

Meek for her exemplary career and contributions to public service, the people of Florida, and the American people.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM EDWARD MORGAN

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and the citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2022 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to William Edward Morgan, Hospital Corpsman First Class, United States Navy, of Coppell, Texas for the honorable service he performed while in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Dr. Morgan enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1975 and served in the Hospital Corps. He was assigned as a special operations/combat swimmer capable Corpsman with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division and then deployed on ship in the Asia Pacific. During his time in the Navy he rendered aid to a boat of Vietnamese refugees who had been attacked by pirates, was in elite Navy diving units, and part of the detail to raise President Franklin Roosevelt's presidential yacht from the San Francisco Bay.

The selflessness Dr. Morgan demonstrated in the U.S. Navy continues with his service to his community. He served as a doctor for 18 years at the Walter Reed Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland and later in the White House Medical Unit and on the U.S. Naval Academy's Sports Medicine Team. He currently sits on the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special Disabilities and as the president of Parker University here in Dallas. He has been instrumental in helping rebuild Parker University after it suffered incredible damage from a tornado in 2019. He has also expanded student veterans services at the university, as well as provided considerable support for the school's Yellow Ribbon program.

Dr. Morgan's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Navy and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD CHARLES TARTE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Richard Charles Tarte who passed away on November 1, 2022, at the age of 86.

Richard was born on September 14, 1936, to Charles and Eva Tarte, and grew up in Garden City, Michigan. On August 28, 1959, Richard joined the Army and was a part of Company D, 3rd Engineer Battalion in Germany. During his service, he made the rank of Specialist 4th class before being honorably discharged on July 31, 1965.

Richard learned the carpentry trade from his father and after finishing his career in the service started his own roofing and siding company. He also married Sally and made Jackson, Michigan a home. He was a resident of Jackson until his passing.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the life of this great American. I send my most heartfelt condolences to Richard's many loved ones, and I hope they find comfort during this difficult time in the knowledge that Richard lived a full, enriching life. There is nothing more one can ask for. We thank Richard for his service to our country and to his community.

HONORING SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT DR. JOHN R. DEMPSEY FOR 33 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandhills Community College President Dr. John R. Dempsey for 33 years of leadership and service within our community. President Dempsey will retire at the end of the year.

President Dempsey began his career in education in 1974 as a professor and associate dean at The College of Charleston. He later served as President of Belmont Abbey College before becoming President of Sandhills Community College in 1989. His 33 year tenure is the longest at a single institution among all current community college presidents in North Carolina.

President Dempsey's robust background and skillful leadership has positively transformed Sandhills Community College to better support all in our community. His tactful fundraising improved the College's endowment from \$1 million to \$50 million, which currently stands as the second highest among community colleges in North Carolina. He instituted the Sandhills Promise program, which provides free tuition for two years to any student from Moore or Hoke County, and the Guarantors program, which provides financial assistance to established Sandhills students who come across unexpected financial troubles. Additionally, he further developed the College's Hoke Center satellite campus by improving its facilities and instituting the SandHoke Early College in coordination with Hoke County Schools. He has overseen numerous projects on Sandhills' main campus, including the conversion of the auditorium into the multi-venue Bradshaw Performing Arts Center. President Dempsey's work has also been crucial in ensuring that instructors at the College receive proper care. He established a hierarchical system of organization to distinguish professors and associate professors, and his colleagues have widely remarked on his commitment to and success in providing instructors with necessary resources and materials. For his outstanding service, President Dempsey has been awarded many civic honors and awards. Perhaps most impressively, he became the inaugural recipient of the United Way of Moore County's Cornerstone Award in 2004.

Such impressive accomplishments represent only a fraction of President Dempsey's impact on Sandhills Community College and our community more broadly. I would like to offer my most heartfelt appreciation to President Dempsey for his committed and impactful leadership, and I join our entire community in gratitude as we honor his extraordinary career.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Sandhills Community College President, Dr. John R. Dempsey for his career of exemplary leadership and service to his community.

