

has seen the heartbreaking images of children gasping for their lives, body bags lining the streets, and horrific videos of these chemical weapon attacks. We cannot turn a blind eye to the genocide before us.

The situation in Syria today is devastating with no signs of immediate improvement. As I have said before, in order to prevent the rise of the next generation of terrorists and killers, we must ensure that Bashar al-Assad is removed from power. I believe the United States of America was put on this Earth to be an example of self-governance and order in a world drowning in strongmen, oppression, and poverty.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the United States to exert leadership in Syria. If we fail to act and if we fail to lead, we are failing humanity. Failing to act in Syria is a failure on us all. We must learn from history, learn from past mistakes, and take action as a global leader for freedom and hope. Stopping Assad's genocide in Syria is part of our mission statement, and I will continue to do what I can in support of that mission. I urge my colleagues to join me in doing the same.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. LILLIE
RUTH GANTT-EVANS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and service of a dedicated community activist, engaged citizen, and dear friend of longstanding Mrs. Lillie Ruth Gantt-Evans. She will be honored by South Macon Arts Revitalization Technology (SMART), Inc. at the International Cherry Blossom Gospel Extravaganza in Macon, Georgia on Friday, March 23, 2018.

Lillie is a native of Macon, Georgia and a product of the Bibb County School System. After graduating from high school, she went on to attend Crandall Business College, complete nursing training at Hemlock School of Nursing and Spirometry training through Marshfield Clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital. She also studied Early Childhood Education at Fort Valley State University.

Once she received her nursing degree, she began working as a nurse at Macon Hospital (now The Medical Center). Lillie was one of the first African-American nurses to work in the intensive care unit. After five years at Macon Hospital, she transferred to Robins Air Force Base Hospital where she worked as a nurse for twenty-five years. Beyond her duties and responsibilities as a nurse, she has also dedicated her personal life to helping people from all walks of life in her community. In 1968, during her tenure at Robins Air Force Base Hospital, Lillie opened Gantt's Preschool and G and J Adult Day Care. Once she retired from Robins Air Force Base Hospital in 1986, she opened M.A. Evans School to help students whose birthday delayed their enrollment in school. She kept the school running for 52 years without requiring government funding. She renamed G and J Adult Day Care to L and J Adult Day Care to pay tribute to her late mother, who helped to run her businesses while she worked as a nurse.

Throughout her career, Lillie has been recognized for her commitment and leadership in

the community. These acknowledgements include the J. C. Penny Golden Rule Award; the Department of the Air Force Service Award; the Legendary Educator Award; the Humanitarian of the Year Award; an Honorary Doctorate from the City of Macon in 2002; and appointments as Lieutenant Colonel, Aide-De-Camp, and to the Governor's Staff by then Governor Jimmy Carter in 1991.

In conjunction with her professional accomplishments, Lillie became the first African-American to be appointed as President of the Democratic Women's Party and the first African-American woman to serve as Chair of the Democratic Party of Macon-Bibb County.

Lillie's distinguished achievements have been mirrored by her extensive involvement in civil rights. After witnessing several racial injustices against African-Americans, Lillie decided to get involved in the Civil Rights Movement. She marched locally and throughout Georgia alongside Hosea Williams, William P. Randall, and Tyrone Brooks to advocate for civil rights and equal treatment of African Americans.

Lillie's faith has always instilled within her a desire to positively shape the community in which she lives. As a member of New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, she regularly incorporates her faith into her commitment to public service by serving as an active participant in the Gospel Choir, the Nurse's Guild, and the Trustee's Ministry.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." We are so grateful that Lillie has dedicated her time and talents to improve the quality of life for others. A woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise are unparalleled. Middle Georgia shines a little brighter because of Lillie Gantt-Evans.

Lillie has accomplished much throughout her life, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of her husband, Benjamin; her children, Merita, Chandra, Gregory, and Jimmy (deceased); her grandchildren; and the countless others positively who impacted her life over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 730,000 constituents of the Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest congratulations and appreciation to Mrs. Lillie Ruth Gantt-Evans for her dedicated service to the people of Middle Georgia.

HONORING CORA COLE-MCFADDEN

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a devoted public servant, community leader, and friend, Cora Cole-McFadden, who has recently concluded her service on The Durham City Council and as the city's Mayor Pro Tempore.

