

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan Smith.

Throughout his career, Alan faithfully served his community and played a key role in supporting his local library system. When I was in local government, I was fortunate enough to appoint Alan to our local library commission, the Contra Costa Library Commission in the bay area. Through his decades of service with the library commission, he worked throughout the State of California, in addition to our community, conducting training sessions for library boards and commissions and advocating for our libraries.

Alan also served as the president of the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners and represented Contra Costa County on the Bay Area Library Information Systems Advisory Board. Alan was recognized for his leadership and received the California Library Association's President's Award.

As part of his service, Alan was a fierce advocate for legislative action to strengthen our Nation's public libraries.

Please join me in recognizing Alan Smith on his well-deserved retirement after 26 years of service to this Nation's libraries.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. CAROL HARTER

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Carol Harter, the first female and longest serving president in the history of the University of Las Vegas.

I was fortunate to teach at UNLV during her tenure, where I witnessed firsthand her dedication to higher education, her student-centered leadership style, and her passion for research and learning. She was a recognized scholar, an able administrator, and one tough lady.

Carol served as president from 1995 to 2006 during one of the university's most productive stages: creating 100 new programs, overseeing construction of 17 new buildings, and cofounding the internationally recognized Black Mountain Institute. It is in large part thanks to her that UNLV is a leading institution today.

My condolences to Carol's family and the entire UNLV community. We will remember her through the inimitable footprint she left on campus and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article titled, "Let Her RECORD Prove Them Wrong."

#### LET HER RECORD PROVE THEM WRONG

President Emerita Carol C. Harter, who broke down barriers while building up UNLV's status as a research institution, passed away at age 82.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

UNLV President Emerita Carol C. Harter has passed away Sept. 14, 2023, at age 82. She was UNLV's longest-serving president and steered the university through a period of rapid growth. Her work set the stage for its eventual rise as a top research institution. This story was originally published in September 2022.

Numerology insists that the number 711 is as lucky as luck can get. Carol C. Harter was UNLV's seventh president. Her tenure lasted 11 years. Do the math and you realize: Numerology nailed it. The president emerita was lucky for UNLV.

#### LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

"In my very first speech I made to the faculty, I said, 'We need to be the kind of major urban university that UCLA, or the other great institutions are—because we can do that,'" recalls Harter, who guided UNLV's impressive growth during her 1995–2006 presidency.

That was an ambition the longest-serving UNLV president pursued aggressively, with impressive results. To thumbnail her list of accomplishments—not an easy task—consider just a partial legacy list:

Overseeing unprecedented growth, with the construction of 17 new buildings, including the Lied Library.

Creating 100-plus new degree programs—most notably those conferred by the School of Dental Medicine and the William S. Boyd School of Law, championing the creation of both.

Putting the university on the path toward a Carnegie-designated R1 research institution, a feat it would accomplish in 2018.

Making UNLV more student-centered and responsive to students' needs.

Spearheading funding to create the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs.

Spurring the Invent the Future campaign, at the time the most ambitious fundraising program in UNLV history.

Cofounding the international literary center, Beverly Rogers, Carol C. Harter Black Mountain Institute, which she continued to lead after departing the presidency.

Oh, and she also made history as the university's first female president, a milestone she built upon by promoting gender equality on campus and in the community, supporting the creation of the Women's Research Institute of Nevada.

"Just keep going—that's my number one piece of advice," Harter says she tells young women hoping to carve out academic administration careers similar to hers. "You know who you are, you're in a position where your education is likely to be at a high level, there's nothing you can't do. And don't let anybody stop you or say, 'That's not your job.'"

As she rose in her career, Harter often found herself the only woman in a room of executives. "You may feel uncomfortable," she says, "But, it's not a barrier."

#### A LOVE OF LITERATURE BLOOMS

No barriers deterred Harter, whose journey to the heights of academia began humbly in Brooklyn, N.Y., where she was born on June 1, 1941.

"We were not rich at all, we lived modestly in a little house," she says, fondly recalling the pleasures of a New York upbringing and a working-class life. "We would go to Jones Beach regularly, where I worked as a clerk, a cashier, and a lifeguard."

Harter's dad was a businessman who had earned a degree in finance from New York University, attending at night over many years.

"He hoped I would be interested in the business world one way or the other, which

in a way you are when you're a president of a university," she says. "You're running a major operation, it's a business life as well as an academic one. So, he was very proud of what I did."

Her mom, a typical homemaker of the period, took pleasure in her daughter's penchant for reading and creativity.

