

THE LEGACY OF CONGRESSMAN  
JOHN CONYERS, JR.—DEAN OF  
THE HOUSE

## HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I notified Speaker RYAN, Leader PELOSI and Governor Snyder of my retirement from the United States House of Representatives.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve the citizens of Detroit, Michigan as their United States Congressman in the 13th and 14th Congressional District for more than 50 years.

I came to Congress in 1965. Since then, I have devoted my entire career to improving the lives of my constituents in Detroit and fighting for justice everywhere. These years witnessed a profound evolution in civil rights, led by millions in the streets who marched for justice, and people of conscience in the Congress—both Democrats and Republicans—who heard them and enacted the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act and other landmark reforms.

I have been at the forefront of the civil rights movement, I have been a champion of justice for the oppressed and the disenfranchised. I have never wavered in my commitment to justice and democracy. I am proud to have been part of that rich history.

I have been privileged to be a founder of the Congressional Black Caucus and to represent the United States Congress as Dean. I spearheaded and passed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Act, the Violence Against Women Act, the Hate Crimes Act, the USA Freedom Act, and the extensions of the Voting Rights Act into law. I have led the fight against mandatory minimum sentences, hoping to reverse the devastating incarceration rates for African Americans and poor people, I have tried to pass a universal healthcare law (H.R. 676) every Congress since 1989. I have introduced H.R. 40 to study reparations for slavery, and I deeply appreciate those handful of courageous colleagues who have joined me.

For Detroiters, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish by bringing hundreds of millions of dollars in critical grants and federal funding to Southeast Michigan to revitalize our great city, attract rich talent, and return us to prosperity.

I vehemently deny any and all allegations of harassment or dishonor, but I recognize that in this present environment, due process will not be afforded to me. I was taught by a great woman, my mother, to honor women. The first employee I ever hired was Mrs. Rosa Parks, who worked in my office for 22 years. It has been a great honor to work alongside some of the most talented and honorable staff on Capitol Hill and in Detroit, both women and men.

Given the totality of the circumstance of not being afforded the right to due process, in conjunction with my current health condition, and to preserve my legacy and good name, I am retiring.

I hope that my retirement will be viewed in the larger perspective of my record of service, and as I enter a new chapter, I pledge to continue my commitment to a progressive vision and a better future for this country that I love. I owe that to the legacy of my father, John

Conyers, Sr., who integrated labor unions in this country; to my brother Nathan, who integrated business and is my “main man” and to my loving wife Monica, my sons John III, whom I believe offers hope to this generation of leadership, and who is committed to being an advocate of fairness and justice for all, and Carl Edward who never leaves my side.

I cannot allow the great work of this body or the important work or the goals of the Democratic Party to be distracted. It has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life to represent the people of Michigan in the House of Representatives, but that responsibility will now fall to my colleagues and my successor. They have my deepest support and prayers. Jobs, Justice, Peace.

## PROCLAMATION FOR MS. ETHEL CRAIG

## HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation for Ms. Ethel Craig:

Whereas, A virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Educational System on September 17, 1973; and

Whereas, Ms. Ethel Craig began her educational career in teaching with the Atlanta Public School System as a Math Teacher, she also taught as a teacher for the intellectually gifted students and currently she serves as a School Psychologist. She has provided guidance to school personnel, parents and students in regards to counseling, assessments, instructional support, interventions and prevention services; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Teacher, Mother, Grandmother, Educator and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader, a devoted scholar and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of our youth; and

Whereas, Ms. Craig is formally retiring from her educational career today after forty-three and a half years of service, she will continue to promote education because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Ethel Craig on her retirement from the Atlanta Public Schools System and to wish her well in her new endeavors; now therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 30, 2017 as Ms. Ethel Craig Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 22nd day of May, 2017.

## RECOGNIZING MS. JACKIE ZARATE-ROBERTS

## HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jackie Zarate-Roberts on the occa-

sion of her retirement from a lifetime of civic service to the Latino community of the City of Los Angeles.

