

RECOGNIZING LINDA RENÉ MATTHEWS ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a constituent, employee and friend, Linda René Matthews, as she retires from the U.S. House of Representatives, where she has served in the District Office of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio since January of 2009.

In fact, she served me so well while I was Mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, that I knew she would be invaluable as a congressional staffer. I was right.

Linda has been a strong, stable force, who has always understood the needs of constituents and worked hard to be of service to them and me. Her loyalty is unfaltering, her advice always candid, and her care for the integrity of my offices unquestionable.

After more than 20 years with me, Linda has decided to retire effective February 29, 2020. She leaves a legacy that set a standard in so many ways. She is more than the title of Scheduler/Office Manager implies, serving so many years as a member of my team of advisors. So, I say:

Whereas, Linda René Matthews has spent most of her professional life as a public servant; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews has served the people of Northeast Ohio for over twenty years, first in the Office of the Mayor of Warrensville Heights and now in the District Office of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews is a life-long resident of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews has served the constituents of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio with distinction for more than eleven (11) years; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews is retiring as Scheduler and Office Manager in the District Office of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio;

*Resolved*, that the 11th Congressional District of Ohio acknowledges, salutes and celebrates its resident and servant leader, Linda René Matthews, this 12th day of February 2020, for her record of excellence in service, and unqualified loyalty to the District's constituents.

CONGRATULATING DR. CHARLENE M. DUKES ON HER RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate an outstanding and trailblazing leader in higher education in Maryland's Fifth District. Dr. Charlene M. Dukes will be retiring as President of Prince George's Community College this June after thirteen years at the helm.

She is the first woman to lead the College in its sixty-two-year history.

Dr. Dukes's time as President has been characterized by growth and a deepening of the College's mission. She oversaw a partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools to create the first middle college in our state as well as a new Teacher Academy, Academy for Health Sciences, and two P-Tech Schools. The College joined with the University of Maryland Global Campus to launch a 3D Scholars Program and to expand programs in information technology and math. Under President Dukes's leadership, the College built new buildings at its Largo campus, including Lanham and Bladen Halls, the Culinary Arts Center, the Center for Performing Arts, and the Center for Health Studies. She led the effort to begin a major renovation this year of Marlboro Hall, the College's largest classroom facility.

A proponent of streamlining operations to enhance the quality of its services, Dr. Dukes oversaw a process of realigning the College's organizational structure under the 2019–2021 Strategic Plan. That plan focuses on increasing student success, growing the College's regional impact, and ensuring that the College's organization excels in helping it serve the 40,000 students who benefit annually from its courses and programs.

Before becoming the eighth President of Prince George's Community College, Dr. Dukes served on the Prince George's County Board of Education and as adjunct faculty at the Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh. She also taught at Prince George's Community College and at Morgan State University. Former Governor Martin O'Malley appointed her to serve on the State Board of Education from 2007 to 2015, and she was the Board's President for the last three years of that period. Recognized by Washington Magazine as one of the 100 most powerful women in the metro area in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017, Dr. Dukes was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 2013. She continues to serve on the boards of Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, the Biden Institute, the Business Roundtable, the Greater Washington Community Foundation, the Institute for Higher Education Policy, and Campus Compact, among other nonprofits.

When Dr. Dukes retires at the end of June, she will leave a powerful and lasting legacy for the College and for the county and state she has so faithfully served in the cause of higher education. Because of her leadership, thousands of Maryland students have access to quality, affordable community college that can serve as a pathway to opportunity and success. I join in thanking her for her service, and I congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE KIWANIS CLUB AND THE ZONTA CLUB OF JOLIET

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centennial Celebration of the Kiwanis Club of Joliet and Zonta International.

Since its formation in 1920, The Kiwanis Club of Joliet has had a strong commitment to our community. They have supported cherished programs like Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Center for Disability Services, the Guardian Angel Community Services, and many more. Currently, they sponsor several high school and middle school community clubs, inspiring our youth to give back as well.

The Zonta Club of Joliet is a service-based organization committed to promoting women both locally and globally. Through fundraisers, they finance scholarships, grants, international projects, and charities. They are also the sponsors of the Joliet Central High School Fearless Females, a club dedicated to empowering young women.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Joliet and Joliet International for 100 years of dedication to our community, and I wish them the best in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DECREASE NOISE LEVEL ACT

**HON. GRACE MENG**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Decrease Noise Level Act.

For millions of Americans, noise from aircraft is a constant source of torment, whether they live right near an airport or under a regular flight path. Chronic exposure to excessive noise can lead to sleep deprivation, task interruptions, among other negative consequences, which result in untold costs on society in diminished work productivity.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) currently uses a Day-Night average noise level to assess the level at which noise exposure becomes "significant" in residential communities. However, the level that the FAA has currently deemed acceptable is 65, a full 10 decibels higher than what Europe allows.

FAA's use of 65 DNL as "significant" is based on severe and immediate health impacts, at which point damage has already been done. It is essential that the FAA considers quality of life, long-term health impacts, home values, and overall economic impact. I believe reasonable noise congestion levels should be based on a standard that falls well before the point at which long-term health is impacted.

That is why I am introducing the Decrease Noise Level (DNL) Act—a bill that would require the FAA to immediately lower the level of noise that is considered "significant" to 60, and create a plan to lower it to 55 within 10 years. It would also require community outreach from the FAA to promote its recent study that considers alternatives to the DNL as a metric to measure noise.

I urge my colleagues to join me to pass this important legislation.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION  
INITIATIVE

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate House passage of H. R. 4031, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2019, which will support the health of America's Third Coast. The Great Lakes provide drinking water to more than 30 million people, support more than 300,000 jobs, and are home to more than 3,500 plant and animal species. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a multi-agency program that addresses threats to this ecosystem, such as algal blooms and invasive species. More than 4,700 projects have already been completed under GLRI, leading to healthier fisheries, clean drinking water, and stronger wildlife habitats.

