

BLACK HISTORY MONTH—HAROLD JACKSON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a third-generation servant leader from my community of Tampa, Florida, Harold A. Jackson, Jr. who was born at Tampa Negro Hospital to the late Jacqueline Haynes Jackson and the late Harold A. Jackson, Sr. Jackson learned about service at a young age as his father served in the U.S. Army during World War II and returned to Tampa to become one of our hometown's pioneering African American civil rights attorneys and led local desegregation efforts. His mother was a beloved educator and retired after 33 years as an elementary school teacher in Tampa.

Mr. Jackson followed in his parents' footsteps of service and dedicated his professional life to the health and well-being of our community. In 1978, Mr. Jackson started a 30-year plus career with the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department. He rose through the ranks to become a Recreation Area Supervisor during a time of tremendous growth and change for this country. He planned, organized and directed the overall operations of community-based recreation programs, which are critical in promoting healthy, prosperous and connected communities as well as building social equity and support for working families. During his tenure with Hillsborough County, he continued to build on his legacy of community service. For 27 years, he served on the board of directors for Tampa Family Health Centers, a federally qualified health center. He was elected chair and vice chair of the board of directors on several occasions. During this time, Tampa Family Health Centers grew from one clinic to 14 and greatly expanded access to comprehensive health care services for hundreds of thousands of our neighbors, especially uninsured or underinsured individuals.

After retiring from the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, Mr. Jackson began a leadership role for Tampa Family Health Centers as Community Relations Liaison. He truly extends himself to help meet the needs of the medically underserved, whoever and wherever they are. His efforts while serving on my 14th Congressional District of Florida Puerto Rico Recovery and Assistance Task Force were nothing short of extraordinary and very meaningful at a time when displaced Puerto Rican families faced significant challenges in re-establishing their lives following the devastating landfall of Hurricane Maria in 2017. Mr. Jackson ensured families who relocated to Tampa had access without barriers to the services of Tampa Family Health Centers, facilitating their medical appointments to cut down on wait times with scheduling and transportation challenges.

He is a graduate of St. Peter Claver Catholic School in Tampa, a 125-year old historically black school that today proudly continues to provide families and students excellence in education. Mr. Jackson returned to St. Peter Claver to serve on the school's board of directors and in 1994, as president of the school's development council, he launched a \$2 million capital campaign to establish a state-of-the-art

learning environment. Mr. Jackson also graduated from Tampa Catholic High School in 1974 and went on to complete his criminal justice degree from the University of Tampa.

Mr. Jackson strongly exhibits the unequivocal mark of a servant leader, one who quietly aspires and inspires leadership by consummately doing good—going the extra mile. His contributions to community initiatives are numerous—helping to launch the University Area Community Development Corporation, co-founding a youth council in our community that has now grown to be one of its largest and serving as organizer for Tampa's largest Veterans Day Parade.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Tampa Bay community, I am proud to recognize Mr. Harold A. Jackson, Jr. for his servant's heart and carrying forth his family's legacy of community service across the Tampa Bay Area.

HONORING ALOK K. VERMA FOR RECEIVING THE TIDEWATER CHAPTER HUMANITARIAN AWARD

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dr. Alok Verma on receiving the 2019 Humanitarian Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Dr. Verma's lifetime of service and commitment to the promotion of respect among people of diverse backgrounds. Dr. Verma generously serves the students of Old Dominion University and the community as a whole. His input at international conferences and in scholarly publications is exceptional. His service to the Norfolk Sister City Association, World Affairs Council, and Asian Indians of Hampton Roads demonstrates his heart for service.

