

Over the next twenty years, Cowgirl Creamery became an organic-certified creamery known for its award-winning cheeses, and its founders became leaders in sustainable food and artisan cheese movement in the North Bay. With over ten different types of cheeses produced from milk from neighboring dairies and two creameries with a staff of nearly 100, the company is still growing its business and influence in the region. At the time of its opening, there were few cheese companies in Marin and Sonoma. Today, the West Marin region is considered a dairy and cheese appellation, and the region's artisan cheese industry has bloomed thanks in large part to the success of Cowgirl Creamery. There are 28 cheesemakers in the region and more in the making, and the Marin-Sonoma Cheese Trail boasts a large following.

Not only did the founders of Cowgirl Creamery serve as advocates and mentors for local agriculture and cheese producers, they engaged with non-profit organizations supporting sustainable agriculture and with government officials to advance the interests and growth in the environmentally-responsible food movement. Sue served on the board of Marin Agricultural Land Trust for 18 years and is on the board of the California Artisan Cheese Guild. Peggy serves as President of the American Cheese Society, a national platform that provides educational resources for other cheesemakers, retailers, distributors and cheese enthusiasts.

Inducted into the *Gilde des Fromagers* in 2010, Cowgirl Creamery has earned the respect of international cheese experts in addition to their robust reputations in the regional and national artisan cheese marketplace.

From producers to consumers, Cowgirl Creamery occupies an unparalleled space in its influence on artisan cheesemaking worldwide. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of their 20th Anniversary it is fitting to honor and thank Peggy, Sue, and Cowgirl Creamery for their impressive success and generosity, and to wish them success in the decades to come.

CONGRATULATING BEACON HILL VILLAGES ON THEIR 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of Beacon Hill Village in Boston. It's an anniversary with significance for the whole Nation and they are to be congratulated on reaching this special milestone.

Mr. Speaker, Beacon Hill Village was created by, and for, neighbors determined, as they aged, to continue to thrive and grow in the neighborhood they loved. There was no ready model. A core goal of Beacon Hill Village members was keeping independent. There isn't much choice about growing old, but there are choices about where and how to do so. A little help with the ordinary business of living is always welcome, yet Beacon Hill Village's philosophy was from the start all about choice: its members are quite capable of figuring out what they need and when.

But the revolution in aging our nation is experiencing also presented an extraordinary opportunity beyond better managing daily life.

Most of our nation's elders will live many years after retirement: Their goals for those years are to be productive, engaged and open to new people, new experiences, and new ideas. Its members quickly and clearly understood how Beacon Hill Village could advance those goals.

Almost from the start, word of Beacon Hill Village's success serving its own members spread. More and more communities, from near and far, were soon flooding Beacon Hill Village with requests for help in creating villages of their own. In response, just a few years after it opened in 2002, Beacon Hill Village was the chief force behind the creation of the Village to Village Network, dedicated to helping communities everywhere design their own villages reflecting local needs and using local resources. Today that Network has more than 350 open and developing villages serving members numbering over 40,000. These villages are all across the nation, in 45 states and the District of Columbia, and in six countries abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced, that the best days of Beacon Hill Village, the Village to Village Network and the villages of the nation, are still ahead of them. Their message is simple, forceful and optimistic: aging should be to each individual's own design. No one, as they age, should be told where to go or how to live. Villages can help their members take responsibility for their own aging and make choices resulting in vibrant, purposeful lives lived on their own terms, in their own homes and communities. With this message the village movement is changing how elders experience aging and how our society perceives aging. Every American benefits from these changes.

On February 13th in Boston, Dr. Atul Gawande, whose celebrated 2014 book *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* continues to sustain a lively national conversation about living well and ending well in old age, will speak at a public forum to salute and conclude Beacon Hill Village's fifteenth-year celebrations. *Being Mortal* has generous things to say about how Beacon Hill Village and villages inspired by it provide a valuable model for such living and ending well. Dr. Gawande's remarks will be simulcast nationally to more than 150 villages where more than 5000 will participate remotely in the celebration.

