

HONORING LAURA HABR ON BEING NAMED FIRST CITIZEN OF VIRGINIA BEACH

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Laura Habr on being named the First Citizen of Virginia Beach. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Laura's lifetime of service and commitment to the welfare of our community. Laura's commitment to her business, Croc's, and her role as a civic leader is inspiring to many. Her business and leadership are well known in Virginia Beach. Additionally, her input on boards and committees—such as the Old Beach Farmers Market, Green Resort Ecofriendly Neighbors, and the Resort Advisory Commission—is invaluable.

Laura's dedication to inclusion and to strengthening the community is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Laura for her leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Virginia Beach has significantly benefited from her presence.

CONGRATULATING DR. STEPHEN MITROS ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Stephen Mitros on his retirement from his orthopaedic surgery practice after 43 years.

Dr. Mitros has served the South Bend community for generations. His commitment to excellent care goes beyond treatment and recovery. He has always shown his patients he truly cares about each individual and wants to treat their pain in a way that works best for them. The team at Mitros Orthopaedics in South Bend, a true family practice, demonstrates unparalleled expertise, compassion, and dedication to their work. Family has always been central to Dr. Mitros's practice. His wife, Janet, was the office manager and a registered nurse, and their daughter Kellye was a medical assistant. He shared the lessons his father, Dr. Paul Mitros, taught him about caring for patients, and I have no doubt this legacy will continue far into the future.

Dr. Mitros has been a leader in addressing the opioid epidemic by focusing on a non-narcotic approach. He began to see a vast difference in his patients' health and well-being, as well as in their rate of recovery. He has been a guiding light in the orthopaedic community, and he has devoted time and energy outside of his practice to researching new techniques and training physicians across the country. Though Dr. Mitros said he "did not do it with any crusading idea about cutting down on my contribution to the opioid crisis," his leadership in promoting non-opioid alternatives to pain management truly did transform his practice and made a lasting difference in people's lives.

On behalf of 2nd District Hoosiers, I am grateful to Dr. Mitros for his years of dedicated service and for the innovative approach he took to caring for each patient and identifying comprehensive treatment options that put their health and well-being first. I look forward to continuing to work with providers like Dr. Mitros to address the opioid epidemic by advocating for patient-centered care.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Mitros and thanking him for all he has done to improve lives and advance the practice of orthopaedic medicine.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOCAL JUROR NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Local Juror Non-Discrimination Act of 2019. This bill would clarify that D.C. residents may not be excluded or disqualified from jury service in the D.C. Superior Court based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Specifically, my bill would clarify that "sex," which is a protected class under the non-discrimination law that currently applies to local D.C. jurors, includes sexual orientation and gender identity. Under the Home Rule Act, Congress has exclusive jurisdiction over Title 11 of the D.C. Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the local D.C. courts).

The District has one of the strongest non-discrimination laws in the country, including protecting individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity. However, under the Home Rule Act, the District does not have the authority to make this non-discrimination law applicable to local jurors. Therefore, until the District is given complete control over the jurisdiction and organization of its local courts, an act of Congress is required to make this important change to protect the rights of all D.C. residents. I will soon be introducing a bill to give the District local control of its courts. In the meantime, however, the District of Columbia Local Juror Non-Discrimination Act of 2019 is necessary to protect D.C. jurors from discrimination.

My bill is based on H.R. 874, the Juror Non-Discrimination Act of 2019 (H.R. 874), which would make the same changes to federal jury law. I am a proud original cosponsor of that bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MARY MACKBEE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Mackbee on a remarkable 53-year career in public education as she prepares to retire as principal of Saint Paul's

Central High School. Mary is a highly gifted educator, and far more—a civic leader in Minnesota's Capital City, a mentor to students, teachers, and parents alike and a model of what it means to be an engaged and caring member of the community.

