

CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ST. FRANCIS' 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of St. Francis located in Joliet, Illinois, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Since 1920, the University of St. Francis has distinguished itself as a valuable institution for its students and a major contributor to Joliet and the greater Illinois area.

Founded in 1920, the Congregation of the Third Order of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate established the Sisters' Normal Institute of Higher Learning, now known as the University of St. Francis, to educate its own members. By 1930, the institution reorganized its education to provide a full college curriculum and grant bachelor's degrees. As the college expanded its educational opportunities, it was eventually renamed the University of St. Francis in 1998.

The University of St. Francis has been an institution committed to providing opportunity for its students and educating a community of learners who are engaged in the continuous pursuit of knowledge, faith, wisdom, and justice. Their academic excellence makes the institution a valuable part of the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the University of St. Francis' 100 years of excellence and congratulating the institution on achieving this milestone.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF  
JUSTICE JOHN F. O'DONNELL

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of the Honorable John F. O'Donnell, J.S.C. Justice O'Donnell is stepping down from his position as the New York State Supreme Court Justice of the Eighth Judicial District after a remarkable legal career.

In doing so, I recognize the efforts Justice O'Donnell has made on behalf of Western New York families; especially those affected by child abuse and domestic violence. Justice O'Donnell has been an outspoken advocate for women and children within the court system.

Justice O'Donnell began his career in the private sector in 1971, and later ventured into public service as a confidential law clerk. Justice O'Donnell soon became a pillar of the Erie County Family Court. In November 1985, he was appointed as a hearing examiner, and in January 1988, he became an Erie County Family Court Judge. In January 1992, he was named the Supervising Judge of the Family Courts, and the Domestic Violence Education Coordinator for New York's Eighth Judicial District.

Justice O'Donnell has served on the State Supreme Court since 1995. In November 2003, Justice O'Donnell became the first judge to preside over the Erie County branch of the

Integrated Domestic Violence Court. This monumental court reform initiative allowed New York State to streamline the legal processes involved in domestic violence cases, thereby better serving individuals and families.

Justice O'Donnell has been honored with numerous accolades throughout his rich career, including the 1999 Judges and Police Executives Conference Jurist of the Year, the 1997 Western New York Matrimonial Trial Lawyers Association Judge of the Year, the 1998 Bar Association of Erie County Family and Matrimonial Law Committee Special Achievement Award, the 1993 William B. Hoyt Award from the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence, and the 2001 Ted Hengerer Award from the Theatre of Youth. In 1997, Justice O'Donnell was inducted into the Signum Fidei Society of his alma mater, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to recognize the retirement of Justice John O'Donnell here today. He has dedicated his career to finding justice for the people of Western New York and we greatly appreciate his service.

IN HONOR OF LESTER J. STOUTD

**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 Lester J. Stoutd of Huntingdon County for his service in the United States Army. Lester 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 Lester for his service to our nation and our community.

HONORING RICHARD BRUMFIELD,  
JR. AND GUILLERMO AVINA'S  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
HEALTHCARE

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Brumfield, Jr. and Guillermo Avina, Co-Founders of Full Spectrum Omega, Inc. (FSO), a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) and phytocannabinoids life science company in Los Angeles. FSO's mission is providing access to FDA-approved marijuana-derived products that address unmet medical conditions and improve people's lives and wellbeing.

Richard and Guillermo have a long history of developing cannabis-derived products, operating under California state laws and focused on putting "patients before profits."

With FSO headquartered in California's 34th District, Messrs. Brumfield and Avina play an important role in our community. They also recently held an event in the district to "kick off" a major new initiative. Richard and Guillermo have tirelessly worked to serve our community, and I want to recognize and thank them for their innovative contributions.

HONORING LYNDELL "DALE"  
WOODS

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Lyndell "Dale" Woods of Salem, Virginia, who died on November 8, 2020. He was a longtime volunteer at the Fort Lewis Fire Department, and the heart disease that took his life developed as a result of his service.

