

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF VALLE
DEL SOL

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Valle del Sol Community Health, which the organization celebrated in 2020. For the past fifty years Valle del Sol has inspired positive change by empowering people to live healthy, productive lives.

Founded in 1970, Valle del Sol's original mission was to make behavioral health and social services more available and accessible to the Latino community and other underserved populations. Today, Valle del Sol's services range from primary health care to substance abuse treatment and youth leadership programs, all with a focus on providing culturally competent and holistic care. Valle del Sol has now grown to eight locations across the Phoenix area and 50 school and community co-locations to provide services to people where they learn, work, and live.

The coronavirus pandemic presented an unprecedented challenge to Valle del Sol, which they quickly rose to meet. The amazing team at Valle del Sol has been working tirelessly for over a year to test and, now, vaccinate high-risk individuals and frontline workers against COVID-19. Their work helps protect not only their patients, but the entire Phoenix community.

I wish to congratulate Valle del Sol and thank them for their work to make our community healthier, happier, and more empowered. I look forward to continuing to work with this outstanding organization.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING
SYLVIA COPELAND-MURPHY

HON. DONALD A. McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize my Constituent Services Director, Rev. Sylvia Copeland-Murphy, for her devoted service to her church, Oak Grove Baptist Church, in Suffolk, Virginia, where she has served as the Assistant Pastor for the last 18 years.

Sylvia was born and raised in Suffolk, Virginia. She was one of seven children in her family and attended public school in the Suffolk area. Sylvia has dedicated her life to serving as a voice for the underprivileged through her work on housing assistance, with Oak Grove Baptist Church, and as Constituent Services Director for Virginia's Fourth Congressional District.

I was blessed with the opportunity to meet Sylvia on the campaign trail in 2016. She has an infectious, kind personality that draws people towards her, and has been an irreplaceable member of my team.

Through her work at her church, Sylvia has supported her community by leading youth groups, women's ministries, and workshops. These initiatives showcase Sylvia's deep care for her community and her devotion to Oak

Grove Baptist Church. I knew early on that her dedication to supporting her community would be a great asset to my office.

With Sylvia's support, the first congressional office in the city of Suffolk opened and she continued to serve her community through her role as a caseworker, and eventually, as Constituent Services Director. Her compassion, diligence, and organization made her a natural fit for the position, one of the hardest jobs in any congressional office. Through her particularly impressive background in housing and devotion to her community, Sylvia has been able to provide immeasurable support to the people in Virginia's Fourth Congressional District.

Sylvia has a knack for finding the source of a problem and fixing it. With her passion, empathy, and intelligence, Sylvia is a powerful leader and successful advocate for her community. Sylvia's dedication to public service has left a lasting impact on the lives of the parishioners of Oak Grove Baptist Church and the Suffolk community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rev. Sylvia Copeland-Murphy for her service to her community and Oak Grove Baptist Church.

HONORING SYLVIA GETMAN,
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ADI-
RONDACK HEALTH, ON HER
WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sylvia Getman on the occasion of her retirement from Adirondack Health as President and CEO.

Sylvia has dedicated her life to providing healthcare services, spending the last thirty years in leadership positions. Prior to leading Adirondack Health for the last five years, Sylvia served as the President and CEO of the Aroostook Medical Center in Maine. She has faced unprecedented challenges in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic and was still able to bring about meaningful change to the hospital. Her hard work, energy, and passion will be greatly missed. Thanks to her perseverance and creative problem solving, Sylvia is leaving Adirondack Health in a better position than she found it and all the stronger for having weathered the recent public health crisis.

Sylvia truly cares for the community she serves. Beyond her day job, she is a volunteer member of many boards, including Adirondacks Accountable Care Organization, Iroquois Healthcare Association, the Healthcare Trustees of New York State, and the Adirondack Health Institute. All done with the intent and focus of helping others, Sylvia has saved many lives working behind the scenes to ensure patients received the best care possible and that her staff had the resources needed to care for themselves and their patients. Sylvia truly embodies the North Country spirit of neighbors helping neighbors, and she is very well-deserving of her upcoming retirement.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Sylvia on reaching this important milestone. Sylvia has

left a significant impact on our community and her work has been extremely impactful on Adirondack Health. I wish her well in this next chapter of her life.

