

HONORING CHAD WILLEMS

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my longtime friend and consultant, Chad Willems, for his years of service to me, our state, and our Nation.

Chad Willems has managed hundreds of campaigns and public opinion surveys at both the local and national levels. His work has spanned various political offices, from school boards to members of Congress.

Before establishing himself in Arizona, Willems was heavily involved in California politics, particularly as a grassroots organizer and political fundraiser. He also served as the Executive Director of the Adam Smith Institute, a conservative/libertarian think tank, before transitioning to consulting.

Chad has been one of my closest confidants throughout my time in Congress and I am fortunate to have had his counsel during this important time.

I cannot thank Chad enough for his commitment and dedication to me, my district, our state, and our Nation.

HONORING SONOMA COUNTY
SUPERVISOR SUSAN GORIN**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Supervisor Susan Gorin who is retiring after an extraordinary career of dedicated public service representing the residents of the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma. Her career is marked by a commitment to conservation, to the public's access to parks and to hardening our community against the threat of natural disasters.

Born in Massachusetts and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Ms. Gorin later moved to Sonoma County where she attended the Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University. In 1991, she earned a degree in Political Science and Economics which set her on a path toward public service. She also established her family in our community. In Santa Rosa, Ms. Gorin married her husband Joe Gorin and raised her two children, Tracey Gorin and Courtney Taylor.

Ms. Gorin's elected and appointed service spans nearly three decades with roots in city governance. Her journey began in 1996 when she was elected to the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Trustees. Ms. Gorin would go on to serve on the City of Santa Rosa's Board of Public Utilities in 2002 and Planning Commission in 2004. Following those posts in City Hall, Ms. Gorin ran successfully to serve as a member of the Santa Rosa City Council. In 2008, her colleagues on the Council appointed her Mayor. She would lead the city through the tumultuous years of the Great Recession.

In 2012, Ms. Gorin ran successfully to represent the residents of Sonoma County's 1st Supervisorial District. Her district includes the eastern portions of Santa Rosa, the

Mayacamas Mountains, the Sonoma Mountains and the Sonoma Valley. She was re-elected in 2016 and 2020 and was chosen by her colleagues to serve as Chair of the Board in 2015 and 2020. Additionally, throughout her three terms as supervisor, she has been a tireless advocate for vulnerable and underrepresented communities.

In 2017, our community was devastated by wildfires that raged throughout California—many lost their homes, and some lost their lives. Ms. Gorin is one of the survivors of the fires having lost her home to the Nuns Fire. In addition to leading her family's recovery, she has been a fierce advocate for fellow survivors. She continues to advocate for fire recovery and resiliency policy.

During her twelve years as a supervisor, Ms. Gorin has served on numerous regional government boards, including the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, the Regional Climate Protection Authority, the Bay Conservation Development Commission, the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit Board, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, the Local Agency Formation Commission, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Susan Gorin's legacy of public service, her unwavering commitment to our community and her efforts to improve the lives of those she serves exemplify the best of local government leadership. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CONGRATULATING TIM BETE ON
HIS RETIREMENT**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Tim Bete, an outstanding community leader and close friend from my Congressional district, who is stepping down as president of St. Mary Development Corporation. St. Mary Development is a faith-based, nonprofit organization in Dayton, Ohio that provides affordable housing for low-income seniors and families.

As president, Tim Bete has successfully carried the torch lit by Sister Rose Helene Wildenhaus and Dayton businessman Dick McBride, who formed St. Mary Development Corporation in 1989. Tim had worked closely with them for seven years, until they retired in 2013 and turned the management of the organization over to him. Under Tim's leadership, St. Mary has continued its focus on creating affordable housing and connecting residents to the services they need.

Since its founding, St. Mary Development Corporation has created 70 affordable apartment communities with nearly 5,000 housing units, including low-income senior apartments, single-family homes and emergency housing, and \$580 million in real estate investment.

From my time as mayor of Dayton, and throughout my service in Congress, I have strongly supported St. Mary's efforts to revitalize the community by creating affordable housing for the poor and elderly. I was proud to collaborate with Tim to secure resources for a pair of senior housing facilities, with priority placement for veterans, on the grounds of the Dayton VA Medical Center. These facilities

provide safe, secure, and affordable housing for veterans, and easy access to the medical care they need.

