

Housing Finance Commission, on his retirement.

Kim Herman has served as Executive Director of the Commission since its beginning in 1984, guiding the organization through changing economic conditions and championing affordable housing in Washington State and across the country. Under Mr. Herman's leadership, the Commission has helped over 73,000 families become homeowners and assisted the development of 128,000 affordable multifamily housing units statewide. The Commission utilizes the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, the private market, and community partnerships to help families build a solid foundation with accessible and affordable housing. Last year, Mr. Herman was inducted into the national Affordable Housing Hall of Fame, a well-deserved recognition of his decades of work helping Washington State's most disadvantaged citizens, including seniors, farmworkers, and people experiencing homelessness, as well as moderate-income families.

Mr. Herman has built and supported the capacity of housing organizations throughout Washington. He helped to create the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and has served on the boards of countless organizations and policy groups, including the Governor's Affordable Housing Advisory Board and Impact Capital.

Mr. Herman's work in housing has expanded not only the Commission's expertise, but the capacity of housing organizations throughout the state and the country by dedicating his time to multiple leadership positions at the National Council of State Housing Agencies and the National Rural Housing Coalition.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Kim Herman's dedication to expanding access to affordable homes and congratulate him on his retirement from his longtime service to the communities of Washington State.

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#### CONGRATULATING THE EAST ST. LOUIS FLYERS

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**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the East St. Louis Flyers for winning the Football 6A State Championship. After breezing past their opponents by a score of 43–21 in the finals, the team secured a perfect 14–0 record and their third state championship title under coach Darren Sunkett.

After the tragic and untimely loss of two players, Jermaine Falconer and Jaylon McKenzie, earlier this year, the Flyers found the inspiration to carry on and honor the memory of their fallen teammates. Despite incredibly difficult circumstances, the Flyers excelled on the field, outscoring their opponents by an average of over 36 points per game. These young men put their hearts into every game, and their hard work paid off with an accomplishment that they can be proud of for the rest of their lives.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the players, coaches, and families of the East St. Louis Senior High School football

team for their incredible season. Southern Illinois is proud of them.

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#### CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF THE LOWER EASTSIDE ACTION PLAN

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**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detroit's lower eastside communities for their ten years of engagement in the Lower Eastside Action Plan.

The Lower Eastside Action Plan, known commonly as LEAP, started through community group engagement in order to address disinvestment and structure demolition in Detroit's east side neighborhoods. The program has successfully engaged more than five thousand residents to strengthen neighborhood ties and repurpose vacant land. Residents working hand in hand have been able to reduce blight, prevent tax foreclosure, enhance public green spaces, and so much more.

Please join me in salute to the countless Detroit residents who have made the Lower Eastside Action Plan a successful community venture for the past ten years.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. CONOR LAMB**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. LAMB. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen travel delays I missed two votes on December 3, 2019.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 643, and YEA on Roll Call No. 644.

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#### CONGRATULATING JUSTIN LOPEZ-CARDOZE

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**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Justin Lopez-Cardoze, a seventh-grade life science teacher at Capital City Public Charter School, for being named the 2020 District of Columbia Teacher of the Year.

The DC Teacher of the Year award is granted each year to a public or public charter school teacher who is dedicated to student growth, and creating connections with families and communities, and who provides high-quality instruction.

Lopez-Cardoze, whose father was born in El Salvador, is the first Latino recipient of the DC Teacher of the Year award. He follows in the footsteps of the 2019 DC Teacher of the Year, Kelly Harper, who was the first DC teacher to become a finalist in the national competition for teacher of the year since 2005.

Lopez-Cardoze is a devoted teacher. He views his work as a way to pay back the

scholarship he won as a student, which made it possible for him to attend the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and become a teacher. The award comes with \$7,500 and makes Lopez-Cardoze eligible for the National Teacher of the Year award. Lopez-Cardoze is still paying off his student loans but he has pledged to use \$5,000 of his award, and to double that amount through fundraising, to create a scholarship fund to allow a student at Capital City Public Charter school to go to college.

