

IN HONOR OF DAVID P. FRYER

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David P. Fryer of Huntingdon County for his service in the United States Army Military Police. David is an outstanding Pennsylvanian, and I am grateful for his service to our nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our community.

In Pennsylvania and across the country, our veterans have served and sacrificed for Americans' freedom and our values. They answered the call to serve and fight for us—at a great cost. Truly, our veterans are the best of America.

In Congress, it is my privilege—and my responsibility—to stand up for those who have served our country in uniform, as well as to recognize these brave Americans. As a nation, we are indebted to them. On behalf of the 13th Congressional District, I thank David for his service to our nation and our community.

## HONORING THE 2020 WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2020 Women of the Year. The honorees represent some of the most outstanding and dedicated women in the 3rd Congressional District. Nominated by their peers, these women and the leadership they have provided are being recognized for playing an integral and crucial role in improving the lives of everyone in their communities. This year, we mark the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote. Since then, our nation has seen women take great strides in every American industry from business to politics to the arts. This progress has not come easy and many women who have come before have worked hard and strived to achieve the independence and rights women have today. Though there is more work to be done to ensure that women have equal pay, flexible work schedules, and affordable education, each of the honorees will be a vital part of the work to get there.

2020's Women of the Year are:

Born and raised in Colusa County, Janita Smith has used her creativity, determination, and skilled leadership to make a vast and visible impact on her community. Janita is a dedicated advocate for the most vulnerable populations in her community. For years, she has donated her time to reducing hunger by volunteering at and coordinating food drives, including an annual giveaway for the Christmas holiday. In 1998 she co-founded the Colusa County Food Basket Association, creating a nonprofit organization that dedicates itself to serving those in most need throughout Colusa. What began as a very small community outreach program has now grown into an immensely rewarding Colusa County community service program that has served and fed an

average of 450 local families every holiday season for the past ten years. Recently, Janita collaborated with a local veteran's group to identify and create a register of all deceased veterans interred at the local Catholic cemetery. She spent nearly two years researching and networking with local families to ensure that all veterans were accounted for. Her work ensured that all 245 veterans were honored on Memorial Day with an American flag on their grave, marking their service and sacrifice. Janita's compassion, generosity, and heartfelt dedication to making her community a better place are an inspiration to all who know her.

Gina Tarke is more than just a volunteer in the Sutter County area, but a devoted leader with an extensive record of service to her community. Gina is known for her work ethic and constantly extends her hand to assist projects across the community with a kind heart. She has been the driving force behind many student, youth, and community projects. She spearheaded the Sutter Community Flag Project, has been in 4H Leadership for over 18 years, directs Sutter Union High School Football fundraising dinners and annual Meet the Huskies events, and never hesitates to lend a hand to the Sutter Youth Organization. Despite having children who have outgrown the youth activities in her community, Gina continues to volunteer her time ensuring that all Sutter youth have the opportunity to benefit from these programs. Under her leadership, the Yuba-Sutter 4H has expanded its reach over the years, providing vital learning opportunities to thousands of students in the community and offering invaluable leadership experiences. Gina has not only given her own time and generosity to youth organizations throughout her community, but also encouraged others to do the same by raising awareness of the need and benefit of each program. Her leadership, volunteerism, and generosity have touched countless individuals and left a lasting impact throughout her community.

Marie Teria is a dedicated community servant whose leadership, generosity, and compassion inspire all who know her. Her volunteer work with organizations such as the Casa De Esperanza, the Shady Creek Outdoor Education Foundation, the Live Oak High School Key Club, and local Kiwanis Clubs demonstrate her commitment to helping those in need. As a leader within the Kiwanis Clubs of Yuba City and Live Oak, Marie has worked tirelessly to organize fundraising events like the annual Kiwanis Lobster Feed that enable the organization to support students, families, and charitable organizations throughout the community. She also serves as the Key Club Advisor at Live Oak High School, teaching students important values such as cooperation, responsibility, and community service. Under her leadership, the club has tripled its membership and increased their community involvement. Marie also serves on the board of the Shady Creek Outdoor Education Foundation which provides scholarships to low income families to send their children to outdoor education camps. She works to ensure that no child is deprived the benefit of these formative experiences due to their family's economic situation. Her passion for serving others led her to serve on the board of Casa de Esperanza for the past eight years, where she demonstrates her commitment to improving the lives of survivors of domestic abuse and human trafficking. Over her many years of

community service, she has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Modern Woodmen "Hometown Hero" Award, State of California Legislature and Congressional Recognition as Ambassador of the Year, the William A. Dunlap Fellowship, and many more. Marie's extensive volunteer work and tireless advocacy on behalf of children and families has touched the lives of many and will leave a lasting impact on her community.