"She was just a darling thing," Harter says of her mother. "She was very supportive all the way and loved the artistic side of me and the literary side."

That literary side was apparent early on. First came a classic of young female readership: The Nancy Drew mysteries.

"I read every single one of them, one end to the other," says Harter, who later happily lost herself to serious literature via a collection purchased by her mom. "It was beautifully bound in gold and brown and green leather. I read Great Expectations and The Count of Monte Cristo and just many of the classic books that she had collected. I realized when I got to college that I had read many classics, that I had been educating myself."

Inspired by a high school teacher, Harter excelled in honors English classes, but also nursed an interest in chemistry, which might have forged her life's path—had she not been discouraged.

"When I went to what then was Harpur College (now Binghamton University) and tried to enroll as a chemistry major, the dean of students, who was a woman, said, 'You can't do that, women don't do chemistry, you have to do something else.'

"She shouldn't have discouraged me like that, she should have encouraged me, but I took her advice and enrolled as a literature major."

Still, Harter saw literature as more of an avocation than the launching pad for her eventual career until a faculty member urged her toward graduate studies, eventually earning her bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D in English and American literature.

Along her collegiate journey, she also met Mike—her husband of 61 years and counting—over a ping pong table in a campus rec room.

"I was dating a guy who liked to play, and I would beat him. And Mike was in that rec room watching and he said he wanted to play with me. And of course, he beat me," she recalls.

It was love at first serve, more or less. And who wouldn't trade a table tennis loss for a lifelong love? "That's for sure," she says. They married when she was 19.

#### THE ROAD TO ACADEMIA

Academia as a career commenced for Harter when she served as dean of students and vice president for administration at Ohio University, a move she chalks up to serendipity.

While she was working as a faculty member and a campus ombudsperson, the new president sought her out to inquire about student and faculty grievances. After impressing him with her savviness and her ability to work effectively with students and professors, she rose in the administrative ranks.

Next came a position as the president of SUNY Geneseo. But after six years, job limitations caused her eyes to wander toward other opportunities.

"I felt a little trapped in it," she says, noting that the system's chancellor at the time didn't make distinctions among the state's institutions when budgets were handed out. "Being really good didn't have any effect on how much money you got in the budget. Feeling constrained, there wasn't really anything more I could do for the place without more money. We just started looking at

what kind of place is likely to be a place where we can use some creativity.”

Enter a city on the other side of the country, one known for constant reinvention.

“It’s weird when you’re at Geneseo as the president, a little upstate New York liberal arts school and you wind up in a major city that’s just growing a major university. I tell you, that is a big move,” Harter says. “I’ve been here 25 years and people still ask me, ‘How the heck did Carol Harter wind up in Las Vegas?’”

Here’s how the heck she did:

“Las Vegas was growing like crazy and the institution was very young and was in competition with Reno to get started. It just made it real attractive to me. It was just an aspirational kind of feeling that we could make something great out of UNLV. And I think it’s happened. It’s an attractive place for faculty and students, I think.”

Not that her entrance into the campus community was easy. She had to get past resistance all-too-common to anyone breaking through a glass ceiling. Such issues would follow her throughout her tenure, but Harter was determined to let her record prove them wrong.

“Several of the exact people who resisted terribly at the beginning became good friends and supporters, who end up saying, ‘This person is pretty good.’ It helps a lot to strengthen the institution and the presidency.”

Of all her storied accomplishments, she cites several that stand out, including UNLV’s status as an RI research institution.

“At that time (when she was named president), we were barely research two, I think we might have even been research three,” she says. “It is research one now, which is great, a great accomplishment.”

Also on the pride list: The launching of professional schools for law, dentistry, and architecture, as well as laying the groundwork for the eventual opening of the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine.

“It took three years before I could persuade the (NSHE) Board of Regents and the chancellor, that the law school was something we should do,” she says.

It is still the only law school in the state.

“The architecture program was there as a small program. We made it into a major school with its own faculty and its own facilities. And, we launched 50 graduate programs in my years there as president.”

Such a fruitful career couldn’t end with her presidency—and didn’t. After leaving the administration, Harter, along with English professor Richard Wiley, cofounded the Black Mountain Institute, headquartered at UNLV, to promote literacy around the globe.

“When I knew I was leaving the presidency, I thought I could do it then. So did (Southern Nevada business titan) Glenn Schaeffer, who had been a real supporter of literary activity at UNLV,” Harter says. “We felt there was no school in Nevada that really had a literary center that could be a shining light. He came to me and said, ‘I will invest in it, if you can get something started that we can work on.’”