Tim has dedicated his entire career to making affordable housing available to people who need it. He has served on the boards of housing and homelessness organizations and a nursing home, and currently serves on LeadingAge Ohio's housing subcommittee. Tim is a graduate of the Achieving Excellence in Community Development at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and has an MBA from Indiana University.

Tim Bete has worked tirelessly to make his community a better place to call home. I wish him all the best in a well-deserved retirement. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking this truly outstanding citizen for his lifetime of service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed Roll Call votes on December 5, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 485 and YEA on Roll Call No. 486.

THE SACRED LIGHTS OF
CHANUKAH**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poem submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

THE SACRED LIGHTS OF CHANUKAH

The fragile yet formidable Chanukah candles
We tenderly lit, daringly defy the suffocating
Darkness around us and in us,
Soothing and softening, we pray, all who
Their magic of evoked memories of elation
And trepidation with oil—dripping levivot
(Potato pancakes) for expectant levavot
(Hearts) while partaking of sustaining sweet
Sufganiyot (donuts) to counteract the bitter-
ness

Of previous and following defeats,
Celebrating a temporary victory before the
Hasmonians' intra-feuds hastened the demise
Of short-lived Jewish sovereignty with warn-
ing

Lessons for the contemporary scene of
mounting

Extremism and spreading strife,
With hostages in death-filled Gaza darkness
Still-second Chanukah's Festival of Lights
In captivity, how tragically ironic!—des-
perately

Yearning for liberating light lagging too
long

Behind and may not come, and for too many
Their wondrous light already snuffed out by
Those adoring the dark with the candle of
each

Unique life burning down before its time and
Forever lost is that consecrated inner oil,
Though only we, today's brave Maccabees,
Possess the priestly power to extinguish

The miracle of the bright Chanukia (menorah)
Embedded deep within us.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. Kazakhstan's only born rabbi, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors and spent his early childhood in transit and DP Camps in Austria and Germany. He grew up in Haifa, Israel.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE MILDRED C. CRUMP

HON. LaMONICA McIVER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the Honorable Mildred C. Crump, a visionary leader and trailblazer from my beloved city of Newark, New Jersey. Mildred was a woman of many "firsts" and her wisdom, guidance, and unwavering belief in justice helped shape my life and career—and transformed the lives of so many others. As the first African American woman elected to the Newark City Council and as the council's first woman president, Mildred broke barriers and demonstrated a steadfast commitment to equity, justice, and community empowerment.

Her dedication to improving the lives of others—whether through her pioneering work as New Jersey's first African American Braille teacher or her tireless advocacy for housing, education, and civil rights—has left an everlasting mark on our city, state, and Nation. Council President Crump was more than a role model. She was a relentless advocate and champion for people, and a brilliant community strategist. She blazed a path for so many and was always a source of unwavering support for those of us who had the honor of learning from her. Mildred's leadership, compassion, and vision will be profoundly missed.

All Newarkers mourn the loss of this exceptional woman. I send my deepest condolences to her children, Larry and Sheri, and all her loved ones. I know Mildred's legacy and impact will live on. It lives on in me and many others.

I thank Mildred C. Crump, on behalf of all the little Black and brown girls she has inspired and provided a light to shine. We love you forever.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF CINDY AUBREY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Cindy Aubrey from Pikes Peak United Way after ten years of dedicated service to Colorado's Fifth Congressional District. The CEO role at PPUW has been the culmination of a lifetime of service to her hometown. Cindy is known for her strong work ethic, visionary leadership, and her loving service of others. These qualities manifest in numerous capacities: as a daughter, a sister, a friend, a mentor, or a colleague. Cindy's

career and impact demonstrate the rare combination of utilizing her community-minded as well as an individual-focused approach. Cindy has exemplified putting her neighbors above herself and uplifting those around her in every way that she could.

A proud Colorado native, born and raised in Colorado Springs, Cindy graduated from Mitchell High School. Cindy then graduated from Colorado State University where she was and remains a proud CSU Ram. After college, Cindy started her media career at Fox 21 before moving to KOAA, where she led the Creative Services Department and later the News Department. In these roles Cindy helped inform and shape our community, while gaining the respect of the entire community for her outstanding work.