Growing up in New Orleans, Mary attended segregated schools. Her teachers became vital to her life, so much so that by the time she was in 9th grade she knew that being a public educator was her life's calling. After attending Xavier University of Louisiana where she studied Social Studies and English, Mary was recruited to begin her teaching career here in Minnesota. So it was in September of 1966 that she embarked on what would become a career spanning more than five decades, primarily in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Mary began as a classroom teacher before moving to positions as principal and district administrator in the Saint Paul Public Schools. She ultimately returned to the role she loved more than any other in 1993. As principal of Saint Paul's Central High School, the oldest continuously operating high school in the state of Minnesota, she has overseen the education of an estimated 13,000 students during her tenure. She has earned a reputation as an ardent advocate for the arts and extracurricular programs, and is a frequent attendee of Central's various arts and athletic events beyond regular school hours.

Principal Mackbee has demonstrated resilient leadership through tumultuous changes in technology, demographics and traumatic events in the community and the "Central family." When difficult situations affect students and teachers at Central, she sets the tone by listening and leaning into what she believes is her school's strength—the diversity of the community. Mary notes that, "It (Central High School) always drew a very, very diverse population, from the black community of Rondo, the Jewish community of Highland, the rich community of Summit Avenue . . . I think that's what makes us strong." Through it all, Central High School has been successful in recruiting and retaining excellent teachers and maintaining outstanding academic, athletic and fine arts programs. This would not have been possible without the leadership and strong advocacy Mary has provided. The results show that this playbook is working—Central High School consistently ranks among the top high schools in the state for academic achievement and graduation rates.

Mary often starts her days at 6:30 in the morning and often doesn't leave campus until after eight o'clock. Staff and former students often remark about how there is no task too small for her to do when it comes to Central. Whether it be attending meetings with parents or students to wiping down cafeteria tables, Mary Mackbee knows what it takes to keep Central High School running and strong. Because of Mary, generations of students received outstanding instruction in a vibrant and supportive environment at Saint Paul's Central High School.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the remarkable 53-year career of one of our communities most respected and beloved leaders, Principal Mary Mackbee.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. PATRICIA “PATTY” PARKER CULLEN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader and outstanding citizen, Mrs. Patricia “Patty” Parker Cullen, on the occasion of her retirement as the Executive Director of the River Valley Regional Commission.

A native of Phenix City, Alabama, Patty received both her bachelor’s degree in Home Economics and her master’s degree in Community Planning from Auburn University.

For almost four decades, she has been a well-respected leader in the community development industry in the Chattahoochee Valley region. She has built quite an impressive career, which began with her position as an Economic/Energy Planner for the Lower Chattahoochee Area Planning and Development Commission. During her extensive tenure in the community development industry, Patricia has held several leadership roles within the Lower Chattahoochee Area Planning and Development Commission, the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center, and the River Valley Regional Commission. Patty has done a tremendous job in upholding the highest standards of achievement, service and public distinction.

Throughout her career, Patty has served on a number of boards and was affiliated with several associations including the Advisory Council at Auburn University; the American Planning Association; the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions; the Georgia Planning Association; and Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumni Association.

Patty has accomplished much throughout her life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of her late husband, George; and her stepdaughter, Sally.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: “You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give.” The Lower Chattahoochee Valley area is a better place because Patty Cullen gave so much to so many to make our community stronger. As a woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise are unparalleled, but her heart for helping others utilizing these qualities has made her life’s work truly special.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the more than 730,000 citizens of Georgia’s Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Patricia “Patty” Parker Cullen upon the occasion of her retirement from an outstanding career of public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INAUGURATION OF DR. ADELA DE LA TORRE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an important milestone in the history of San Diego as Dr. Adela de la Torre is set to be inaugurated as San Diego State University’s (SDSU) ninth President on April 11, 2019.

Her inauguration is taking place at a unique juncture in the history of San Diego State University and has the potential to impart a significant impact on higher education throughout San Diego County.