Ms. Zarate-Roberts began her journey in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California, where she graduated with a Master's Degree in Public Administration in 1984. Her career in the City of Los Angeles started as a Junior Administrative Assistant in the Personnel Department's Examining Division. This was just the beginning, as she quickly rose through the ranks, eventually ending in the Selection Division. At one point, she was the Assistant Director of the Fire Commission's Equal Employment Opportunity Office, serving as a Sexual Harassment Counselor for employees of the LA Fire Department.

Concurrently, Ms. Zarate-Roberts actively engaged in efforts to assist the Latino community through her membership in the Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA), where her track record here is just as impressive. In her first year, she was quickly appointed to the Executive Board as Recording Secretary and over the years she has served as Executive Secretary, Treasurer, 1st and 2nd Vice President, and President several times—the first Latina to ever hold this position, I may add.

Her passion is portrayed through her active participation in voter registration drives, redistricting committees in support of Latino issues, scholarship fundraisers, among others. As a former 911 dispatcher, I saw firsthand the power of her commitment to the LACECA. She was instrumental in the return of bi-lingual pay to the City's 911 Operators along with improving training, working conditions, and increasing the number of bi-lingual operator positions serving the city. Much of this was accomplished by serving on Mayor Bradley's and Reardon's “Presidents Roundtable on Affirmative Action”, where she met monthly to advocate for the underrepresentation of minorities and women in the work force.

For all of the aforementioned Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize a true community icon on the House floor today: Ms. Jackie Zarate-Roberts. Her unmatched commitment to the City of Los Angeles since 1984 and the innumerable contributions she has made to the greater Latino community will reverberate for generations to come and our community is better off because of it.

## RECOGNIZING BYRD LOCHTIE AS 2017 NONPROFIT LEADER

## HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Byrd Lochtie of Humboldt County, who is honored by the Northern California Association of Nonprofits with the 2017 Nonprofit Leader Achievement Award, a recognition she richly deserves.

Byrd Lochtie has served as a nonprofit consultant, trainer, coach and mentor in Humboldt County since 1984. Shortly after earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from Cornell University in 1960, Byrd became involved with the Sierra Cascade Girl Scout Council where she served as a volunteer, volunteer leader, and trainer of leaders. She continues to volunteer with the Girl Scout Council

to this day. These decades of nonprofit volunteerism provided Byrd with valuable experience in youth leadership, team building, and developing effective educational and training programs. She has also furthered her nonprofit education through various training and courses over the years, and she earned a lifetime credential from California Community Colleges.

As an independent nonprofit consultant, Byrd Lochtie specializes in helping community leaders understand and be more effective in their roles, including working together to develop strategies to advance their missions. She has been a key partner and trainer for the Northern California Association of Nonprofits fostering learning, mentoring, relationship building, and excellence in leadership through monthly board leadership roundtables and introduction to board service workshops for many years.

Byrd remains highly engaged with a variety of local organizations, including the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, Children's Authors Festival, the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission, United Way, Girl Scouts, Eureka City Schools Board of Trustees, the Eureka and Arcata Community Recycling Centers, and more.

Mr. Speaker, Byrd Lochtie's commitment to bettering her community through civic engagement and empowering leadership in others is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to her.

#### CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

### HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening, I spoke via Skype with a number of young people in Pittsburgh who participated in the Congressional App Challenge in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, which I have the honor to represent. I had the opportunity to commend all of them for participating in this year's App Challenge, and I announced the winning App in the 14th District competition.

The Congressional App Challenge is a competition held each year in many congressional districts throughout the country. The Congressional App Challenge provides an opportunity for students who create their own apps for mobile, tablet, or computer devices to compete with other students and receive feedback from leading experts in the field. It's a great way for Congress to get kids interested in computer programming and technology-related careers. That's good for them, and it's good for our economy, which will depend more and more on such skills in the coming years.