RECOGNIZING PETER MORIN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Peter Morin as he retires after 36 years of public service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the South Shore community.

Inspired by Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Peter knew from a young age that he wanted to be a lawyer. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in political science from George Washington University and his Juris Doctor from Western New England University School of Law, Peter first began his extensive career in public service as counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health in 1986, and later became the agency's director of investigations. For over two decades, Peter diligently served the people of Massachusetts, working for the state government in a variety of roles, including general counsel to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine; senior litigation counsel and director of performance measurement for the Massachusetts Department of Correction; and director of civil process and investigations for the Norfolk County Sheriffs Office.

Seeing how measures passed at the municipal level could help and directly impact those in his community, Peter was always involved with local government in his hometown of Braintree, Massachusetts. Even throughout his years working as an attorney for the Commonwealth, Peter consistently volunteered for town committees and meetings and was elected to town wide office as a selectman and assessor. After serving as chairman of the Braintree Charter Commission, Peter moved from volunteering to working for the Town of Braintree fulltime in 2008, as the chief of staff and operations for Braintree's first mayor, Joseph Sullivan, and helped the town transition from a town meeting form of government to a mayor-council form. Peter then served as Braintree town solicitor before continuing his work at the municipal level as town administrator for the nearby Town of Norwell in 2015.

Over the past 7 years as town administrator, Peter has acted as Norwell's chief operating officer, overseeing the daily operations of the town, and handling the budget and much of the behind-the-scenes operations. Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Peter helped the town navigate and integrate new safety protocol and remote work to allow town operations to continue while ensuring that his colleagues felt safe and supported in their work during a time of uncertainty.

After three decades of public service, Peter retires from Nowell this December. Peter has dedicated his career to serving the people of Massachusetts and the South Shore, and I wish him many years of well-deserved happiness in retirement.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Peter Morin, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his career and commitment to serving his community and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HONORING JUDGE FREDERICK P.
AGUIRRE

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary achievements and career of retired California Superior Court Judge Frederick P. Aguirre.

Judge Aguirre attributes every opportunity he had in life to the heroism of his family, particularly his father, who played a major role in helping desegregate the schools he and his siblings attended in Placentia, California.

A graduate of the University of Southern California and the University of California at Los Angeles Law School, Judge Aguirre learned to appreciate that it was the service of his father in the U.S. Military, along with numerous other family members, that gave his padre the power to stand up to the inequity he saw after returning home from World War II.

Aguirre's father, Alfred, Uncles Richard and Joe, and 23 assorted cousins all served in Germany, Italy, North Africa, the Pacific in all branches of the U.S. Military during World War II. He also had 6 cousins who served in the Korean War and others who are still military members.

After returning from war, many of those servicemen, now accustomed to receiving the same treatment as white soldiers, did not stand by when their children were expected to attend separate schools. Aguirre's father, who worked in construction the rest of his life, joined the fight to integrate Orange County Schools, eventually becoming the first Hispanic City Councilman in Placentia.

Because of the sacrifices of his antepasados ancestors, Aguirre achieved success as a lawyer and as a judge. His wife, Linda, whose father and 5 uncles served in World War II and Korea, also experienced an accomplished career as a teacher for 3 decades in the Anaheim Union High School District. The couple, who never forgot the freedom and opportunities their forefathers provided, realized it was now time for them to reciprocate by researching and documenting the pivotal—and largely unknown—role Mexican Americans from Orange County played in U.S. military history.

Under the non-profit Latino Advocates for Education, Frederick and Linda, along with research partner Rogelio Rodriguez, produced books, a documentary and a website, which is now managed by the Orange County Department of Education.

Their recognition efforts also involved holding numerous community events to honor Latino veterans at local colleges and universities. These events continue today, most re-

cently with Chapman University's History Department, which has taken on the task of recording oral histories of Orange County's Latino veterans.