His concern for his students is unfailing. When a student with sickle cell anemia approached him about proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health, he led his students in developing an organization to educate the public about diseases often found among people of color.

In his three years at Capital City Public Charter School, in Northwest DC, Lopez-Cardoze has made himself an integral part of the community. He serves as the school's Science Department chair, seventh-grade team lead and middle school representative on the school's Equity Core Committee. As a member of the Equity Core Committee, he co-creates diversity, equity and inclusion sessions for staff and works to create a more culturally competent learning environment for his students.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Justin Lopez-Cardoze for being named the 2020 District of Columbia Teacher of the Year and for his commitment and dedication to DC students.

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#### HONORING SISTER PAULETTE LoMONACO

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**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Sister Paulette LoMonaco, a cherished public servant and respected New York leader. Sister Paulette has dedicated her life to helping the vulnerable children, youth and families of New York City, most recently as the executive director of Good Shepherd Services. As she retires this year, I wanted to pay homage to the work she has accomplished on behalf of so many New Yorkers.

Sister Paulette was Good Shepherd Services' longest serving executive director, holding the position for 37 years and serving the agency for a total of 50 years. Under Paulette's leadership, Good Shepherd Services transformed from a small provider of out-of-home care for vulnerable girls into one of the largest youth social services agencies in New York City. Today, the agency works with 30,000 children, youth and families annually as well as informs policy debates and innovative models concerning youth outcomes within New York City and beyond.

Notably, Sister Paulette's unwavering commitment to the welfare of children and families has led to prominence and respect with city and state leadership. In fact, Sister Paulette fearlessly engaged with mayors and the archdiocese, fighting for accountability on social issues and, ultimately, modernizing New York City's conception of a nun in the 21st century.

For her efforts to expand opportunities for nontraditional education and support disconnected families, Sister Paulette has been honored by countless organizations. Not only was she selected by City & State as one of New York's 50 Over 50 and Power 100, but also as a recipient for the Lewis Hine Award and Robin Hood Hero Award. During her tenure at Good Shepherd Services, the agency received The New York Times' Company Excellence Award in 2007 and Crain's Best Place to Work in 2014 Award. Sister Paulette also pioneered the city's first ever transfer school in partnership with the New York City Department of Education and helped reshape the city's foster care system.

Madam Speaker, the people of New York owe a debt of gratitude to Sister Paulette for her years of service. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her as she moves on to her next phase of life. I wish her and her family all the best and thank her for all she has done for New York's youth.

**HONORING MR. FELIPE 'TRES' BARRERA**

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2019*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Felipe 'Tres' Barrera, a member of the Washington Nationals 2019 World Series Champions and a Rio Grande Valley Native.

Tres Barrera is an incredibly talented professional baseball catcher for the Washington Nationals. He was born in Eagle Pass, Texas, and moved to the Rio Grande Valley when he was 10 years old. Tres played on the baseball team for Hidalgo High School his freshman year, winning the District 32-3A Most Valuable Player award, before transferring to Sharyland High School. At Sharyland High School, Tres played football and baseball, and quickly became a standout athlete and student. He was selected to two all-state teams, and won the 30-5A Most Valuable Player and the All-Valley Player of the Year as a senior. His batting average was an astonishing .452, hitting 22 home runs during his time at Sharyland High School.

Tres' incredible work ethic, determination, and sheer talent earned him a spot on the renowned baseball team for the University of Texas at Austin. As a freshman, Tres was the team's starting catcher, won the 2014 College Home Run Derby, and led Texas to the College World Series. His achievements continued on.

During his sophomore year, Tres was a vital part of the University of Texas' Big 12 championship team, while adding his name to the All-Big 12 second team. In his junior year campaign, Tres earned the 2016 Academic All-Big 12 baseball honors and was named an All-Big 12 honorable mention. He left Texas after his junior year to join the minor leagues, but only after walking away with 20 home runs and 106 runs batted in (RBIs) for the University of Texas at Austin.