This is the first year I have had the pleasure of being involved with the Congressional App Challenge, and I hope there will be many more years to come. Events like this one serve to raise public awareness of the importance and value of quality STEM education programs.

I would like to recognize the 14th District's outstanding student coders for 2017. The team from Montour High School consisting of Macen Perkins, Shane O'Malley, Derek

Wassel, and Logan Hickey created an app that teaches students that coding languages are easy to understand and very fun with some time and practice. The team from Shadyside Academy consisting of Nick Zana, Fuad Youssef, Peter Wang, and Henry Friedlander created an app that executes all of the main functions of a planner, student ID, and document database. I am very proud of them all.

The winner of year's 14th Congressional District App Challenge was the team from Shadyside Academy. Their app will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol and shown on the U.S. House of Representatives web site. They will also be invited to the House of Representatives' Code Demo Day reception in Washington in the coming months. In addition, Carnegie Mellon University has offered to give the 14th District App Challenge winners a tour of its facilities. This is a great opportunity for these students to explore the campus and to learn just how far their interest in coding can take them.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the judges for this competition: Josh Lucas, co-founder of Work Hard Pittsburgh, Dr. Alexandros Labrinidis, professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Computing and Information, and Dr. Illah Nourbakhsh, professor at the Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Institute and director of the CREATE Lab.

I would also like to thank the University of Pittsburgh for hosting tonight's event—and Carnegie Mellon University for hosting the winners for a tour of its facilities. These universities' support for the App Challenge speaks volumes about their commitment to education and the local community.

Finally, I want to commend all of the participants in this year's App Challenge. I hope that the recognition will, in some small way, demonstrate to these young coders how much we value their efforts and skill. It is my hope that the students who participated in this year's competition will carry their interest in coding with them throughout their lives. I also hope that this competition and others like it across the country will continue to grow and attract many other local promising coders.

#### PROCLAMATION FOR DR. KEITH E. BAIRD

### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation for Dr. Keith E. Baird:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the leadership and service of Dr. Keith E. Baird; and

Whereas, Dr. Keith E. Baird was born on January 20, 1923 in Barbados, West Indies, he came to the United States in 1947 and began his college studies at Columbia University studying Spanish, Romance Philology and Linguistics, where he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He earned his doctoral degree in Sociolinguistics from the Union Graduate Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio; and

Whereas, Dr. Baird was an educator, author, advocate and administrator, he served

and led our nation in many different roles. As a founding member of the African American Teachers Association in the late sixties, he proved to be a key actor in the nascent community control movement in Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Brooklyn, New York. As a steadfast pillar of our community, pioneered the teaching methods of 14 different languages in high schools and colleges. He was a community leader involved in the civic and educational direction of thousands in our nation. Along with his wife, Mrs. Mary A. Twining Baird, they educated us through the literary master piece "Sea Island Roots: The African Presence in the Carolinas and Georgia"; and Whereas, Dr. Baird was lauded as a "scholar's scholar and an educator's educator". He was a community builder who served my district without bounds. His influence, inspiration and motivation of many have helped to mold our district in becoming more inclusive. He has opened the minds and hearts of thousands; and

Whereas, he never asked for fame or fortune, nor found a job too small or too big; he gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life to uplift those in need by demonstrating unwavering commitment to educate, serve and goodwill; and

Whereas, he was a husband, a father, a brother and a friend; he was a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of humanity on an international scale; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Dr. Keith E. Baird as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby attest to the 115th Congress that Dr. Keith E. Baird is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor" by declaring Dr. Keith E. Baird, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 12th day of August, 2017.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed one vote during a vote series on November 30, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted: No on Roll Call No. 645, on the question of agreeing to the resolution (H. Res. 635), providing for consideration of H.R. 4182, the Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017; and H.R. 1699, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2017.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 653 and 654 on Monday, December 4, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call vote 653 and Yea on Roll Call vote 654.