Mr. Woods was born in Stuttgart, Germany, on March 8, 1960 to Rodney Leroy and Maria Liebelt Woods. He graduated from Salem High School in 1978 as part of the school's first graduating class. Volunteer firefighting in the Fort Lewis Fire Department was a calling he pursued for 35 years, from March 1981 until his diagnosis with heart disease in 2016. During that time, he attained the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain, and Membership Office and acquired certifications including Firefighter 1–2, Fire Instructor, and Emergency Vehicle Operator—Class 4.

Mr. Woods worked at PMI Lubricants for 22 years. His community involvement in addition to his volunteer firefighting service included the Boy Scouts of America and coaching Glenvar Recreation League soccer.

Mr. Woods' survivors include his wife Jewel, his son Daniel, four stepdaughters, and eight grandchildren. I wish to offer them and the Fort Lewis Fire Department my condolences on their loss. Many communities across the Ninth District rely on volunteer firefighters such as Mr. Woods for their safety, and his death as a result of the performance of his duties reminds us of their great dedication and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING THE INSTITUTE FOR  
INCLUSION IN THE LEGAL PROFESSIONAL

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I stand tonight to recognize the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession on its 10th Anniversary. The legal profession remains one of the least diverse professions in the United States. This adversely impacts the pipeline of women, racial/ethnic minorities, openly LGBTQ+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, and religious minorities, who will serve as future legislators, judges, public policy advocates, civic and community leaders,

and the lawyers who can be found daily in boardrooms and courtrooms. While there are an abundance of organizations working to make the American legal profession more diverse and inclusive, and some progress made, much remains to be done.

For ten years, the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession (“IILP”) has been working for “Real change. Now.” Its approach has differed from more traditional efforts. It has focused on inclusion rather than just diversity. It has emphasized the supply side over the demand side: making the legal profession more hospitable to diverse individuals, one where anyone with the talent, aptitude, ambition, and determination may enter and rise as high as those abilities will permit. It has grounded its work in research and data that go beyond the anecdotal. It discusses the hard issues and tackles the tough questions that need to be resolved before this profession can truly become more diverse and inclusive. It addresses all types of diversity in all practice settings all over the United States. More importantly, everyone in the legal profession has a home within the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession.

I was honored to give remarks during the inaugural year of the formation of the IILP in 2009 and I am pleased to share these highlights from its first ten years of service. The IILP is continuing to publish its “Review on the State of Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession,” the only comprehensive compilation of data, statistics, demographics, and thought leadership essays designed in the country. This report has become an important tool to everyone in the legal profession who is concerned about diversity and inclusion issues. In addition, the IILP presented some 40 Symposia on the State of Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession to lawyers all over the United States. These symposia bring together an extremely diverse group of lawyers who learn about all types of diversity and find synergies that allow them to work across lines of difference. The IILP provided the legal profession with the only hard data available on the business case for diversity in “The Business Case for Diversity: Reality or Wishful Thinking?”. The IILP published the series, “Competing Interests,” which is the only analysis of the conflict between corporate efforts aimed at economy and efficiency with corporate efforts supporting diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and the impact this has upon minority lawyers. The IILP established the Social Impact Incubator, a group of Millennial lawyers from a wide range of backgrounds and practice settings, who are learning to be thought leaders on diversity and inclusion for their generation. The IILP developed the program, “Diversity and Data Privacy in a Digital World.” While much has been focused on data privacy issues, this program is the first to examine those issues through the lens of diversity and inclusion concerns. The IILP conducts programs that offer unique and thought-provoking ways to look at and think about diversity and inclusion, such as “The Ethics of Diversity and the Politics of Inclusion,” wherein IILP examined challenges to diversity and political considerations that are impacting inclusion efforts; and “Women and Minorities,” studying the root causes and potential strategies to address tensions between white women, women of color, lesbians, and trans women. The IILP presented the first con-

ference outside the United States or United Kingdom that was dedicated to diversity and inclusion issues within the legal profession.