Tres Barrera's hard work and dedication continued for the next three years as he played for a number of minor league teams before being called up to the Major League

Baseball, MLB, on September 8, 2019, for the Washington Nationals. Being a member of the Nationals, Tres participated in one of the most unlikely runs in the history of professional baseball.

The Nationals' record through 50 games was a poor 19 wins and 31 losses before they won 74 of their next 122 games. This secured the Nationals a wild-card spot in the postseason. The Nationals continued their unlikely playoff run until the very end, where they beat the Houston Astros in seven games, winning the World Series on October 10, 2019. On that day, Tres earned himself the coveted World Series ring.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Tres Barrera worked tirelessly to prove that with determination, will power, and commitment, we can accomplish anything we set ourselves to do in life. Tres made history, gave young people across our country the hope to achieve anything they set their mind to and for that I stand here today to recognize him. He is a proud son of South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, and we appreciate him for his work and dedication to the Washington Nationals.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF VICTORIA J. POLLYEA**

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2019*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and contributions of a tireless leader of the Tampa community, Victoria "Vicki" J. Pollyea.

Vicki was born and raised in Tampa, Florida. At an early age, Vicki learned how to take on challenges after being diagnosed with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT). Vicki used her hard-earned ability to "fight through" for herself and others her entire life. For example, having to undergo strenuous physical therapy in her youth, inspired her to pursue Occupational Therapy so she could be a source of strength and healing for others.

After graduating Summa Cum Laude from the University of Florida, Vicki worked as a pediatric occupational therapist until CMT forced her to retire. Again, even though she retired early from formal work, she kept her skills honed and never ceased using them to help others. And, being unable to continue practicing as an occupational therapist, she used her strength and energy to plunge into advocacy for CMT. She served as the web page moderator for Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA); realized the impact that CMT had on her neighbors in Tampa and helped found the CMTA Tampa branch. Vicki then became a branch leader and a Support Group Leader for CMTA. She was always there for the newly diagnosed as a shining real-life example of perseverance.

Vicki's involvement and commitment to the Tampa community grew when she co-founded the Bayshore Gardens Neighborhood Association. She served as president for more than two decades. In addition to her position, she hosted annual holiday gatherings for neighbors, including many who didn't have anywhere else to go. Vicki also served on the Mayor's Neighborhood Task Force and helped

draft the City of Tampa's tree-protection code and her efforts to improve Bayshore Boulevard are evident every day.

Vicki used her voice to advocate for her South Tampa neighborhood and indeed the entire city. She helped manage the urban forest and ensured all neighborhoods had their voices heard. Shortly before her death, the Tampa City Council honored her with a commendation for her community service and a CMT walk-n-roll event has been named in her honor.

Vicki is survived by her husband, Archie Giannella; sister and brother-in-law, Lisa and Gordon; niece, Claire; stepson, Brock Heinz; godson, John Helmire; Randi, John, and many beloved cousins. She also leaves behind a community of children, from babies to adults with babies of their own, who cherish her as a beloved "aunt".

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful and saddened Tampa community, I am proud to honor Victoria J. Pollyea's life. Vicki was admired by her neighbors for her advocacy and her will to never let any challenge dim her passion to help others. Her devotion to her neighbors and Tampa inspires us still and will live on always in our hearts.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2019*

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast roll call votes on November 20th and November 21st. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: on roll call 632, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 633, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 634, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 635, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 636, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 637, I would have voted No; on roll call 638, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 639, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 640, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 641, I would have voted Aye; and on roll call 642, I would have voted Aye.

**RECOGNIZING MAYOR EUGENE PARKISON FOR HIS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LEXINGTON COMMUNITY**

**HON. TROY BALDERSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2019*

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Eugene Parkison, for the forty years he has dedicated to Lexington, Ohio and the surrounding area.

Mayor Parkison's career, now spanning more than four decades, exemplifies a selfless commitment to public service. After being appointed to a Lexington City Council seat in 1978, Gene was sworn in as Mayor in 1983. Today, with more than 35 years in this role, he is now the longest-tenured mayor in Richland County history.

As a holder of public office, Mayor Parkison has continually gone above and beyond his call of duty. His dedication has manifested