I was proud to cosponsor this bill to reauthorize GLRI with increased funding. I thank my colleagues for passing this bill last week and I urge swift passage in the Senate.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF PHOENIX PRIDE

**HON. RUBEN GALLEG**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. GALLEG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of Phoenix Pride. As one of the longest-standing LGBTQ+ organizations in our state, their work has taken the values of diversity, inclusivity, and equality to every corner of the state of Arizona.

Phoenix Pride is a groundbreaking pillar of advocacy for the city's LGBTQ+ community. In addition to producing the two largest annual LGBTQ+ events in Arizona, they work extensively to reach out to marginalized communities, preserve the unique culture and history of LGBTQ+ Arizonans, and provide scholarship funding for LGBTQ+ students. In fact, the organization awarded over \$47,000 in scholarships in 2019 and has helped dozens of students reach their academic goals since 2008.

Thanks in part to the hard work of Phoenix Pride, Phoenix ranks among the most LGBTQ+-friendly cities in the state, with protections against discrimination and a strong, involved LGBTQ+ community. Our city certainly would not be the same without their tireless work for equality and justice.

They have served as a beacon of hope and growth in the fight for equality for decades. The changes experienced and catalyzed by Phoenix Pride over the last forty years have been tremendous, and I join them in working to ensure that the next forty bring even more progress.

As they celebrate their fortieth anniversary, I wish to congratulate Phoenix Pride on all of their achievements and thank them for their service to our city.

HONORING DR. LYNDA YOUNG

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Lynda Young, whose term as chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Federal Government Affairs wraps up later this month. I have had the honor and privilege of calling Dr. Young a friend and working with her for many years, and I know her to be a brilliant pediatrician and tireless advocate for the well-being of all children and families.

For 34 years, Dr. Young has been a practicing pediatrician in Worcester, Massachusetts as well as serving as a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Throughout her career, she's worked with numerous non-profits serving children in Central Massachusetts and devoted countless hours to advocating on behalf of children at the local, state and national levels.

After serving as a member of the AAP's Committee on Federal Government Affairs for several years, it was no surprise that Dr. Young was elected chair in 2016. During her tenure, she's never shied away from a fight where the well-being of children was in question. Among her many accomplishments during her time as chair include serving as a plaintiff in a successful federal lawsuit against the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which resulted in a court order requiring the FDA to finalize graphic warning labels for cigarettes; fighting for a 10-year extension of the vitally important Children's Health Insurance Program; defeating attempts to repeal and replace the transformative Affordable Care Act; and co-chairing four national AAP Legislative Conferences in Washington, D.C. Dr. Young has also been an integral contributor to the AAP's Blueprint for Children: How the Next President Can Build a Foundation for a Healthy Future, which outlines federal policy priorities for the next presidential administration on improving children's health.

Madam Speaker, for all of Dr. Young's accolades and accomplishments, none resonate more than the day-in and day-out care she provides for children and their families as a pediatrician. She is compassionate and reassuring during tough times. She takes the time to really listen to and take an interest in her patients. She is always there for them and she has made an extraordinary difference in the lives of thousands of children. And I speak from firsthand experience—Dr. Young was my children's pediatrician in Worcester.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to warmly congratulate Dr. Young on her successful tenure as chair of the AAP's Committee on Federal Government Affairs. I look forward to continuing to work with her to improve the lives of all children and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, due to a medical reason, I was unable to vote on the following 10 Roll Call Amendments/Bills.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

YEA on Roll Call No. 60 (DeGette Amendment)—Makes changes to Title I—Colorado Wilderness and designates an additional 60,000 acres wilderness; NAY on Roll Call No. 61 (McClintock Amendment No. 2)—Authorizes local counties to veto Congressionally approved wilderness designations; NAY on Roll Call No. 62 (McClintock Amendment No. 3)—Allows the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior to veto wilderness and wild and scenic river designations authorized by Congress under this Act if the areas do not meet the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Actor the criteria for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 63 (Panetta Amendment)—States that the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture may manage for fire, insects, and diseases in wilderness areas designated by this Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 64 (Westerman Amendment No. 6)—Allows the Secretary of Agriculture or Secretary of the Interior to exempt from wilderness designations under the Act any area determined by the Secretary to be at high risk of wildfire; NAY on Roll Call No. 65 (Westerman Amendment No. 7)—Strikes all designations of "potential" wilderness under the bill; YEA on Roll Call No. 66 (Cunningham Amendment)—Ensures that military aircraft overflights, units of special air space, and flight training routes are allowed over wilderness areas designated by this Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 67 (Tipton Amendment No. 9)—Strikes wilderness additions in the 3rd Congressional District of Colorado; NAY on Roll Call No. 68 (Republican Motion to Re-commit on H.R. 2546); and YEA on Roll Call No. 69 (Final Passage of H.R. 2546)—Protecting America's Wilderness Act (Rep. DEGETTE—Natural Resources).

SUPPORTING H.J. RES. 79 AND THE  
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, the Gentlelady from California, Ms. SPEIER, has introduced H.J. Res. 79, legislation that would provide for the Equal Rights Amendment's immediate adoption as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. As Majority Leader, I am proud to bring that legislation to the Floor this week. Because House rules prohibit the addition of further cosponsors to a bill once the committee report has been filed, however, I am not able formally to cosponsor this legislation. I am in support of the bill and request to be considered by this body as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 79.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU POGROMS

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Baku Pogroms. These atrocities, in addition to