And that brought Carol Harter back to the young girl from Brooklyn who was first entranced by Nancy Drew mysteries. The passion has not dimmed, even as she relaxes at her and her husband’s San Diego summer retreat, overlooking the sailboats gliding over Mission Bay.

“I’m in a book club,” she says. “It’s always a novel of one kind or another I read every day, and my husband does too, so we’re readers together. I’m the same ol’ person.”

Carol Harter makes Las Vegas—and Brooklyn—justifiably proud.

## ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SELF). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, this week House Republicans will pass a resolution condemning the actions of New Mexico Governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham, a former Member of this body.

Late on a Friday night earlier this month, the Governor took action to suspend open carry and concealed firearms in her State. Yeah, you heard that right. She claimed so-called emergency powers to combat a public health crisis, she said, and on a whim, she attempted to restrict the Second Amendment rights of every law-abiding New Mexico resident, the citizens of her State, the citizens of this country.

Her action, of course, was overtly unconstitutional. It is functionally useless, and it will only divide Americans further. Someone with elementary-level knowledge of the Constitution would, of course, know this. Fortunately, New Mexico residents and law enforcement openly defied her order, and it was panned by lawmakers across the country, even some of our Democratic colleagues in this body.

Mr. Speaker, here is the interesting thing I wanted to note today: It is ironic that Attorney General Merrick Garland was here on the Hill and has been in the Judiciary Committee in an oversight hearing for the last several hours. He is America’s top law enforcement officer in charge, of course, of our top law enforcement agency, the Department of Justice. One would think that this type of issue, this event in New Mexico, regardless of the politics, that that is something the DOJ might intervene in, but they haven’t.

Now, by principle, of course, we are conservatives, and we believe in less Federal Government intervention. The less the Federal Government is involved in State affairs, the better overall. But this is not the case. In this situation, the issue here is the DOJ’s selective application of justice and its clear targeting of red States for passing laws that its duly elected Representatives voted for.

Think about these few examples.

In 2021, the DOJ sued the State of Georgia for passing election integrity reform. That suit failed, and Georgia had record voter turnout just a year later.

Months later, the DOJ sued the State of Texas over laws—your State, Mr. Speaker—passed to protect unborn children. The Supreme Court refused to intervene, and statistics show that abortions in Texas have plummeted, thankfully, as a result.

Earlier this year, the DOJ sued the State of Tennessee for a ban on child sex change procedures. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the suit, and now it is State law.

The DOJ, Attorney General Garland in particular, has displayed a penchant for filing public lawsuits against red States for passing conservative policy through their democratically elected legislature. They do so with weak charges, based on unconstitutional arguments on cases they know they cannot win, but that is not the point. They have politicized the DOJ.

Here is the big question. Given those examples and the trend of this Department of Justice, why hasn’t Merrick Garland hosted a press conference or announced a Federal lawsuit into the State of New Mexico for arbitrarily suspending the constitutional rights of its citizens?

I will tell you why. It is no secret. It is because New Mexico’s action serves the Biden administration’s stated political goals.

The DOJ will sue red States for passing conservative policy, while turning a blind eye to Democrat Governors who unilaterally curtail constitutional rights. They will put grandmothers behind bars for protesting abortion but refuse to prosecute violent offenders who actually attack the pro-life pregnancy centers. They will prosecute President Trump for allegedly mishandling classified documents, but they give President Biden a complete pass for even worse infractions.

When we say the DOJ has been weaponized, this is exactly what we are talking about, and this is what the American people see.

Mr. Speaker, today the House Judiciary Committee, as I mentioned, asked Attorney General Garland about these questions and many more. Right now, 65 percent of the American people have no faith in the Department of Justice. It is because of his leadership. He has eroded the rule of law. He has destroyed public trust in an essential American institution.

I used my time this morning, I was the first questioner on our side in Judiciary, and I asked the Attorney General about the DOJ’s Hunter Biden investigation. This is a big question on the minds of my constituents and most of ours around the country.

I asked him plainly:

Have you had personal contact with anyone at FBI headquarters about the Hunter Biden investigation?”

His answer was, I don’t recollect the answer to that question.

Really?

Okay. Let me get this straight, I told him, the Attorney General of the United States cannot remember if he discussed an FBI investigation into the son of the sitting President of the United States? That is your testimony under oath?