HONORING MULTIRACIAL
HERITAGE WEEK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize June 7-14, 2021, as Multiracial Heritage Week, a celebration for all people. This week highlights our similarities, not our differences.

Multiracial Heritage Week is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions and achievements of the multiracial community. Multiracial individuals are not only parts of other populations, but they are also a growing population in and of itself.

There are over 9.3 million individuals who self-identify as more than one race, which is the fastest growing population in the nation. According to the Pew Research Center, the largest groups of individuals identified themselves as white-American Indian, white-Asian, white-black, and white-some other race. The Census Bureau estimates the multiracial population will triple by 2060.

California is home to the largest multiracial population in our country. In the Central Valley, diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Many people have come together to educate our communities, spread awareness, and celebrate their heritage during this important week.

Multiracial Heritage Week was started by Project Reclassify All Children Equally (RACE), a national nonprofit and all-volunteer organization based in Los Banos, CA. It advocates for multiracial children, adults, and families through multiracial education and community awareness.

Project RACE was founded by Susan Graham and Chris Ashe in 1991. Both Susan and Chris had multiracial children, who experienced problems with forms that did not allow an option of choosing more than one race or a Multiracial classification.

As a result, Graham and representatives of Project RACE testified five times before the U.S. Congress and advocated for the implementation of multiracial classification. Subsequently, the checking of more than one box on federal agency and census forms was established. Therefore, Multiracial people are known as "people who check two or more races" by our United States government.

The organization is committed to advocating for civil rights and the appropriate inclusion of Multiracial people. The current struggle for racial justice is multifaceted and takes place on many fronts. I am proud to see this organization and my constituents rise up to advocate for equal rights and celebrate diversity.

Progress is made through the efforts of courageous individuals who actively engage within their communities and advocate for the rights of others. The people of the Central Valley have continuously shown that diversity is our strength and unity is our power.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the multiracial community and their contributions to our society. This

could not have been possible without the dedication and contributions of the Project RACE organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker. I apologize for missing votes on June 25. I was meeting with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in Louisiana to discuss issues impacting veterans in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 185.

IN HONOR OF DAVID BLUFORD

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my late constituent, friend, and mentor, David Bluford. David lived a life dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, and to the betterment of the people around him. He was a husband, father, writer, educator, scholar, and a leader to his community.

While so many people might spend their lives and careers scrambling for wealth or power, David was the embodiment of a public servant. In his decades as an educator, he served as a college professor, high school principal, junior high school teacher and the director of the Upward Bound program at Queens College. David's colleagues remember how fervently he advocated for the students. His students remember him for the way he guided them towards wisdom, and towards greater versions of themselves.

As a young man and throughout his life, David sought out opportunities to develop himself in all aspects. He was inducted into the Fayetteville State University Basketball Hall of Fame and served in the Korean War. He studied Education and Political Philosophy at five different colleges including Walden College and Columbia University, ultimately earning his PhD.

David was also a talented writer. He wrote for papers including the New York Voice, New York Daily News, and the National Association of Secondary Principals, where he wrote a guide for new principals preparing to work in underserved communities, as he did during his career. Though he was an excellent leader, David didn't treat education like a strict hierarchy, rather an exchange. He never stopped learning, and he inspired other educators around him to continue to learn, too. He treated his students with dignity.

One of David's favorite quotes, said by Confucius, was "Choose the job you love, and you will never work a day in your life." What David loved was service. He didn't just have a community-oriented career, but a community-oriented lifestyle. He was Chairman of the Alpha Phi Alpha Senior Citizens Center in Queens, and a recipient of countless awards—including New York City School District 29's Distinguished Service Award, the Outstanding Edu-

cator Award from the NAACP's board in Jamaica, New York, the Jackie Robinson Junior High School Man of the Year Award. He participated in several service-oriented organizations including the Urban League, the Lebron Lodge of Jamaica, and 32 Degree Shriner.