One of the great issues worldwide today is how to support and care for aging populations. By 2030, twenty percent of our nation's population will be over 65, an estimated 83 million people. The numbers are even larger in many countries around the world. The Village concept and Dr. Gawande's profound understanding of the importance of community and choice offer valuable insights and solutions for this challenging phenomenon.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the positive impact that the village movement has had on the experience of aging, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting Beacon Hill Village and villages throughout the nation by designating Monday, February 13, 2017 as National Villages Day.

IN HONOR OF LIZ THOMAS

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Liz Thomas, a smart and savvy businessperson, a wonderful friend and someone who always supports organizations and causes near and dear to her heart.

On Saturday, February 11, 2017, Liz's friends, family and colleagues will gather together to celebrate at the Hearts of Gold Samaritan Gala and to honor her as she receives the Samaritan Healthcare and Hospice Circle of Excellence Award.

Ms. Thomas began her communications career in the press office of New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean. Then, she moved on to serve as Deputy Director of the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism. In 1989, she opened her first public relations firm and she has been working hard in that field ever since.

In her professional capacity as co-founder and CEO of Thomas/Boyd, Ms. Thomas is frequently called upon to use her extensive knowledge of communications, government relations and event management to ensure that businesses, non-profit organizations, professional societies and service companies have successful events and communication campaigns throughout the area.

Ms. Thomas has received numerous honors and recognitions throughout her professional career. She was named a Person to Watch by *SJ Magazine* and was a member of *NJBiz's* inaugural class of Best 50 Women in Business.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Ms. Thomas is proud to lend her name, time and talents to a variety of organizations throughout the area and is the Vice Chair of New Jersey Public Media, the Chair of the Samaritan Healthcare and Hospice's Board of Trustees, and Vice Chair of the New Jersey Governor's Women's Conference. She is also a member of many great organizations, such as the Salvation Army Kroc Community Center Capital Campaign and the New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

It is all altogether fitting that we congratulate Liz Thomas on receiving the Samaritan Healthcare and Hospice Circle of Excellence Award and thank her for her contributions to the State of New Jersey and the many organizations that she devotes so much of her time and talent. Ms. Thomas continues to give back to her community both personally and professionally and I wish her continued success in all her endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SHORT HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my constituents of the Short Hill Historical Society, formerly the Hillsboro Community Association (HCA), for their preservation and restoration efforts in one of the oldest, historic cities in Virginia's 10th District—Hillsboro, Virginia.

Over 40 years ago, the Old Stone School in Hillsboro was saved from being demolished by the HCA, a non-profit comprised of area residents and alumni. Since 1976, the HCA has made it their mission to preserve and restore the Old Stone School and to identify and restore other historic landmarks in the Hillsboro area. More recently, the organization began to operate under the name Friends of the Old Stone School, as they placed an even stronger focus on the landmark building. In 2006, the town government took over full management of the building from the HCA.

Now with the school in good hands, the HCA, under the new name, the Short Hill Historical Society, is planning to expand their restoration efforts immensely. The group contributed an estimated \$15,000 worth of furniture and equipment to the school and also provided over \$19,000 for management and operations.

This year, the Short Hill Historical Society has planned a plethora of events and concerts to raise money and also garner support for new restoration projects. It is strong, community-focused groups, like the Short Hill Historical Society, that will help Western Loudoun County retain its rich history, and I look forward to their future projects and endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Short Hill Historical Society for their years of dedication and hard work. I wish them all of the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHMOND FREE PRESS

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. McEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Richmond Free Press, an independent, black-owned, weekly newspaper, that recently celebrated their 25th anniversary. The paper was founded by Raymond H. Boone, a former Howard University associate professor and reporter who tirelessly served as editor and publisher until his death in June 2014.

The Richmond Free Press serves as a voice for all people and since its inception has altered the media landscape of Richmond, the former Capital of the Confederacy. Their mission is to, "provide solid, fair-minded news stories and informed opinion to empower its readers to motivate them to take enlightened action on important issues that touch their lives."

Positively impacting the community through news stories and editorials, the Richmond Free Press is instrumental in providing honest coverage that has contributed to a gubernatorial pardon on behalf of a man wrongly convicted of a murder charge; and rewriting city code that purged unfair gender references leading to the resignation of a Richmond judge who posted racist comments on the internet.