SDSU is, and always will be, a major driver of San Diego’s economy. With an annual economic impact of over \$5.67 billion dollars, it is important that we continue to support SDSU and the thousands of students who graduate from the institution every year; more than 60 percent of whom stay in San Diego and put their degrees to work in our local communities.

Dr. de la Torre is a graduate of UC Berkeley, and holds a master’s degree and Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics. She has been a dedicated leader in the higher education space for over 30 years.

Dr. de la Torre was appointed as SDSU’s first woman president in June of 2018. Throughout her first year in this position, she has spent significant time “listening and learning” to stakeholders in the region and embarked on a listening tour throughout San Diego County to ensure she has an intimate understanding of the unique needs of the students SDSU serves.

As she assumes control of SDSU, Dr. de la Torre has an opportunity to establish her vision for the future. At a time when the University is planning a major expansion in Mission Valley, it is important that its leaders clearly articulate their plans for growth and development.

Under Dr. de la Torre’s leadership, SDSU embarks on a journey to increase its local footprint and establish the infrastructure necessary to support students over the next century. By engaging with the community, she has positioned herself well for success.

As I reflect on Dr. de la Torre’s past accomplishments, and on her vision for the future, I am inspired by her dedication to social justice, and to improving higher education for the good of all students. I believe that her experience has prepared her well for achievement of SDSU’s lofty goals.

I am pleased to be able to welcome Dr. de la Torre as SDSU’s new president, and look forward to seeing her vision for SDSU take shape. Under her guidance, SDSU stands poised and ready to greatly expand its impact, and emerge as a mecca for innovative higher education in California and beyond.

I extend my congratulations to her on her appointment and inauguration. In the short time she has been in San Diego orienting herself to every opportunity here, she has epitomized the future of our community. Dr. de la Torre is SDSU and will surely touch lives.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL ROBERT HENDRIKS

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my deepest sympathy and sorrow in the passing of Corporal Robert Hendriks. The son of Erik Hendriks and Felicia Biondo-Arculeo, Robert was a United States Marine who died this week while bravely serving his country in Afghanistan. This was his second deployment. Robert grew up in Locust Valley, New York, next to my hometown of Glen Cove. Almost immediately after graduating from Locust Valley High School in 2012, Robert joined the United Marine Corps Reserves, and was assigned to the Site Support 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment in Garden City, NY.

On Monday, April 8th, Robert, along with the members of his unit were driving in a convoy near Baghram Air Base when an improvised explosive device was detonated near his Humvee. Robert, along with two other members of his unit were killed in this attack.

Known for his selflessness and commitment to duty, his friends and family also knew him as a kind and gentle person. “He was the kind of kid you just want to hug,” said his aunt. Robert’s brother, Joseph, also a Marine, arrived in Afghanistan last week to begin his tour. Joseph is now escorting his brother’s remains back home to their family.

Robert Hendriks is an American hero who reflects the best of the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps, and the Third Congressional District of New York. May God bless Robert Hendriks, and grant peace and strength to his family.

CLEAN FUELS NATIONAL AND THE CLEAN FUELS NATIONAL FUEL SUMMIT

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Clean Fuels National and the Clean Fuels National Fuel Summit held in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Hundreds of attendees spanning from Washington State to Pennsylvania will participate in this invitation-only forum. Business leaders will discuss important issues facing the industry, such as natural disaster preparation, card skimming and UST regulations.

This forum would not be possible without the hard work of Clean Fuels National and the Vanover Family. Kas, Mike, and Gregg Vanover founded Clean Fuels National in 2000, on the idea of providing exceptional fuel filtration and tank cleaning services to Northeast Indiana. Nineteen years later, Clean Fuels National is the largest fuel filtration and tank cleaning company in the United States. However, its roots remain grounded in Northeast Indiana. The bedrock of Clean Fuels National lies in the close-knit support of the surrounding community and its loyal customers. Today, Clean Fuels National employs over 60 individuals from Northeast Indiana and is constantly expanding.