

HONORING NANCY STERN FOR  
HER RETIREMENT FROM THE  
EASTERN SHORE RURAL HEALTH  
SYSTEM

**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Nancy Stern upon her retirement from Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc.

For over 20 years, Nancy has led Rural Health as the center's Chief Executive Office. In her time as CEO and beyond, Nancy has exhibited extraordinary passion for the Eastern Shore community and has been a staunch advocate for Community Health Centers nationwide.

Nancy began her career as a health educator, originally working part-time as she raised her young family. She worked in health education for over a decade before taking the role of Director of Human Resources for Rural Health. After three years in this role and another two years as the Director Operations, Nancy was appointed as Rural Health's CEO where she has remained for the last 20 years.

Nancy has been a key figure in Rural Health's growth, modernization, and expansion to meet 21st century standards. Under Nancy's leadership, Rural Health added adult dental and behavior health care to better assist Eastern Shore residents. Nancy also oversaw the Eastville Community Health Center's construction as well as the expansion and replacement of the Onley and Atlantic Community Health Centers respectively. Additionally, she led Rural Health in acquiring a partnership with Kiwanis International for the Chincoteague Community Health Center. In her 20-year tenure, Rural Health's workforce expanded from 100 employees to 300 and increased its budget from \$6 million to \$29 million today.

Nancy's dedication to providing for the health and well being of the Eastern Shore community is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize her leadership and the role she has played in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia is a better place because of her efforts.

HONORING TOM BROWN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to congratulate Thomas Brown on his retirement and thank him for his many meaningful years of service to the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri.

Tom has been a crucial member of my team in the House of Representatives for fifteen years, and his impact on Missouri's Sixth Congressional District cannot be overstated. In 2005, Tom joined my team as Chief of Staff, and has since held multiple other titles, including District Director and Senior Advisor. Tom's wealth of knowledge about Missouri and the needs of the constituents in the Sixth Congressional District made him both an effective

leader in the office and an invaluable voice for the district. In the past fifteen years, Tom has made himself known as a true force to be reckoned with, using his wide network of relationships and his unmatched experience in the region to bring real change to Missourians.

Tom's dedication to the people of Missouri is in no way limited to his time on my staff. Before joining our team, Tom served as a Clay County Commissioner, Chairman of the Missouri Lottery Commission, and the Chairman of the Board at Saint Luke's North Hospital. Tom has also served on boards for the Mid-America Regional Council, Tri-County Mental Health, and Synergy Services. His tireless efforts on behalf of Missouri will be felt long after his time on staff comes to an end.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Tom Brown for his commitment to the Northland, Missouri's Congressional Sixth District, and the entire Show Me State. I am honored to have worked with him for the past 15 years and am honored to call him, and his family, my friends and neighbors.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT  
OF TOM VANKIRK

**HON. CONOR LAMB**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. LAMB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Tom VanKirk, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at Highmark Health on December 31, 2020.

Mr. VanKirk joined Highmark Inc. in March 2012 following a 41-year career at Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney. In addition to overseeing the acquisition of West Penn Allegheny Hospital System and Jefferson Hospital as well as the formation of Highmark Health in 2013 and its affiliation with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of northeast Pennsylvania in 2015, he has managed the legal affairs of the company and the legal department, and serves on the company's leadership team. He was also instrumental in the formation of Highmark Health's strategic partnerships with Johns Hopkins Medicine and Penn State Health. Mr. VanKirk also serves as the secretary of the board of directors of Highmark Inc. and Highmark Health.

Prior to joining Highmark in 2012, Mr. VanKirk served as Chairman and CEO at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney from 2003 until 2009, and Chairman until 2012, where he provided strategic leadership, client relationship development and attorney recruitment. He also managed the merger of three major law firms into Buchanan. Mr. VanKirk served as COO for 18 years from 1985 to 2003 before becoming CEO at Buchanan Ingersoll. He was a corporate takeover and antitrust trial lawyer and corporate advisor to many Fortune 1,000 companies.

As a community leader, Mr. VanKirk is involved in many civic and non-profit initiatives throughout the Pittsburgh region. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, the Pennsylvania Economy League and Chaired the Pennsylvania Business Council Board. In addition, Mr. VanKirk is a trustee of the University of Pittsburgh, the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh, United Way, the Board of visitors of the PITT School of Social

Work, The Carnegie Museum, and on the board of Penn State Health.

