

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize a distinguished law enforcement officer who has dedicated his life to supporting California families. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing a true public servant who embodies the spirit and values of a committed law enforcement officer, and to congratulate him on a well-deserved and well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 15TH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 15th International Festival of Language and Culture (IFLC).

For the past 14 years, the IFLC has been showcasing both the diversity of our world and the talent of our youth. The IFLC draws participants from over 160 countries, with over 1,000 student performers each year at numerous regional events across the globe. This year the IFLC will be hosting 100 students and their teachers from 20 different countries in our nation's capital.

In its 15th year, Washington, D.C. will be one of many world capitals co-hosting this international event. In honor of this year's theme, "Universal Compassion," students will exhibit their culture and traditions through poetry, songs, and dances as an expression of friendship, optimism, and hope. In a world of conflict and despair, this special event shows that celebrating diversity and peaceful coexistence is possible, and that we can come together around our shared humanity.

I want to congratulate the students, parents, teachers, and volunteers of IFLC for their efforts. This event will continue to show the world that we can live and work together for a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the 15th IFLC.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. DYAN HAMILTON FRENCH COLE

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Dyan Hamilton French Cole, a New Orleans native and well known community and civil rights activist. Ms. Cole, affectionately known as "Mama D," passed away on May 20, 2017, at the age of 72.

Ms. Cole was a lifelong New Orleanian, and graduated from Joseph S. Clark High School. She was a relentless community activist, who would frequently attend city council meetings or other places where elected leaders were gathered to advocate for quality housing, recreation, and justice. Nearly every day, she headed to Orleans Parish Criminal District Court to advocate for young black men who were appearing in court that day.

Ms. Cole is best known for her support of the Stalling Gentilly Playground and serving as

the first female President of the New Orleans Chapter of the NAACP in January 1975.

After Hurricane Katrina, when Ms. Cole refused to evacuate, she organized crews she called the "Soul Patrol," to go through her native 7th Ward and other neighborhoods, saving people, feeding them and finding them clothes, assistance and other relief. Ms. Cole housed numerous people at her home on North Dorgenois Street that some people referred to it as Recovery Camp Dorgenois.

On December 6, 2005, Ms. Cole was one of the representatives from New Orleans invited to testify before the House Select Committee on Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Cole spoke passionately of the disgraceful lack of assistance in the aftermath of the storm and the racial discrimination that flowed in the city.

Ms. Cole loved the city and the people of New Orleans. Her legacy will forever be a part of the city and her dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans. Ms. Cole's survivors include a son, Byron Cole; a sister, Audrey Jackson; six grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Ms. Dyan Hamilton French Cole, a beloved mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, and example to aspiring community activists everywhere.

HONORING JOHN REED FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE DAVENPORT HOTEL

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John Reed of Spokane, WA for his 75 years of service to the historic Davenport Hotel.

John has been putting smiles on faces of those who come in and out of the Davenport Hotel for generations. He started working at the Davenport Hotel in 1943, at the age of 13, as a busboy in the Italian Gardens. Louis Davenport, the owner, taught him how to set up a table. His hard work and commitment provided him with an opportunity to become the doorman for the hotel, a position which he still holds at the age of 87. When asked if he plans to retire his response is "not any time soon."

Both local residents and guests of the Davenport can't help but smile when they are greeted by John, who wears a three piece suit, complete with a long red coat and black top hat to work. He has greeted John F. Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy, and George H.W. Bush in his time with the hotel and has said, "I enjoy being a doorman here and meeting and greeting people, and I'm proud to be a part of the Davenport."

Today, the Davenport will honor John with a board room in his name. His legacy and commitment to service will live on through this naming and his smile will always be remembered.

IN RECOGNITION OF CORLISS UDOEMA

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Corliss Udoema, who is a successful entrepreneur and holds the unique distinction of being selected as the 2017 Virginia Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Corliss began her career in the federal government, where she worked with the U.S. Marine Corps, Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Army. Then after a successful 32-year career with the federal government, Corliss started Contract Solutions, Inc. (CSI) in 2006. CSI is a small business whose mission is to assist federal, state and local governments, private for-profit and non-profit clients, by offering professional staffing and management support services. Since its inception, CSI has thrived, as it has evolved from a one-person company to a multi-million-dollar business. CSI has proven to be a model for other businesses to emulate, which is why in 2013 it was chosen to participate in the U.S. Small Business Administration's esteemed Mentor-Protégé Program, designed to enable successful companies to develop strong protégé firms by providing newer firms still in their nascent with various forms of business development assistance.

