

been before WWII. Huntington experienced rapid suburbanization with the development of Dix Hills/Melville, community groups such as House Beautiful and the development of the 110 Corridor. However, these changes came and our leaders had to wrestle with the issues surrounding this development.

Early on, Mary was particularly interested in the corruption felt throughout Long Island in the late 1950's. She fondly remembers when Robert Flynn, attorney and longtime Huntington Democratic leader, joined with likeminded Republicans to form The Fusion Economy Party designed to combat such corruption with the goal to defeat institutional corruption. There were Democrats and Republicans that ran on that line.

Mary recalled a time when Committee people were recruited, friend to friend, neighbor to neighbor. Her own mentor into the position as Chair was Eunice Titcomb. Eunice taught Mary the day-to-day workings of the committee.

Mary became more active in Huntington Democrats with her husband, the late Dick Tretler. They met Annie and Matt Berger around 1979 during Frank Grimes' tenure as HTDC Chair and they all campaigned actively for Jane Devine's successful run for County Legislature. In fact, she recalled that the reason she became a Notary Public was when Jane Devine was first running for office in order to carry Jane's petitions. In those days you could not carry a petition outside your district unless you were a Notary Public.

Annie Berger shares what she believes to be key to Mary's success: her listening skills. She listened, she heard people, even if she would not commit to their position. This was echoed by every elected Democratic official and leader past and present.

We Recognize that under Mary Collin's leadership, Huntington Democrats maintain a strong presence in Huntington. She made it a time to be proud to be a Democrat in Huntington and support our neighbors and friends in our community. Under Mary's leadership, Huntington held the majority in the town for 18 years.

Her integrity was always high and she put the Committee first.

Frank Grimes, HTDC long time Chair asked Mary to be Vice Chair and she readily accepted helping to bring HTDC into the 21st century. Mary was the Vice Chair of Huntington Town Democratic Committee for 6 years. In 1998 she became the Chair holding that position until 2020 when she became Vice Chair for Western Suffolk of the Suffolk County Democratic Committee. She has always enjoyed reaching out to people, being available to provide the best advice and assistance to every candidate, every Committee person, every constituent inquiry.

Frank Petrone, our long time Town Supervisor and now Committee Chair always found Mary welcoming, even though he was a Republican at the beginning of his tenure as Town Supervisor. When Frank changed his own party affiliation, Mary continued to provide him with an orientation to our Committee and paved the way for his acceptance to the Committee. "She was, as ever, always gracious."

Mary worked for a long time as a Legislative Assistant to Congressman Gary Ackerman whose district stretched from Queens to Smithtown, dealing with constituent issues, becoming well versed in local issues affecting Huntington.

Former Congressman Steve Israel recalls that he met Mary when he moved to Huntington in the 1990's. He recalls learning about her from his friend, Congressman Bob Mrazek. Her knowledge of Huntington politics, as Congressman Israel remembers, was a reason that he asked Mary to join him

when he was first elected to Congress. Israel remembers that he was always amazed by her dedication to her neighbors, her insistence that we were in politics not for power but to help those without it and her passion for improving communities. Congressman Israel is reminded, upon returning from Washington, walking into his local office feeling uplifted seeing Mary at the front desk helping constituents with their everyday problems.

As Chair, Mary not only kept up the day-to-day operations, she nurtured us all with her amazing Home baked goodies. If you haven't tried her famous Irish Soda Bread, you are really missing out. Anyone coming to the office for GOTV work has enjoyed the extra benefit of sharing in a good cup of coffee or tea and a delicious homebaked treat made with love.

Ever the quintessential politico, Mary has always been able to straddle being essentially apolitical in a very political position. The interaction with people, trying to improve things for all Huntingtonians has always been her goal. And in her own words:

"Politics is the most fun people can have legally."

#### HONORING VICE MAYOR JAKE MACKENZIE

##### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vice Mayor Jake Mackenzie, and to celebrate his retirement from the Rohnert Park City Council after 24 years of storied service.

Vice Mayor Mackenzie is an outstanding public servant, a committed environmentalist, and a tireless advocate for the Rohnert Park community. After earning his PhD in pesticide research in 1970, he spent three decades working as a pesticide regulator for both the State of California and the Environmental Protection Agency. He was first elected to the Rohnert Park City Council in 1996, running on a platform of natural land preservation in the city. He has served 24 years on the council, including 5 terms as Mayor.

