

a past president of the Board of Realtors in Yucca Valley. He enjoyed running, spending time with family and friends, football, and horse racing. He was admired by family and friends and was always willing to help anyone in need. Mr. Gibbs is survived by son George Russell Gibbs, daughter Gigi Gibbs, grandson Brandon Will, granddaughter Stephanie Will, granddaughter Julianna McClay, grandson Jack Melvin, and granddaughter Rachel Gibbs. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Mr. George Gibbs. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call No. 174, Roll Call No. 175, Roll Call No. 176, Roll Call No. 177, Roll Call No. 178, Roll Call No. 179, Roll Call No. 180, Roll Call No. 181, Roll Call No. 182, on Thursday, March 30, 2023.

I have been a proponent of protecting our climate since I have been in Congress. As the former chair of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, I have championed investing in a clean energy economy of the future, protecting the climate, and the future of all American people.

I unequivocally oppose the corporate giveaway of H.R. 1 the Polluters over People Act. Last Congress, Democrats took decisive action to fight the climate crisis, protect the pocketbooks of the American people, and a healthy environment for all. H.R. 1 is an irresponsible giveaway to polluters at the expense of our neighbors back home and deserves a no vote.

However, due to a death in my family, I was unable to be present for votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 174; YEA on Roll Call No. 175; YEA on Roll Call No. 176; YEA on Roll Call No. 177; NAY on Roll Call No. 178; NAY on Roll Call No. 179; NAY on Roll Call No. 180; YEA on Roll Call No. 181; and NAY on Roll Call No. 182.

HONORING MARY ZAHASKY AND DOUG BOISVERT, OWNERS OF BON VIE BISTRO & A PIECE OF CAKE BAKERY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Zahasky and Doug Boisvert, owners of Bon Vie Bistro and A Piece of Cake bakery on the occasion of their retirement this Saturday, April 8, 2023 after over three decades of operation in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mary and Doug opened A Piece of Cake Bakery in 1985 and have been serving up hand-made creations from cupcakes to wedding cakes ever since. They expanded their business in 2003 when they opened Bon Vie Bistro, serving up eclectic breakfast and lunch

offerings and frequently going off the menu to make whatever their customers might be in the mood for. They later merged the bistro and bakery together under one roof in St. Paul's Cathedral cozy Cathedral Hill neighborhood and have become a beloved local institution.

They always use fresh ingredients and the most delicious recipes, but their customer-first focus and connection to their community is what really makes them stand out. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Mary and Doug over the years as a patron of their stores, and can attest to the wonderful impact that their small businesses have had on the community. Though the neighborhood will be sad to see them close their doors, I wish them all the best as they enjoy their retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mary Zahasky and Doug Boisvert and the wonderful legacy they will leave on our St. Paul community.

CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY CAREER OF FEDERAL JUDGE U.W. CLEMON

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of a legal trailblazer, Civil Rights activist, scholar, former State Senator, pioneering lawmaker, and my special mentor, the Honorable Judge U.W. Clemon, as he celebrates his 80th birthday on April 9, 2023.

A native of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, Judge Clemon was born to Addie and Moses Clemon in Fairfield in 1943. He began his education in the then-segregated Jefferson County School System, graduating valedictorian of Westfield High School in 1961, then attended Miles College.

At Miles College, Clemon excelled in academics and student activism, serving as SGA President and a leading voice for civil rights on campus. Clemon played a pivotal role in the "Selective Buying Campaign" to boycott segregated stores in downtown Birmingham. Because of that boycott, a young Clemon was confronted by "Bull" Connor, when he petitioned the Birmingham Commission to remove its segregation laws. Clemon marched in many student demonstrations under the direction of Dr. King, and blazed trails, successfully desegregating the Birmingham Public Library.

Upon graduating from Miles College as valedictorian of the Class of 1965, Clemon fulfilled his childhood goal of becoming an attorney, receiving his law degree in 1968 from the Columbia Law School in New York City. While a law student, Clemon clerked at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. This clerkship led to a life-long association with the organization as local counsel on numerous civil rights lawsuits brought in Alabama.

After law school, Judge Clemon brought his immense talents back home to Birmingham. He spent the next 12 years as a premier civil rights attorney, dedicated to addressing the racial barriers against Black people in Alabama. Clemon was an effective fearless lawyer taking on Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant to desegregate the "all-white" University of Alabama

football team, leading lawsuits against local school boards, large and small employers, and major corporations, including the United States Steel Corporation, which led to the desegregation of the American steel industry.

By 1974, Judge Clemon made history as one of the first two African Americans elected to the Alabama State Senate since Reconstruction. Serving the 15th District for five years, Senator Clemon took the same fearless advocacy to the Alabama State Legislature, chairing two powerful Senate committees—Rules and Judiciary—and was an unrelenting critic of Governor George Wallace's stance on the death penalty and exclusion of African Americans from state boards and agencies.

His successful legal career gained the attention of United States President Jimmy Carter, who appointed then-Senator Clemon to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. Ascending to the bench, Judge Clemon made history as Alabama's first Black Federal Judge in 1980 and served as Chief Judge from 1999 through 2006.

During his almost three decades as a federal judge, Judge Clemon presided over numerous federal cases on a variety of issues. His decisions changed the face of our judiciary, and his legacy has had profound effects on Alabama systems and practices in housing, criminal justice, education, employment discrimination, and environmental injustices changing and influencing the landscape of Alabama for generations to come.