I am impressed by Corliss's dedication and how in just a mere decade she has transformed CSI from a small startup business into a tremendous success and engine of economic growth. Starting and operating any small business, let alone one as successful as CSI, is an incredibly arduous process, as small business owners face many challenges and obstacles. The success of CSI is a testimony to Corliss's hard work, commitment, and innovative ideas. In addition to her extensive and distinguished career in the federal government and private sector, Corliss has always found time to serve her community. She is the founder and president of Agape Love in Action, a nonprofit organization which provides support for those in need, and serves as a minister at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Centreville, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Corliss Udoema for her extraordinary achievement. I look forward to her ongoing contributions to Prince William County's diverse and innovative small business community and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING TANNER COOK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tanner Cook. Tanner is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tanner has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tanner has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Tanner has served his troop as the Den Chief, become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Tanner has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Tanner led a team in designing and constructing an outdoor worship center at Antioch Community Church in Kansas City, Missouri, leveling the area with paving stones, building a retaining wall, 15 benches, fire pit, and a walking path to the worship center.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tanner Cook for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO GAIL BAXTER

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the lifelong service and success of Gail Baxter, the Superintendent of South Whittier School District, in my Congressional District in California.

The description of Mrs. Baxter you'd hear from those who know her best is that of a humble visionary whose inspirational leadership has empowered the students she serves to achieve beyond their dreams. She has been the catalyst for a 21st century transformation for South Whittier. Throughout her twenty-seven year career serving as an elementary school principal, Director of Special Education Programs, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, and eventually Superintendent, Mrs. Baxter led the effort to incorporate new technologies into every district classroom to prepare students for the future they face. Always pushing the envelope, Mrs. Baxter intertwined a core curriculum with the changing technologies of the day.

Mrs. Baxter is the type of public servant we need in education, someone who promotes strong collaboration between educators and parents to inspire students to achieve. It is in that spirit that, on behalf of all the families who've benefitted from her service, I wish Gail a happy retirement and thank her for inspiring generations of students in the South Whittier School District.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUBSTITOOTH FAIRY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Substitooth Fairy in Delaware County, Pennsylvania for earning a Chester and Delaware County SCORE 2017 Small Business Award.

SCORE is a non-profit organization that helps small businesses by providing them with

mentorship and educational workshops. The small businesses that earn the SCORE Small Business Award "have demonstrated unique vision, innovation and achievement in support of America's economy and small business community."

Substitooth Fairy deserves this designation. When dental practices are short-staffed, they provide them with supplementary dental professionals. This allows those practices to maintain an efficient office, keep patients happy, and also creates new employment opportunities for dental professionals.

I congratulate Substitooth Fairy on their award. I am proud to serve them and the other small businesses in Pennsylvania's 7th District.

RECOGNIZING FOOD BANK OF THE SOUTHERN TIER

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Food Bank of the Southern Tier for being named Food Bank of the Year by Feeding America.

Feeding America is the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, and Food Bank of the Year is the highest honor that it confers on a member organization. Food Bank of the Southern Tier is the smallest food bank ever to receive this honor, and also the first in New York.

Food Bank of the Southern Tier distributes food and grocery products to people in need throughout six counties in upstate New York through a network of more than 160 partner agencies. It also administers several direct service food distribution programs.

Food Bank of the Southern Tier was established in 1981 and continues to strive toward its mission of working together to build and sustain a hunger-free community, distributing over 11 million pounds of food and grocery items in 2016 alone.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Food Bank of the Southern Tier for being named Food Bank of the Year for its outstanding and dedicated service to the community of the Southern Tier of New York.

HONORING LANDON BEYER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Landon Beyer. Landon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1333, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Landon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Landon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Landon has served his troop as the Senior

Patrol Leader and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Landon has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Landon constructed a boardwalk path in the Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri, to help preserve a muddy section of the trail.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Landon Beyer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE D.C. CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION COMMITTEE AND JURY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the D.C. students who submitted artwork for the annual D.C. Congressional Art Competition. I also seek recognition for the members of the committee who volunteered to make this event a success, as well as the competition jurors—members of the community who judged the students' artwork. The competition will take place tomorrow, Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

The Congressional Art Competition has taken place in all Congressional districts since 1982 to encourage students interested in participating in the arts. This year, my office received 120 submissions from students in grades 8–12 from public, charter, and private schools across the District.

The members of the D.C. Congressional Art Competition committee are from a variety of backgrounds in the community—academia, small business and local government. I am happy to recognize the following committee members for their tireless work in putting together this year's Congressional Art Competition:

Thomas Atkins, is a former member of my staff who has continued to serve as an advisor each year for this competition. We depend on Mr. Atkins because of his background and know-how in supervising our art competition when he was on our staff.

Yaida Ford, an attorney for Ford Law Pros P.C., has been a valued presence in our art competition in the past, and has come through yet again this year. She ensures that her firm can purchase valuable and useful gifts for the winners.

Tiffani Gomez, of Blick Art Materials, helps run art drives for the competition and gets the word out to students who may not have heard about the competition from our office. She was particularly helpful in getting out the word on social media.

Jennifer Littrell, Program Lead at Children's National Health System, is particularly helpful in getting the word out for the competition via creative flyers and other publications.

Patricia O. Mitchell is a Senior Systems Developer for Amtrak. I have known Patricia for many years and she has done essential work for the committee. Ms. Mitchell helps the committee reach out to food vendors for the reception.