Raji Tumber has made vast and meaningful contributions to the Yuba-Sutter area throughout her lifetime. As a caring mother, exceptional community leader, and engaged volunteer, she finds countless ways to make an impact, whether as a past board member of the American Red Cross or by volunteering her time to the local Tierra Buena Gurdwara, which serves over 20,000 Sikhs in the area. Her work as a board member of the Yuba-Sutter Food Bank has helped the organization further its mission to distribute food to over 16,000 individuals each and every month. She also gives her time working with SEV A, an organization that promotes selfless service and works to provide meals to homeless individuals across the region. Raji's leadership is characterized by a warm and outgoing nature, coupled with the highest standards of integrity and professionalism in all she does. Her work has promoted transparency in the Punjabi community, allowing more women to be actively involved in breaking down barriers at two of the local Gurdwaras. Through her effective leadership and enthusiastic approach, she continues to touch the lives of many throughout the Yuba-Sutter community.

Mary Vasquez is a third-generation resident of Vacaville who has followed in her family's footsteps to support and represent her community. For several years, Mary worked with her father in the family business, where she was instilled with a strong and independent work ethic. Using this experience as a foundation, Mary attended UC Davis and San Francisco State University, becoming the first member of her family to receive a graduate degree. Mary has now worked for 13 years at UC Davis where she is the Associate Director of the Academic Senate. Through her work, she enables UC Davis to carry out their mission of teaching, research, and public service. In her free time, Mary dedicates herself to supporting and improving her local community. As a devoted mother of three, Mary is heavily involved with her children's schools and served on the Vacaville Bobby Sox Board for two years. She has also spent seven years supporting the Cal Inc. Cares Relay for Life Team where she has helped to raise over 20 million dollars for the American Cancer Society. Most recently, Mary was appointed by the mayor to the Vacaville Parks and Recreation Commission where she advises the City Council on matters important to her community. Mary is an engaged and dedicated member of her community who is always working willing and eager to help out where it is needed.

A long-time resident and devoted civic leader in Vacaville, Jeanette Wylie is a determined advocate for everyone in her community. Having retired after 22 years teaching with Travis Unified School District, education is one of Jeanette's many passions. She spent eight years as President of the Travis Unified Teachers Association where she supported teachers at all levels and worked to advance

their priorities as a delegate to the California Teachers Association's State Council. Jeanette is tireless in her efforts to engage others and ensure that everyone in her community has a place to express their beliefs and take part in the democratic process. She currently serves on her county's Democratic Central Committee where she promotes accountable leadership and encourages civic engagement. Jeanette aspires to be a leader in her community who listens to the needs of everyone. Recently she has been reaching out to her neighbors and peers to have conversations on city safety, the importance of neighborhood parks, plans to address poverty, and providing quality education to future generations. Jeanette's years of service as an educator and community advocate are an inspiration to all who know her.

Robin Ziegenmeyer is an enthusiastic community servant who has made significant contributions to programs benefitting local children and families. Robin has coached little league, organized school field trips, and provided digital media for school, sports, and community organizations in Sutter. As a dedicated member of the Sutter Youth Organization, Robin works with the community to maintain the foundation along with its recreational centers and philanthropic events. Robin's work on behalf of the Sutter Youth Organization has allowed the center to be renovated and updated, providing facilities where youth can gather to play sports, train, and swim recreationally. Her work has benefitted countless members of the community, enabling a beloved city institution to flourish. Robin is a kind, generous, and enthusiastic leader in her community whose work will leave a lasting legacy.

I congratulate each of them and commend them for their work. I am inspired by them and firmly believe when women succeed, America succeeds.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, on October 2, 2020, I was unable to be present for the recorded votes on Roll Call No. 218. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 1154, Condemning QAnon and rejecting the conspiracy theories it promotes.

HONORING ROBERT "BOBBY" SMITH FOR 34 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Bobby" Smith for more than three decades of service to our country, our state, and our community. A U.S. Navy veteran and leader in emergency management, Mr. Smith's public service has spanned more than 34 years.