Throughout his time on the City Council, Vice Mayor Mackenzie has been a regional leader on environmental preservation and transportation issues. His environmental expertise has been instrumental in creating long-term sustainable growth in Sonoma County. While leading the North Coast Resource Partnership, Vice Mayor Mackenzie secured over \$65 million in funding to protect Northern California open spaces for future generations. He has been a fierce advocate of affordable housing and public transportation, serving on the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for 12 years, and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority for 20 years. He played a vital role in the development of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit passenger train, an extremely important service that will benefit the entire region for years to come.

Madam Speaker, Vice Mayor Jake Mackenzie is an exceptional public servant with a deep dedication to his community. He exemplifies the integrity we should expect from our leaders, and he has undoubtedly had a significant and lasting impact on the City of Rohnert Park. I am proud to call him a friend. It is

therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from traveling and unable to make votes on December 7, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 512 and S. 461.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. TOM CARROLL

##### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and offer gratitude to Mr. Tom Carroll. The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is losing a valuable member of the Capitol Hill community with his forthcoming resignation on December 11, 2020. Tom has accepted an amazing opportunity to lead facility operations at Columbia University in New York City, and we wish him the best in his new endeavor.

An engineer by trade and a respected U.S. Air Force veteran, Tom has been an indispensable member of the Architect of the Capitol's team since joining in 2009. He came on board first as Deputy Superintendent for House Office Buildings and quickly moved up to become the Chief Financial Officer responsible for ensuring sound financial stewardship and providing value-added analysis to give insight into the financial implications of program decisions. Tom was again promoted to Assistant to the Architect for Operations and Services in 2018, and he had the honor of serving as the Acting Architect of the Capitol from August 2019 to January 2020. Tom's due diligence and leadership ensured hundreds of projects across the Capitol campus were delivered on-time, on-budget and with high quality.

Tom's hard work and contributions to Capitol Hill will be greatly missed. Congress' loss is Columbia's gain.

#### HONORING CATHY HUGHES

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Cathy Hughes on her 40 years as the leader of Urban One, now America's largest Black broadcast network.

Cathy Hughes, the founder and chairperson of Urban One, has dedicated her career to amplifying the voices of Black people and their perspectives through the airwaves. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, and known to have hosted "radio shows" in her bathroom as a child, Hughes had her sights on success from day

one. Throughout her career, her piercing optimism and resilience cut through obstacles of discrimination and discouragement, clearing a path to where she now stands as one of our country's wealthiest self-made African-American women.

Hughes, who became a mother at the age of 16, has recalled taking her son to classes and, later on in her career, having him sleep in a sleeping bag in her office when she had to work late. Growing up among a family of entrepreneurs, as Hughes did, she was no stranger to hard work, business jargon and long hours. Her father was the first African-American to earn an accounting degree from Creighton University. Her mother played trombone.

In 1971, Hughes came to the District of Columbia to work at Howard University's School of Communications, and she went on to become a General Sales Manager for the University's radio station, WHUR-FM. On her arrival in the District, Hughes wrote to her mother, "My eyes were tired at the end of the day, staring at the greatness of Black people doing so many things."

In the late 1970s, Hughes started her own radio station, once known as Radio One, now Urban One. During her career she endured racism and sexism, but these were no match for her electric optimism. After seven years, the radio station became profitable and continued to grow. In 1999, at the recommendation of her son, who had received his MBA at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Cathy Hughes became the first African-American woman to chair a publicly held corporation, following the sale of more than seven million shares of common stock to the public.

She has received numerous awards, including being selected for the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2019, the Woman of the Year Award by 100 Black Men of America in 2018, the Ida B. Wells Living Legacy Award in 2011 and the Essence Women Shaping the World Award in 2008. She was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 2010, and the Cathy Hughes School of Communications at Howard University was named for her in 2016.

I relish this opportunity to recognize and honor the work of Cathy Hughes. Her resilience, optimism and determination are true guiding lights through these difficult times. She has mentored countless women and her entrepreneurial energy has touched many, both in D.C. and across the nation.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Cathy Hughes on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Urban One.