Mr. VanKirk and his wife Bonnie have been involved in the founding of both the Hillman Cancer Center and the August Wilson Center, two vital Pittsburgh institutions. He is a graduate of two great Pennsylvania schools. Bucknell and Penn State Dickinson School of Law.

[From Penn State University Newswire]

According to a recent news article looking back on his life and contributions to our community, "When Mr. VanKirk, 1970, attended Penn State Dickinson Law five decades ago, it was a time of tremendous unrest. The civil rights movement and protests against the Vietnam War were peaking, and VanKirk felt drawn to the field of law."

Said Mr. VanKirk of this experience, "I think the law has always been a great place to make a meaningful and lasting impact on society."

On behalf of the constituents of Pennsylvania's 17th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Mr. VanKirk on his retirement and thank him for his tireless work to enhance the quality of life of our community.

HONORING JACQUIE SULLIVAN ON  
HER RETIREMENT AS  
COUNCILMEMBER ON THE  
BAKERSFIELD CITY COUNCIL

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bakersfield's longest-serving City Councilmember, Jacquie Sullivan, a constituent and longtime friend. Years ago, I remember calling Jacquie to encourage her to run for City Council. Now as she prepares to retire, I am honored to recognize her legacy and thank her for 25 years of public service to the city of Bakersfield and Kern County.

Born in Bakersfield, Jacquie attended local public schools and later moved north, graduating from Tahoe Truckee High School. Soon after earning her high school diploma, she secured her real estate license and, while raising four children, entered the rental investment industry. In 1993, after the loss of her daughter Joyce, Jacquie, despite her soft-spoken nature, became one of our community's outspoken voices helping to change the stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS. She worked to educate the next generation, drive awareness of the disease, and advocated for more funding for treatments and prevention. Through her advocacy, Jacquie spoke at many Kern County school functions and helped raise thousands of dollars to provide better care for those afflicted with HIV/AIDS.

In 1995, Jacquie was elected to the Bakersfield City Council. As Councilmember for Ward Six, she worked with her colleagues to prioritize neighborhood safety, affordable family living, and promoting prosperity in her ward and across Bakersfield. During her tenure, she enhanced resident quality of life by streamlining building projects, introducing a city framework for emergency funding, and fostering economic growth opportunities for small businesses.

Jacquie's advocacy and legacy, however, is not confined just to the borders of Bakersfield,

California. In 2002, she founded In God We Trust America, Inc., a nonprofit organization that encourages elected officials to display our national motto "In God We Trust" in public spaces like at town halls and other facilities. As a result of this nonprofit, more than 700 buildings at various levels of government throughout 37 states have the motto displayed including the Bakersfield City Council Chambers, as well as the Kern County Sheriff's Department, which recently added motto decals to its patrol vehicles.

It has been a pleasure to work with my close friend Jacquie, collaborating with her on issues impacting our community to improve the lives of our constituents. While her presence and passion on the Bakersfield City Council will certainly be missed, I have no doubt she will continue to advocate for the policies and programs that she holds dear. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I thank Jacquie for her service and wish her well as she begins this new chapter enjoying time with her children, Richard, Julie, and Linda, and her grandchildren.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID KENNETT

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dedicated and trusted member of my staff. At the end of this Congress, my Chief of Staff, David Kennett, will be departing my office after many years of invaluable service.

After graduating from Delaware County Christian School in 1990, Dave attended Wheaton College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and History. While working at Houlihan's restaurant in Springfield, Virginia, Dave first joined my D.C. office as an intern. After writing up a well-researched memo on the history of Puerto Rico, Dave was offered a job as our staff assistant by my first Chief of Staff, Ed Slevin. He was soon promoted to a legislative assistant position, responsible for a portfolio that included infrastructure and natural resources issues. In 1998, Dave left my office, for the first time, to move to California.

Dave and his family would wind up moving back to D.C. and he rejoined my office to serve as my legislative director in 2001, a post he would fill until leaving for the second time, in 2003 to join The Ferguson Group, where he worked as a federal advocate on behalf of a number of Riverside County organizations, including the Western Municipal Water District and the Riverside Community College District.