Mr. Smith began his career in 1985 as a Telecommunicator and Emergency Medical Technician for Guilford County Emergency Medical Services. Over his career in public service he has also served as a firefighter, hazardous materials technician, rescue technician, fire inspector, and Chief Fire Investigator. During his work in Emergency Management he has developed, tested, and implemented numerous response, recovery, mitigation, preparedness and continuity plans, and has been an integral part of emergency operations during national events and disasters. Today, he retires as Director of Emergency Management and Fire Services for Cabarrus County.

Over the years, Mr. Smith has proven to be a strong and effective leader and our region is better and more prepared due to his work. He has served as Unified Incident Commander during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic; coordinated response to a number of declared natural disasters; served as a member of the Domestic Preparedness Region (DPR 7) Committee, North Carolina Emergency Management Association Legislative Committee, and Rowan Cabarrus Community College Emergency Management Advisory Committee; and worked closely with the Local Emergency Planning Committee to develop emergency response infrastructure for local businesses.

An exemplary public servant, Mr. Smith represents the best our nation has to offer and we will look up to his leadership for generations to come. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for his tireless service and cannot thank him enough. I would like to offer my most heartfelt appreciation and wish him a long and happy retirement.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Robert "Bobby" Smith for his 34 years of public service.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND UNSELFISH WORK OF HILLSBOROUGH COMMISSIONER LESLEY "LES" MILLER, JR.

#### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in admiration and respect to honor the achievements and unselfish work of Hillsborough Commissioner Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr. and to congratulate him on his retirement. Les' remarkable contributions to our hometown of Tampa have had a tremendous impact on our neighbors and citizens of Florida and is worthy of recognition.

Les was born in Tampa in 1951, graduated from Middleton High School and later served in the United States Air Force as an administrative specialist. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and master's degree in public administration from the University of South Florida (USF) and received an honorary doctorate degree in humane letters from Florida A&M University in 2005. During his academic career, Les served as the First African American President of the Student Government Association and President of the Black Student Union. Before making a switch to political science, Les was a music major and rose to be drum major at Middleton High.

Les' involvement and willingness to serve did not stop after his college career. He also served as a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1992 to 2000 and as a member in the Florida Senate from 2000 to 2006. Commissioner Miller was the first Democrat in Florida to serve as both Florida House and Senate Minority Leader. His hard work and dedication towards public policy and passion for giving back to his community, has granted him several awards including the Florida Education Association President's Award; the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Memorial Service Robert W. Saunders Award for Efforts to Promote Civil Rights; the University of South Florida Presidents' Distinguished Citizen Award; the Early Learning Coalition Legislative Excellence Award; Florida League of Cities Legislative Award; and the Florida Housing Coalition Legislative Award.

Les has been an integral part of the growth and development of Moffitt Cancer Center, Florida's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Les was already a cancer survivor before Moffitt opened, but throughout his life, he and his loved ones still needed Moffitt more than he might have imagined. Les has survived three bouts of cancer, and both his wife, Gwen and daughter LeJeane, have twice survived cancer. Through his career in the Florida Legislature, Les made funding Moffitt one of his priority issues. His many accomplishments there, include, a measure he authored to earmark a percentage of Florida's tobacco sales taxes for Moffitt research and patient care. Les continues to give back through Moffitt's annual Men's Health Forum which encourages men regardless race, religion and socioeconomic background to get information and guidance on prostate and men health. Les credits Moffitt for being alive today and has made it a life mission to help the center in any capacity.

Les' relentlessness to fight for what is right inspired him to lead efforts throughout his career, both at the state and local level, for tough laws to stop gun violence and keep guns out of the hands of people like the men who shot his son, Trey. Les' tough and collaborative approach has allowed him success despite strong opposition from special interests and even the Florida Legislature. It passed a law to try to take gun violence efforts from local governments. Les' strength and passion can be seen in his continuing efforts to fight to stop gun violence even in the face of rules that threaten local officials personally who try to protect their communities.

During his tenure as a Commissioner for Hillsborough County, Les has continued to improve the lives of many by continuously fighting for affordable housing, better transportation and protection of the environment. He also served on several Boards and Councils including Aviation Authority, Committee of Six, Expressway Authority, Florida State Fair Authority, HART, Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Visit Tampa Bay, Tourist Development Council and Election Canvassing Board.

Outside of his role as Commissioner, Les continues to be an active voice in civic affairs including being a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. a member of Harrah Temple No. 23, Prince Hall Shriners; a member of the United Supreme Council, 33rd Degree Mason, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliate; Life Member and Past Master of Landmark Lodge No.