham, Peter spent 23 years in the U.S. Army serving in the U.S. Special Operations Command. After preparing OPERATION EAGER ANVIL in DESERT STORM and coordinating NATO missions in Bosnia, he returned home to continue service as a congressional liaison at USSOCOM for two years.

Peter's dedication and leadership honor our Commonwealth and our country. We thank him for his years of service and wish him a happy and successful retirement.

#### CELEBRATING EL AVISO MAGAZINE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2017*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute El Aviso Magazine, an award-winning Spanish-language weekly publication based in my 40th Congressional District, as it begins its 30th anniversary celebration.

Since its establishment in 1988, El Aviso Magazine has focused its reporting on local areas with the highest populations of Latinos. The publication offers a unique blend of topics ranging from social and political, to health and welfare, to family, culture, and entertainment.

At its inception, El Aviso Magazine shared an office with a travel agency in the City of Huntington Park, and only had two employees and five distributors. At that time, the magazine's weekly circulation reached an audience of 70,000, and its method of distribution was door-to-door. Today, an average issue reaches an audience of more than 600,000, and it can be found at over 10,000 points of distribution in 136 cities and neighborhoods in the greater Los Angeles area, Orange County, the San Fernando Valley, and the Inland Empire.

El Aviso Magazine has received countless awards from the National Association of Hispanic Publications, and has also received national recognition for its editorial content and covers. In 2004, it received an award for being the fastest-growing publication in the United States. At the 2014 National Association of Hispanic Publications Convention, El Aviso Magazine received the Gold Award for the Most Outstanding Newsprint Magazine.

Over the past 30 years, Jessica Maes Zepeda and Jose Ramiro Zepeda, along with their family, have operated this family-owned magazine. Mr. Zepeda was born in Mexico, and immigrated to the United States in the mid-1980s in search of the American Dream. As he was searching for the right business, he witnessed the passage and implementation of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Mr. Zepeda saw the need to inform the Spanish-speaking community in a language they could read and understand. This led him to produce a Spanish publication that would serve the Latino community across Southern California—El Aviso Magazine. Mr. Zepeda has worked diligently for the past three decades and has made El Aviso Magazine a success story.

Mrs. Zepeda, the magazine's co-owner and its director of public relations and community affairs, was raised in Southeast Los Angeles, where she attended local parochial schools and decided to pursue a career in real estate. In the early 1980s, she joined the Downey Board of Realtors and served as vice president. She then became the president of the Women's Council of Realtors, and the director of the California Association of Realtors.

In 1994, Mrs. Zepeda became politically active and was elected to the Huntington Park City Council. Through her accomplishments, she became the first woman to hold the position of Mayor for the City of Huntington Park three years later.

Mrs. Zepeda has received numerous accolades for her community service from elected officials in the State of California and Congress, and from non-profit organizations. The California Chamber of Commerce recently recognized Mrs. Zepeda with the 2017 Pioneer Empresaria Award.

Mr. and Mrs. Zepeda believe in assisting the less fortunate and those in need. Their dedication to the community and their philanthropic activities are reflected through El Aviso Magazine's involvement with various non-profits, including the YMCA, Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club of America, Human Services Association, Southeast Relay for Life, faith-based groups, and local schools.