Through the leadership of Mrs. Jean Patterson Boone, advertising director and wife of the late founder Raymond Boone, the Richmond Free Press is an award-winning publication that has been recognized by the Virginia Press Association, the National Newspaper Publishers Associations, the NAACP and countless other organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that this recognition come during Black History Month, for the Richmond Free Press does not only chronological history, it has made history for the last 25 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to reintroduce the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, bipartisan legislation to grant six weeks of paid parental leave to hardworking federal employees.

In the Presidential campaign, both candidates voiced strong support for a workplace that makes sense for hardworking parents. This bipartisan legislation is a great place to start.

The federal government is our nation's largest employer, and should be setting the trend for commonsense, family-friendly policies. Paid parental leave would give a boost to the almost two million people who work for the federal government across the country, and would help our government recruit and retain a talented workforce.

The growing costs of caring for a new child, the expensive diapers, bottles, baby carriers, they all add up very quickly. The USDA found that in the first two years a new child can cost families an average of nearly \$13,000.

Paid leave makes sure that families can start out on the right foot, not forcing them into debt, or making devastating choices between caring for a child and the paycheck they need.

I am proud that versions of this legislation have passed the House twice before, and urge my colleagues to support this commonsense proposal.

HONORING MS. DONNA MARIE GLAPION, QUEEN ZULU 2017

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Ms. Donna Marie Glapion, a native of my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. I especially wish to congratulate her on becoming the Queen of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club for 2017. It is my distinct privilege to recognize her for this accomplishment.

Ms. Glapion has been a member of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club for 15 years. Over the years she has shared her creative talents, having decorated numerous events for Zulu Members, Characters and the organization. She has served as the First Lady of the Mighty Mayor's Krewe, participated for many years with Zulu's Toys for Tots program, and has served as Co-Modiste to the Zulu Maids from 2012–2014.

In addition to her work with Zulu, Ms. Glapion is dedicated to her family and has

been active in her community. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and for the past seven years she has positively impacted the lives of children in the community through her work as a character school operations manager. From 2009 to 2015, she has worked tirelessly on behalf of the students at James M. Singleton Charter School and since July 2015, served as the Operations Manager at William J. Fischer School. Ms. Glapion is a graduate of McDonogh No. 35 Senior High School and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, earning a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication. She completed post graduate work in language studies at the Universidad Iberoamericana, in Mexico City, Mexico. Ms. Glapion began her professional career as an Administrative Assistant in the office of the late City Councilwoman Dorothy Mae DeLavallade Taylor and as Operations and Finance Manager for the Mary L. Landrieu for Governor Campaign.

Ms. Glapion has served as an Operations Manager in the Corporate Real Estate/Facilities Management Department at Whitney National Bank, and from 2001 to 2005, she was part of a research team at Tulane University School of Medicine as the Administrator of the Hematology/Oncology Section.

In closing Mr. Speaker, the hard work and dedication of Ms. Donna Marie Glapion gives us hope and promise for the future of our city and I wish to congratulate Ms. Glapion on her coronation as Queen Zulu and wish her a successful reign in 2017.

IN HONOR OF JOHN S. SEDLAK

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge my constituent, Mr. John S. Sedlak, who will be departing from his position as Technical Advisor in the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance this month after a 20-year career of distinguished public service. Mr. Sedlak has made tremendous contributions to his community and country as both an active duty serviceman in the U.S. Coast Guard and as a civilian employee.

Mr. Sedlak graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1974, beginning a long career in active duty service that included assignments to a Coast Guard Cutter, multiple Marine Safety Offices, and a Staff Engineer position at the Coast Guard Headquarters. After serving as Staff Engineer, Mr. Sedlak earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Naval Post Graduate School of Monterey, California and served his final tour of active duty as the Electrical Branch Chief handling operations at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Center.

Following his departure from active duty service, Mr. Sedlak assumed his current position as Technical Advisor in the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance in 2002. As one of only three Technical Advisors in CVC and an internationally recognized expert in his field, Mr. Sedlak developed national policy in a number of passenger ships and offshore vessel areas. While developing these policies, Mr. Sedlak routinely collaborated with other Federal Agencies and represented the Coast