After developing a heart for the Pikes Peak region in her media career, Cindy continued the mission of community service by taking on the role of Chief Communications Officer with the City of Colorado Springs. It was here that she served during some of the greatest challenges in our region's history—the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires. Working tirelessly with first responders and other city officials, Cindy provided residents with vital, accurate, timely information, and did so with empathy and humility.

In some ways as a culmination of her life's mission of community service up to this point, Cindy took on a new endeavor with Pikes Peak United Way, first as the Senior Vice President of Marketing, and eventually, President and Chief Executive Officer. Under Cindy's guidance Pikes Peak United Way created new initiatives and partnerships that expanded the organization's already extensive impact. This included celebrating 100 years of Pikes Peak United Way serving the Pikes Peak region and partnering with many other organizations to launch the Family Success Center, offering a broad range of services to empower those in need in our community.

In addition to her leadership in the Pikes Peak region, Cindy has been recognized for and awarded the Colorado Springs Business Journal Woman of Influence award, the Public Relations Society of America Vista Award, the Colorado Coaches for Charity MVP award, and the Business Leader of the Year from the Southern Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce. It is evident that Cindy's impact is broad and deep in our community.

Cindy and her husband Peter are parents to Liam and his wife Tori and now Grammy to their beautiful granddaughter, Azaela Joy. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating her upon her retirement and celebrating the life and dedicated service of a true champion for the Pikes Peak region, Cindy Aubrey.

HONORING VIVICA A. FOX

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Vivica A. Fox, a Hoosier trailblazer whose six decades in the arts has helped shape American culture.

Celebrated for her memorable roles in "Independence Day" and "Set It Off," Vivica

solidified her career as a prominent figure in Hollywood from a young age. Her journey to success began with the "Days of Our Lives" soap opera and later the NBC-TV series "The Young and the Restless." Her continued dedication to her craft as a lead actor has filled a much-needed gap in the entertainment industry for representation of Native American and Black communities. Vivica has inspired and uplifted her heritage throughout her career. This week, she is in Indianapolis for the Red Carpet Screening & Talkback for the film *The Lost Holiday*, a new project she proudly joined to explore and the challenging dynamics of grief, family and overcoming obstacles. She shines in this new endeavor, where she continues to inspire the next generation of artists and audiences.

Known as, "the diva who's done it all," Vivica has recently prioritized philanthropic and literary initiatives. Her partnership with The Fractal Group has nurtured the aspirations of the next generation of actors and provided crucial funding to the arts. In her motivational memoir, "Every Day I'm Hustling," Vivica expands on her message of positivity and drive in hopes of inspiring people to never give up—a message that will continue to resonate with new generations of young artists and leaders.

Vivica's professional trajectory has forged a legacy of leadership, compassion, and inspiration. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Vivica A. Fox.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MRS. BONNA "B" TERSCH

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our dear late neighbor Mrs. Bonna Jo Tersch, and her lifetime of devotion to the Fifth District of Illinois' Ravenswood community. Bonna, or "B", was a native of small-town Missouri who found her passion living along the Chicago River with her husband and sons, planting gardens for all to enjoy, and promoting peace and beauty in our world.

B co-founded the Greater Rockwell Organization in 1979 and served as its first Secretary—a role she carried for 44 years. B started and managed Greater Rockwell Organization's popular annual neighborhood-wide yard sales, worked with fellow volunteers to report criminal activity, and rose at dawn to paint over graffiti. This nonprofit civic group was recently voted Best Block Club by the Chicago Reader.

B also partnered with the Chicago Transit Authority to modernize, decorate, and clean the Rockwell El station, the cornerstone of a small business hub that she helped make more vibrant than ever. She secured grants, including awards to establish over a dozen "corner gardens" that add distinctive natural charm around the neighborhood, and to create the Montrose Metra Community Gardens.

Although B preferred to humbly volunteer behind the scenes, her decades of public service were recognized by groups like the Ravenswood Community Council and Greening of Ravenswood.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of our colleagues in the House of Representatives in