Dr. Verma's dedication to strengthening bonds among people of different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Dr. Verma's leadership and the role he plays in making our community a better place. The Tidewater Region has significantly benefited from his presence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Monday, March 11. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 119 (Passage of H.R. 1122, the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act): YES

Roll Call Vote Number 120 (Passage of H.R. 758, the Cooperate with Law Enforcement Agencies and Watch Act): YES

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAHANA HAYES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mrs. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on March 11th due to unavoidable travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 119, and YEA on Roll Call No. 120.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK O'CONNOR

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Hillsborough Police Chief Mark O'Connor upon the occasion of his retirement after a total of 33 years in law enforcement, 32 of those years with the Town of Hillsborough. Chief O'Connor is an uncommon law enforcement professional, and the residents of Hillsborough have been extraordinarily lucky to have his services for over three decades.

Hillsborough is a town of 11,500 persons nestled in the hills of the San Francisco Peninsula. Mark O'Connor joined the police department of this beautiful town in 1986 after serving for a year in the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. He began as a Police Officer and then served as Canine Officer, Motorcycle Officer, Field Training Officer, Police Corporal, Press Information Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Administrative Captain, Patrol Captain and, finally, as the Chief of Police. However, Mark is a highly talented person, and for a while the town also tapped him to be Public Works Director. Apparently, he enjoyed catching burglars more than fixing broken sewer mains, so that stint was relatively short-lived.

Chief O'Connor served on a committee of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs' and Sheriffs Association working on technology issues and was responsible for upgrading Hillsborough's department to take advantage of computers in patrol cars, officer body cameras, and Computer Aided Dispatch equipment, among many innovations. During Mark's time in charge, Hillsborough residents were protected by the latest technology available.

As an institutional source of "lessons learned" for the department, Mark excels. For example, he once pointed out that making it easier to navigate a community isn't necessarily good for public safety. Among its many features, Hillsborough is a hard place to navigate at night without a lot of experience. Many pizzas have gone cold in the hills of Hillsborough. Burglars would also occasionally get lost. They would then meander repeatedly through the town seeking frantically to escape. The police would notice, and the thieves would become future candidates to make public endorsements on behalf of the Google Maps app for smart phones—after they were released from jail and subject to any applicable terms of probation. This story illustrates Mark's wisdom from years of on-the-ground experience. He is a walking library of such lessons.

Mark O'Connor has many obvious skills. He is respected by his staff because he is authentic. He mentors others with ease. He is smart

and has what the military calls “command presence.” My office works regularly with him on security issues that impact my office and the broader community. He is a rock-solid source of advice, even outside his formal job duties.

For example, in 2010, a 30-inch high pressure natural gas transmission pipeline operated by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company exploded in San Bruno, north of Hillsborough, killing eight persons and injuring dozens more. Mark O’Connor is a master welder. Through the months after the explosion, he lent his judgments to my staff and to federal and state officials as they sought the cause of the rupture. He also noticed the vulnerability of Hillsborough and other cities to a similar disaster. In part because of his recommendations to me and to others, new pipes have been installed. Thousands have been removed from the path of possible harm, in part due to the insights lent by Chief Mark O’Connor.

It is Chief O’Connor’s integrity, grit, and determination to be of service to all law-abiding residents that has been the secret to his success. It’s hard to imagine a man with such an active mind sitting still. Maybe, he’ll write a book about his years in law enforcement. Hillsborough is visited regularly by Presidents, Ambassadors and other global leaders. Mark’s career-based police thriller might be entitled, “I Saw The President—But He Never Saw Me.” It’s likely that many citizens and luminaries never saw Mark O’Connor, but we know that he had their backs all along their way through the community. This, in the end, is the highest mark of police service in any town—no flash, just skill and professionalism. That’s Mark O’Connor, the retiring Chief of Police of Hillsborough, California.

HONORING JOAN BROCK FOR RECEIVING THE 2019 LENORA MATHEWS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Ms. Joan Brock for receiving the 2019 Lenora Mathews Lifetime Achievement Award through Volunteer Hampton Roads. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Joan’s lifetime of hard work and service to the community. Her dedication to improving global health and the Chesapeake Bay is truly inspiring. Her input on various boards and councils such as Virginia Wesleyan University’s Board of Trustees, the National Board of the United Way Women’s Leadership Council, the Chrysler Museum Board, and her leadership on the ACCESS College Foundation—just to name a few—has been invaluable. Joan’s generosity with her time and resources to improve the environment, education, and health of our community is exceptional.