For its 10th Anniversary, the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession is celebrating with another thought-provoking program: “Is ROI (Return on Investment) the Appropriate Measure for D&I (Diversity and Inclusion)?”. On behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, I offer my deepest appreciation for the work that they do and encourage that they continue to find innovative approaches to ensure our legal professionals produce diverse and inclusive workforces.

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:

Dawn La Bar is a dedicated public servant who has played a key role in her community’s development. She has worked in the Fairfield City Manager’s Office since 2011, where she has been at the heart of critical city efforts, such as the development and implementation of the City’s Legislative platform, community revitalization projects, and affordable housing programs. Dawn uses her skill and expertise to bring together local and regional stakeholders to increase funding opportunities and further important projects. Recently she has taken on the crucial task of addressing homelessness in the Fairfield area and works tirelessly to provide those experiencing homelessness with the best possible outcomes. As the leader of the City’s Homeless Services Division, she brings people together from all levels of government and industry to achieve a common goal. During the COVID–19 pandemic, her work became that much more critical, and she embraced the opportunity to build Fairfield’s Project Room Key which secured shelter for so many at-risk individuals. Building on that momentum, Dawn helped lead an initiative to open an emergency shelter and secured additional funding to ensure individuals would have the opportunity to move on to permanent housing. Dawn’s work, both throughout her career and during this pandemic, has

had an incredibly positive impact on her community.

Janet Lacy is recognized throughout the region for her musical ability, mentorship, kindness, and dedication to the Orland community. As pianist and organist of the local Federated Church of Orland, Janet has used her musical talents to awe and inspire ever since she came to Orland in the 1980s. Her kindness, patience, and commitment have allowed her to excel at mentoring local youth with an interest in developing their musical abilities. Janet’s musical accompaniments can be found at nearly every community wedding or funeral in Orland, while her talent and patience have been foundational to the local community choir, The Glenn Chorale. She also volunteers her time as a docent at the Orland Art Center where she shares her artistic knowledge with visitors. Janet is also a member, and has served as President for several terms, of the Women’s Improvement Club. In that role, she has spent her time furthering the group’s mission, providing scholarships for local high school seniors, supporting the Orland Fire Department, Library, and Glenn County Senior Nutrition Center. In recognition of her special place in the hearts of her friends and neighbors, Janet has been selected as Orland Citizen of the Year and served as the Grand Marshall in the fall parade. Janet is a treasured member of the community and an indispensable resource for every group she serves. With her vast array of accomplishments and caring spirit, Janet serves as a shining example of philanthropic generosity and passionate service to everyone in her community. Her work on behalf of women, children, and families in her community will have a lasting impact on generations to come.

Kathlan Latimer has dedicated her life to education. Beyond her 27 years as a teacher in the Fairfield-Suisun School District, Kathlan has worked to help other teachers bring quality education to their students. Through her work over the past 12 years as a lecturer at UC Davis, and as a curriculum coach with the California Department of Education, Kathlan has had a positive impact on education programs throughout California. Kathlan’s passion for education stems from a desire to improve the lives of every one of her students. She has long been a supporter of science and math educational programs, particularly focusing on underserved communities, working to ensure that all students have equitable access to STEM careers. To this end, Kathlan has worked as a mathematics coach and served on boards of professional mathematics educators at the county, state, and national levels. In addition to her tireless work in support of STEM education, Kathlan has been an invaluable resource to college students interested in pursuing a career in education. Imbuing these students with the same passion that has been the foundation of her career, Kathlan has been a mentor to many aspiring teachers and secured internships for countless more at local schools. Kathlan’s career and volunteer work has had an immeasurable impact on the lives of countless students and serves as a model to all future educators.

Leticia Quirarte is a passionate activist dedicated to serving her community. Leticia spends her time as a certified Covered California enrollment counselor with the Winters Healthcare Foundation where she helps residents in her community find the necessary resources to have healthy and long lives.