David's wife of 62 years, Renee, their children, and their grandchildren all remember his devotion to his family, his warm heart, and his graceful nature towards humanity. As a husband, a father, and a grandfather, he leaves an everlasting mark on those who were so blessed to know him.

In all aspects of his life, David Bluford was authentic. When the opportunity presented itself to help someone else, to share knowledge, or to be a resource, he seized that opportunity. Few fields let us serve our communities as directly as education does. David taught more than just English or Philosophy—he taught character. In being such a brilliant example to his students and fellow community members, David inspired change in countless lives.

When he as just 17 years old, David converted to Catholicism and so began a new relationship with his faith. Through his life and works, David shared his faith in God with his family and friends. We know that David's faith guided more than just his thoughts or words but his actions too. Few verses capture that like Isaiah 58:10—"If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday." David's life work is the embodiment of this scripture. His life philosophy was one of cognitive, academic, emotional, and spiritual development. Not just for himself or for his students, but for every person in his life. All of us, as public servants ourselves, can learn from his example.

HONORING THOMAS B. DAY

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the life and accomplishments of Thomas B. Day, who passed away on June 15, 2021.

Day dedicated over 30 years of his abundant life to higher education and paved the way for thousands of students to achieve their academic and professional goals. Among Day's numerous accomplishments in academia, public service, and science include appointments to the National Science Board by Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush and receipt of the Senior Fellow and Fellow titles, respectively, from the California Council on Science and Technology and the American Physical Society. Serving as President of San Diego State University (SDSU) from 1978-1996, Day oversaw the creation of six doctoral programs and a strategic shift that emphasized faculty-intensive research.

Referred to as one of the most transformative presidents in the history of SDSU, under his guidance, the SDSU campus significantly expanded, as he created a path for what is now California State University San Marcos, the SDSU School of Public Health,

and the SDSU School of Communication. A credit to Day's vision, SDSU School of Public Health now produces 75 percent of the public health work force in San Diego.

Day's legacy continues to be recognized. In 2018, SDSU named the school's engineering and interdisciplinary sciences complex the "Thomas B. and Anne K. Day Quad" in his honor.

Additionally, SDSU's freshman success programs are now called the "Thomas B. Day Student Success Programs" to reflect Day's advocacy for ensuring that students had access to services that could support and enrich their learning opportunities.

These accolades reflect Day's strong dedication to SDSU and his deep hope for the continuous betterment of our community.

While we mourn the loss of an extraordinary leader in our community, we can find joy in the fact that Day's legacy will continue to enrich the lives of generations of Californians to come.

CELEBRATING THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Christian Community Baptist Church in Fresno, California on the occasion of its 22nd anniversary. The church is a valuable part of the community and plays an important role in the spiritual lives of citizens in the Central Valley.

In February 1996, approximately 15 people left the Providence Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Deacon Elvey Perkins. During this time, the group held meetings and worship services at Denny's Restaurant on Abby Avenue to begin planning their future. In March 1996, this group began meeting at the Model Cities Building in Fraternal Hall. During this time the lay leaders of the group invited several ministers to preach God's Word. These consisted of four ordained Deacons, two Deacons on trial, and several Trustees. One of the local ministers invited to preach God's word was Dr. Jerome E. Jackson, Interim Pastor of the St. Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Fresno. After several business meetings, the group decided to form a congregation and to name it "Christian Community Church". In April 1997, the church membership called Reverend Dr. Jackson to become the Pastor. Dr. Jackson accepted the pastorate and the first church service was held on April 20, 1997. Since then the Christian Community Baptist Church has built a model for the community of faith extending God's Kingdom spiritually, educationally, economically, evangelistically, and geographically.

Under the leadership of Dr. Jackson, the newly formed Christian Community Baptist Church of Fresno, California filed for incorporation as a non-profit tax-exempt religious organization and received approval on June 1, 1998. In 1999, the newly incorporated Church moved from the Model Cities Building in Fraternal Hall to the New Millennium Charter School building. Almost immediately after being organized, the church connected itself