In 2016, following the departure of my long-time Chief of Staff, David Ramey, Dave once again joined my office to serve in that leadership role. His third stint in my office began just as a new Republican administration was forming and Dave played a big role in helping qualified Californians find roles to serve in our federal agencies. Dave staffed our weekly California Republican Delegation lunches as well as aided me in my role this past Congress as a Deputy Chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Dave's immeasurable contributions to my office, the constituents I have represented and to our country are something for which we should all be very grateful. Personally, I have and will continue to value my friendship with Dave and wish him and his wife Catherine, their daughter Carolyn and son David the very best and brightest future.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF COACH WALLY BUMPAS

### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, Coach Wally Bumpas was an icon to the many young men and women he mentored, and I'm honored to have known him when he coached at Brandon High School. Coach Bumpas taught history and coached football in Lambert, Shelby, Wiona, Jackson, McComb, and Brandon, Mississippi, and in 1990 was inducted into the Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame. He loved his players and seeing them advance in their careers and personal lives. Coach Bumpas was an avid reader, especially of World War II history, and he found great pleasure in traveling and fishing. Among his fondest times were trips to Europe and an African safari with his wife, Kennie, and fly fishing in the Bahamas with many friends including Quinton Dickerson, Dave Goldberg, and Charlie Modica, Jr. They thoroughly enjoyed his company and advice, and they cherish the photos, stories, and memories of the time they shared together.

After retiring from a longtime coaching career in 1995, Coach Bumpas was hired at his retirement party by former Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice. Working in Governor Fordice's successful re-election campaign that year with many new friends including Lisa Buelow Ireland, Coach Bumpas began a second career in politics and public service. In 1996, Coach Bumpas worked on the successful campaign of former Mississippi Third District Congressman Charles W. "Chip" Pickering, Jr. He subsequently served for many years on Congressman Pickering's congressional staff in Mississippi. Congressman Pickering always considered Coach Bumpas to be a loyal, trusted friend and was grateful to have him as a member of his staff.

Coach Bumpas also enjoyed researching his genealogy and learned he descended from French Huguenot Eduod Bompasse, who arrived at Plymouth on the "Good Ship Fortune," the first boat to arrive after the Mayflower, on November 10, 1621. In recent years, Coach spent his days enjoying his home on Lake Lorman in Madison County, Mississippi. Coach Wally Bumpas passed away at the age of 84 on December 6, 2020, surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife and the love of his life, the former Kennie Tuth Robison, whom he married on July 23, 1961, at St. John's Catholic Church in Oxford, MS. He is also survived by son Wally Bumpas, Jr. and wife Reni, daughter Elizabeth "Sis" Bumpas, son Ken Bumpas and wife Lisa, as well as seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Coach Bumpas was pre-

ceded in death by his brother Gilbert Dell Bumpas, Jr.

Through his actions of encouragement to thousands of people he knew, Coach Bumpas left Mississippi a better place than he found it. He will be missed greatly by those who knew him, but the lessons he instilled in so many will continue to positively impact lives for many years to come.

#### HONORING SCOTT CUNNINGHAM, SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE RANK- ING MEMBER FOR THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Scott Cunningham, a member of my staff for over thirteen years, for his outstanding and dedicated service to the United States House of Representatives and to the Twenty-Fourth Congressional District of Texas.

A Dallas native, Scott first came to Capitol Hill in 1999 as a congressional intern for Congressman Pete Sessions and would return to intern again for each of the next two summers. In 2007, he joined my staff and has continued to serve the people of the 24th District of Texas with energy and integrity, first as my policy director and then as my legislative director and deputy chief of staff. He is currently my senior advisor, counseling and supporting me in my role as the Ranking Member of the House Ethics Committee.

Much of Scott's day-to-day work is now behind-the-scenes, but his passion for public policy is still evident. He has handled each issue area for my team at some point during his tenure, even serving as a one-man legislative team for five months. As hectic as that time may have been, I also know that Scott stresses about nothing more than managing my flights. I am sure I would not have made it to Washington every week without him.

Scott's contributions were not limited to legislative work. He is known for his servant's heart and is never happier than when he is able to help a constituent with a casework issue. Whether it takes only five minutes or a full five years to solve, Scott is always determined to see a job through to the end. He came to Capitol Hill all those years ago to help people, especially his fellow Texans, and any of my constituents who have worked with him can attest to the fact that he has succeeded.

I am not sure what my tenure in Congress would have been like without Scott Cunningham as part of my team, and not only because he drew the first-place selection in the Congressional office lottery twice for me and his coworkers. Scott's loyalty, determination, and focus on giving back all informed how my team and I approached our work here on Capitol Hill. On behalf of myself and the people of Texas's 24th District, I thank him for his thirteen years of service and wish him the very best on his future endeavors.