Judge Clemon was a highly respected jurist both inside and outside the courtroom, known as a tough but fair judge, demanding that lawyers before him represent their clients competently and effectively. As Chief Judge, the Court developed a better relationship with the community by adopting a more juror-friendly approach, insisting on a diverse jury pool, prioritizing minorities in the court's workforce. In 2009, Judge Clemon retired from the bench submitting his retirement letter to President Barack Obama. It was befitting that Judge Clemon was succeeded by his law clerk Abdul Kallon. Judge Clemon received numerous prestigious awards, holds three honorary degrees, two street names, and an elementary school in his name.

Judge Clemon continues to be a vibrant member of the Birmingham legal community. Now in private practice, he continues to take on cases of the underrepresented, vulnerable, and underserved. A man of faith, Judge Clemon served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for his home church Jones Chapel AME Church and is a current member of the Sixth Avenue Church, where he serves as a deacon. Judge Clemon is a loving and proud husband of Mrs. Barbara L. Clemon for over fifty-five years and the doting father to their daughter Michelle who is a lawyer in Birmingham, following in his footsteps as a graduate of Columbia Law School, and his son Isaac who is a musician in New York City.

On a personal note, Judge U.W. Clemon is a special mentor to me, a trusted advisor and loving father figure. My most formative legal experience was serving as a law clerk for Judge Clemon after graduating from law school in 1992. I learned more about the practice of law and saw first-hand what "justice" looks like by witnessing him in the courtroom. Sitting with him in his chamber was always an educational experience. The Judge tested my knowledge, stretched my legal acumen, challenged my moral values, and inspired me to

think and be a better lawyer and person. There is not a major life decision that I made that I didn't get his wise counsel and advise including running for Congress. I know that I now serve as Alabama's first Black Congresswoman because I was blessed by the transformative experience of serving as a law clerk to Alabama's first Black Federal Judge. To say "thank you" to him seems woefully inadequate.

As we celebrate his 80th birthday, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Judge Clemon for all the guidance he has given me in my life's journey, and I want to thank Mrs. Barbara and Michelle for sharing the Judge with me. His extraordinary legal career is a testament to the power of one person to change the world. Through his hard work, brilliant mind, fearless determination, and thoughtful legal decisions, he has changed lives. May the seeds he has sown into so many of us, continue to bear the fruit of change. Congratulations for a life well led. Happy 80th Birthday. Here's to many more years.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Happy Birthday and to celebrate the extraordinary career of an exceptional jurist, lawmaker, and public servant, Judge U.W. Clemon, for his decades of service to the State of Alabama and this Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRAMENTO
REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2023

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it is with delight that I rise to honor the 50th anniversary of Sacramento Regional Transit District, also known as SacRT. SacRT is a mass public transportation agency and is the largest regional transit provider in the Sacramento region and the capital of California.

In the past 50 years, SacRT has grown to operate 37 fixed routes, 23 commuter routes, 16 seasonal routes, nine SmARt Ride on-de-

mand micro-transit service zones, the SacRT GO ADA paratransit service, Airport Express bus service, and the Causeway Connection between Davis and Sacramento. SacRT operates 44 miles of light rail that covers a 440 square-mile service area throughout Sacramento County, which services the cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom and Rancho Cordova. SacRT's more than 1,300 employees consistently perform to exceedingly high standards of safety, service, efficiency, and operational excellence.

SacRT is a recognized leader in reducing air pollution and the emissions that contribute to global climate change, operating 97 electric light rail vehicles, 186 buses powered by compressed natural gas (CNG), 12 zero emission electric buses, 26 shuttle buses powered by CNG, and nine zero emission electric shuttle buses. SacRT has embarked on a program to upgrade its light rail vehicles, convert to a modern zero-emission bus fleet, and expand service and ridership as part of a regional effort to comply with statewide climate mandates.

Most notably, SacRT has earned numerous prestigious awards, including the 2022 Federal Transportation Security Administration's Gold Standard Award for System Security, the 2021 American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System of the Year, and the 2020 Caltrans Excellence in Transportation Award-winning project.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 50th anniversary of SacRT for always dedicated to providing reliable and inexpensive mobility options in my district and is an integral part of the Sacramento region's community fabric.

RECOGNIZING DR. PAUL J.
LEBLANC FOR RECEIVING CIT-
IZEN OF THE YEAR FROM THE
GREATER MANCHESTER CHAM-
BER

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Southern New Hampshire University

President and CEO Dr. Paul J. LeBlanc for being named the Greater Manchester Chamber's Citizen of the Year. As a valued resident of Manchester, Paul has embodied the spirit of service through his time as President and CEO of Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). This past year, he remained committed to ensuring the success of students and guiding the campus community through the Chamber's core values of leadership and personal integrity. The level of trust placed in Paul by the greater Manchester community is a testament to his efficacy and compassion as a leader, and I thank the wonderful staff at Southern New Hampshire University for their continued support of Paul in the past few years.

Throughout his career, Paul has been instrumental in launching crucial programs in the Greater Manchester area, including at SNHU. His work in higher education, from initiating the College for America program to creating the Center for New Americans, has shown Paul's dedication to uplifting the voices of students, workers, and immigrants alike. Similarly, his efforts have assisted in creating a rich and diverse local economy right here in Manchester. This tireless commitment has grown the total enrollment of SNHU from 2,800 to over 175,000 students, shaping the university into one of the leading non-profit education providers in the country.

I commend Dr. Paul J. LeBlanc for his efforts to lead the people of the Greater Manchester area through community outreach and educational engagement. Paul's distinguished service leaves behind an impressive legacy that will inspire future generations to carry on this critical work, and I look forward to seeing what his next chapter has in store.