Judge Aguirre's efforts to recognize and honor Latino veterans calls attention to his dedication in uplifting his Hispanic community. Throughout his professional career, he served as the President of the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association, as well as the President of the League of United Latin American Citizen.

Among his many accolades, he was recognized in 2014 as one of the "101 Influential Latinos in the U.S." by Latino Leaders Magazine. Additionally, Mr. Aguirre was named Judge of the Year by the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County in 2003.

Frederick Aguirre has created a legacy with roots that trace back to his father, a WWII veteran, his mother, Julia, who supported the war effort as a Rosie the Riveter working at Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach, and to his many relatives who served honorably in the U.S. Military.

For his efforts, the world now knows the names of the Mexican-Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the legacy of Judge Frederick P. Aguirre's work to ensure that Mexican-American veterans will be remembered honorably in American history.

HONORING COMMISSIONER
ROBERT SHELLEY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, from the 24th District of the great State of Florida, I rise today to honor Robert Shelley for his stellar service and contributions as Commissioner of the City of Aventura.

Someone once said this about local government, "when you are in local government, you are on the ground, and you are looking into the eyes and hearts of the people you are there to serve. It teaches you to listen; it teaches you to be expansive in the people with whom you talk to; and that engagement gives you political judgment."

It is this same standard of leadership and approach that has distinguished his success at the City of Aventura. With input given from passionate public servants like Commissioner Shelley, Aventura is certain to have a bright future guided by a grounded approach to local governance, cooperation, and investment in the well-being of this community achieved during his tenure in office as a Commissioner.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Commissioner Robert Shelley for the completion of his term in office, his time, his commitment, and outstanding contribution representing the residents of the City Aventura.

RECOGNIZING COUNCILOR EVELYN
"MIMI" WOODSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant, community activist, trailblazer, and dear friend of longstanding to my wife, Vivian, and me, Councilor Evelyn "Mimi" Woodson. She will be honored at an event on December 15, 2022, at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center for her 28 years as a member of the Columbus City Council.

Councilor Woodson's story is truly the epitome of the American Dream. She was born in Manati, Puerto Rico and spent her formative years in New York and Chicago before her family eventually settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Because of her love of country, she joined the Wisconsin National Guard as a part time soldier before entering the United States Army where she served her country faithfully for 13 and a half years. During her distinguished military career, she was honored with the Good Conduct Medal, two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Commendation Medal.

Councilor Woodson moved to Columbus in 1993 and immediately became involved in the community, establishing Kids and Things, a successful business that had as its focus the importance of youth in the community and civic engagement.

Because of her love of her community and her belief that she could make a difference, Councilor Woodson offered herself as a candidate for the Columbus City Council. The voters of District 7 elected her, and she took her first oath of office on January 3, 1995. She made history by becoming the first Latino City Councilor in the history of Columbus, Georgia. She would be re-elected 6 more times because of the trust placed in her by her constituents.

During her tenure in elective office, Councilor never lost sight of the importance of community and remained closely connected. She has been involved with many community organizations during her time on the City Council to include Columbus Against Drugs, Winterfield on the Move, American Red Cross, South Columbus Revitalization, Georgia Municipal Association, National League of Cities, Community Advancement, Hispanic Elected Officials (served as President), Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials Board of Directors, Community Warriors, American Legion, and the Columbus Steam Center. Along with the late Harold "Lefty" Encarnacion, she was one of the driving forces behind the Tri City Latino Association's cultural festival in Columbus, Georgia that honors the significant role that Latinos have played in our country's rich history. The festival celebrated its 9th year in September.

Because of her great work and advocacy in her community, Councilor Woodson has been honored with many awards during her public service to include: Keep Columbus Beautiful Litter Presentation Award, Perty Favorite City Leader Award; Ernestine Aurelia Mack Service to Mankind Award; the Rainbow Push Coalition Woman on the Rise Award; Women of Action, The Courier Community Service