I want to thank Joan for her leadership in philanthropy and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Hampton Roads has significantly benefited from her presence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, my voting card did not properly register my vote, so I was counted not present. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 123.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH—BETTY REED

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor beloved community leader, Florida State Representative Betty Reed. She was raised in Thomasville, Georgia, in a close-knit family of hardworking sharecroppers and with 12 other siblings Representative Reed and her husband, James, moved to Tampa after he was discharged from the military to raise a family of their own.

Representative Reed was an active parent while her children attended school, and her involvement grew over time in the Parent Teacher Student Association, then the Hillsborough County Council of PTSAs and all the way to the Florida State PTA.

As her children became older, she was prompted to complete her own high school diploma by attending night and weekend classes. Her pursuits only grew over time—she earned an associate’s degree from Hillsborough Community College, then her bachelor’s degree in behavioral science from National Louis University.

Representative Reed’s commitment to access to education grew as a financial aid assistant for Education America (which eventually became Remington College) and then as its director of financial aid. All the while, she was active in her own community, becoming president of the Lucy Dell Civic Association. But advocating for her community didn’t stop there. She was elected as a Florida State Representative for the 59th District, a seat she held until she was elected to represent the 61st District in 2012.

During her tenure as a Florida State Representative, she passed meaningful legislation, including the Black Health Practice Initiative (BIHPI, pronounced “Bippy”), which passed both chambers of the Florida Legislature without a single dissenting vote. With stark disparities between the infant mortality rates of different races—in some areas, the rate of black infant mortality was more than four times the rate for whites—the legislation funded state grants to local Healthy Start coalitions that served counties with significant disparities: Hillsborough, Gadsden, Palm Beach, Orange, Broward, Duval, Putnam and Miami-Dade. The University of South Florida and Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University were selected to provide technical assistance and scientific guidance. BIHPI produced positive outcomes and was particularly meaningful due to the relationships built in communities with the greatest needs. She also championed and helped

to secure state funding to help open numerous Tampa Family Health Centers and expand the robust safety net of comprehensive health services to medically underserved communities. Representative Reed passed legislation to end shackling incarcerated pregnant women during labor, delivery as well as postpartum, and legislation to provide additional funds to combat homelessness throughout the state of Florida. In her final two years, she served as the Democratic Ranking member of the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Representative Reed is a compassionate leader, who immersed herself in the challenges of her neighbors, and that allowed her to serve as a strong advocate. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Tampa Bay community, I am proud to recognize Representative Betty Reed for her drive for meaningful progress on behalf of our children, students, women, families and communities across the State of Florida.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROSE ENG

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Rose Eng, who turned 100 years old on February 22, 2019.

Rose is a model citizen who truly encapsulates the highest ideals of the American dream.

She came to the United States from China in 1948, and together with her husband Bill Y.F. Eng, a veteran of World War II, owned and operated the Canton Cafe in Walla Walla, Washington between 1949 and 1980.

Through hard work, sacrifice and perseverance, Rose and her husband were not only able to send all five of their children to college, a remarkable feat onto itself, but were also able to put a down payment on the first home for each of their children, laying the foundation for a prosperous future.

In the words of her daughter, they are “forever grateful to such amazing parents.”

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this milestone birthday and wish her the best in the future.

HONORING SUSAN COLPITTS FOR RECEIVING THE 2019 CORPORATE VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Ms. Susan Colpitts on receiving the 2019 Corporate VOLUNTEER Excellence Award through Volunteer Hampton Roads. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Susan’s lifetime of hard work and service to her community. Her dedication to her company and to her community is truly inspiring. She founded a highly competitive firm and led a group of advisors in the service of ensuring that clients have their