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2020**

SPEECH OF

**HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2020*

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2981, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020. I was also proud to cosponsor the House companion to this bill—H.R. 2406—introduced by my colleagues, Representatives ED CASE of Hawaii, DON YOUNG of Alaska, and JARED HUFFMAN of California.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) operates the agency's highly specialized international fleet of research and survey ships and aircraft. They conduct oceanographic and atmospheric research and include the Hurricane Hunter aviators, who provide the National Weather Service with the necessary data for their storm forecasts and warnings.

In Puerto Rico, we know how important this work is. For instance, before Hurricane Maria even departed our waters in September 2017, the NOAA Corps-led *NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson* became the first federal vessel on scene in relief efforts. Over the next 20 days, that ship and crew worked uninterrupted, around-the-clock shifts throughout Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, eventually clearing eighteen individual port facilities in thirteen areas. Seven of them were in Puerto Rico alone.

That is why I support passage of S. 2981, which would give NOAA Corps the authorities it needs to continue as an effective service for our nation. The bill would provide its officers employment rights in line with other uniformed services, authorize education loan repayment programs for NOAA Corps officers and tuition support for prospective officers, and gives NOAA updated authorities to manage the size and composition of the Corps, among other provisions.

I look forward to continuing supporting the men and women of the NOAA Corps.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF RONNIE S. WILLIAMS**

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take pause and reflect on the life of Ronnie S. Williams.

Madam Speaker, Ronnie Williams was especially proud of his service to his country. He graduated from Garner High School in 1966, attended Wake Community College then served in U.S. Army. He was deployed to Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Williams was a member of American Legion Post 232 and Garner VFW Post 10225.

In addition to his military service, Williams was a former first responder. He was a volunteer both in the Garner Volunteer Fire Department and in Garner EMS, serving as chief of the latter from 1980 to 1983.

Madam Speaker, Ronnie Williams served on the Board of Aldermen for Garner, North Carolina for 20 years before being elected Mayor of Garner, and serving in that role between 2005 until December of last year.

Under Ronnie's nearly three decades of public service, Garner, North Carolina prospered now includes over 30,000 residents outside of Raleigh. He also assumed roles of regional and statewide leadership during his ten-

ure as mayor. He served as chair of the Wake County Mayors Association from 2007 to 2009 and was selected to be an at-large member of the N.C. League of Municipalities' Board of Directors.

Sadly, former Garner Mayor Ronnie S. Williams passed away on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at the age of 72.

His legacy as a devoted and dedicated public servant will be missed by all of those who knew him.

**IN HONOR OF LAURA DAVIS**

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Laura Davis upon her retirement from the San Bruno City Council after three years of service. Serving on the council of a small city is never easy, but doing so during a global pandemic not seen in a century is almost unimaginable. Yet, Laura and her colleagues used and created tools and mechanisms that made San Bruno residents as safe and supported as possible. Laura's hard work and dedication are a testament to her commitment to her community.

While on the council, Laura served on the Utilities Committee, the Traffic Safety & Parking Commission, the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Airport Land Use Committee, the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency and the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance. These complex issues require a lot of knowledge, research and consideration and Laura always took the time to do her homework. In her day job, Laura is the Customer Relations Manager at California Water Service company where she has worked for 20 years. She brought extensive expertise on water issues to the council.

Laura also served on the Recreation and Aquatics Center Advisory Committee which is tasked with supporting the construction of a new Recreation and Aquatics Center in San Bruno City Park. This project will be a tangible symbol of the community spirit of San Bruno residents. After the fatal and devastating explosion of a Pacific Gas & Electric Company gas pipeline in 2010, the community voted on how to best spend a restitution settlement with PG&E of \$70 million. It was agreed that all residents of San Bruno should benefit from the settlement and a new pool was voted the highest priority. It is that spirit of resilience and solidarity that defines San Bruno's character.

Laura also isn't a newcomer to public service. Prior to the council, she served on the San Bruno Crime Prevention Committee and on the Parks & Recreation Commission. She served on the committee that planned the spectacular Centennial celebration of San Bruno in 2014, three years before being elected to the council. An avid outdoors and sports enthusiast, she has coached numerous softball, basketball and soccer teams in San Bruno. She founded "Friends Helping Friends" through St. Robert's Parish and raised \$100,000 to help those in need of medical treatment with their expenses. After Laura survived her own battle with cancer, she served as a committee member of a Relay for Life fundraiser and she organized a community