A native of Durham, North Carolina, Cora developed her organizational skills and showed a keen sense of justice as early as her teenage years. She and three other classmates desegregated Hillside High School, a defining event that began her lifelong commitment to fighting for equal rights for all members of the Durham community.

Cora's career is marked by many "firsts." She served as the first African American woman to lead a department in the City of Durham and the first African American woman to be named the city's Mayor Pro Tempore. She was also the first recipient of the City of Durham's Diversity Change Agent Award, which is now named in her honor.

In her seventeen years in the Durham City Council and as Mayor Pro Tempore, Cora was a tenacious advocate for safe and affordable housing, accessible healthcare, and empowering youth in the Durham community. She championed the City of Durham Youth Commission's representation at the first-ever Youth Summit sponsored by the North Carolina League of Cities. She helped spur the creation of a local teen center, and constantly sought ways to serve disadvantaged youth.

Cora has served in various leadership positions in the Durham community, including the NAACP, the Housing Appeals Board, the Homeless Services Advisory Committee, the Joint City-County Planning Committee, and the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities. She has also served on the board of the National League of Cities and has been active in the North Carolina League of Municipalities. Although she is retiring from public office, no one doubts that Cora will find ways to express her love of the people of the Bull City and continue to serve.

I am personally indebted to Cora Cole-McFadden for years of good advice and loyal support—from the time I first learned my district was being redrawn to include Durham right up to the present. She is quick with a smile and a word of encouragement, even in difficult times. Her energy and optimism are infectious—you know you can do the job and you certainly don't want to let her down.

Lisa and I, along with constituents in the Fourth District and colleagues in the North Carolina congressional delegation, want to thank Cora Cole-McFadden for her generous and inclusive spirit and her dedicated service. We wish her and her family the very best as she begins the next chapter of her life.

TRIBUTE TO JESS AND CHASE
WELLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jess and Chase Weller, of Weller Farms. They were recently awarded the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the Iowa Governor's office.

They were nominated for this award because of their implementation of soil health and conservation practices on their farming operation. They have recognized improved water quality and soil sustainability is important for not only their business but also for the farmers working and living near them and the citizens of Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Jess and Chase Weller for this award, and for working hard to make sure Iowa is a quality place to farm and live for many years to come.

I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress and ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Wellers and wishing them nothing but continued success.

HONORING THOMAS (TOM)
PETERS, PH.D.

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Thomas (Tom) Peters, Ph.D., for his twenty years of stellar leadership and exemplary public service as President and CEO of the Marin Community Foundation.

A native of San Francisco, Dr. Peters finished his undergraduate degree at San Francisco State University, before going to the University of Minnesota, where he completed a Doctorate in Psychology and Health Science. He began his public health career in 1974 at

the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and would go on to achieve repeated success and advancement over the course of 24 years, finishing that chapter of his professional life as the Director of Marin County's Department of Health and Human Services.

In 1998, Dr. Peters became the President and CEO of the Marin Community Foundation (MCF). Combining his clinical and philanthropic careers to head one of the largest community foundations in the country, Dr. Peters has become a leading national voice for community philanthropy, advocating for and facilitating the dedication of private resources for the public good. MCF has distributed more than \$1.3 billion in grants to nonprofits working in critical community issues, ranging from education, healthcare, and the environment, to economic opportunity and access to the arts.

Under his leadership, Marin Community Foundation became the first community foundation to approve a non-discrimination policy for its donor advised funds. He set the example for others to say NO to organizations, projects, and programs that discriminate on

the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, medical condition, veteran status, marital status, disability, ancestry, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by law.

A respected community leader and champion for equity, he frequently offers the community a moral compass for taking action on important matters, like breaking down barriers to academic achievement and raising the bar for underserved communities, working to protect public lands and the environment, securing affordable housing where supply has been historically elusive, and fighting for comprehensive immigration reform.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Peters has been a champion of champions on a wide array of critical issues, and has led the Marin Community Foundation to take actions that have produced positive impacts throughout the region. Therefore, please join me in expressing my deep appreciation and praise for his indomitable leadership on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as President and CEO of the Marin Community Foundation.