

This commitment to the individual and family of every patient is evident in the way both Dr. Vu and Dr. Matthews-Vu live their lives and have raised their family. The love they share for each other and their family is obvious in the way they interact with each other and every patient. They are most attentive to their patients and prioritize their needs above everything else. Their passion for medical excellence and patient service is driven by their mission statement: "Providing the highest quality of compassionate care for patients from all walks of life." Dr. Vu and his team ensure that everyone who walks through their door, regardless of their background or financial means, will get the medical care they need and deserve.

In 2020 the Matthews-Vu Medical Group opened their own processing center to process COVID-19 tests, prioritizing speed, accuracy, and service to our community in the midst of the pandemic. Their processing center allowed many other businesses in the community, including medical and dental, to remain open during the pandemic.

Dr. Vu and Dr. Matthews-Vu have three children. Their family continues to exemplify the love of Jesus Christ to everyone around them. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring and celebrating the Matthews-Vu Medical Group and Dr. Richard Vu and Dr. Shabnum Matthews-Vu for their dedicated and Christ honoring service to the Pikes Peak region.

HONORING ERIN HANNIGAN UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Representative MIKE THOMPSON to recognize and honor Erin Hannigan on the occasion of her retirement after an illustrious career of public service, leadership, and commitment to the Vallejo, Solano County communities and beyond. Erin is a lifelong resident of Solano County and a proud member of the Vallejo community. Her dedication and service have left a profound and lasting impact on those around her.

Throughout her career, Erin held numerous significant roles that enriched her community. Her journey in public service began as a member of the Vallejo Community Development Commission, where she played a key role in distributing Community Development Block Grant funds to benefit neighborhoods and organizations in Vallejo. In 2004, she facilitated the relocation of a national insurance company's call center to the Vallejo Waterfront, creating 220 local jobs.

In 2007, Erin was elected to the Vallejo City Council, where she guided the city through challenging economic times with resilience and a balanced approach to addressing budget deficits. She championed critical initiatives to improve quality of life, including revising commercial truck routes, introducing the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance, and supporting smoke-free city parks.

Erin's commitment to public service continued when she was elected to the Solano County Board of Supervisors, representing

District 1 in November 2012. Sworn into office in January 2013, Supervisor Hannigan worked tirelessly to bridge the services and operations of the County with the community. Her leadership focused on public safety, homelessness, human trafficking, health care, and environmental sustainability.

One of Erin's hallmark achievements is her partnership with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, which has contributed an extraordinary \$7.75 million over eight years to assist those in need in Solano County. This partnership has supported a robust collection of programs, including First 5 Solano, which provides critical basic needs support to families in crisis and funds initiatives in early learning, school readiness, social engagement, and community resource information at the First 5 Center in Vallejo.

Erin Hannigan's legacy is one of integrity, leadership, and dedicated service to her community. Her tireless efforts and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark on Solano County and serve as an enduring inspiration to all who had the privilege of working with her or benefiting from her advocacy.

Erin's leadership and contributions will be deeply missed, but she will undoubtedly continue to inspire those who follow in her footsteps. On behalf of the constituents of California's 4th and 8th Congressional Districts, we wish Erin best wishes in her well-earned retirement and extend our sincere gratitude for her many years of service to the community.

HONORING THE MAURY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Maury High School Football Team from Norfolk, Virginia, on claiming their second straight Class 5 State Championship, and their first back-to-back state crown in program history.

On Saturday, December 14, 2024, the Maury Commodores won the championship game against the Briar Woods High School Falcons of Loudoun County by a score of 46-0. Led by Coach Dyrri McCain, the Commodores closed their season undefeated, recording 15 wins, including six shutouts, and maintained a 30-game winning streak extending back to last season.

Going into the championship, Maury faced a significant disadvantage after losing one of their star players in their previous game. Ari Watford, a defensive end committed to Clemson University, suffered a season ending injury in the semifinal game against Green Run High School on December 7. Without Watford, the team realized they would need to step up to win the state championship and did.

Throughout the championship game, the Commodores led on offense. Quarterback Au'Tori Newkirk scored on the first drive of the game with a 49-yard touchdown pass to receiver Lebron Bond. In the second quarter, Newkirk passed to receiver Jahvon Wiggins, who ran the ball into the end zone for another touchdown and widened the Commodores' lead to 14-0 at halftime. In the third quarter,

they scored 32 points in less than seven minutes. Newkirk threw four touchdown passes to Elijah Moss, Tayshawn Branche, Damon McDaniel, and another to Bond. These young athletes made everyone in the community proud and demonstrated their ability to overcome adversity.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to congratulate the Maury High School Football Team and thank Coach McCain, the parents, and the entire Maury High School community for supporting these students throughout this remarkable season. I wish them the best in their future endeavors, and I wish the program continued success.

HONORING BRAD FITCH FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CONGRES- SIONAL MANAGEMENT FOUNDA- TION

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Bradford Fitch for his 17 years of service to the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF).

As most of my colleagues are well aware, CMF has played a vital role over the last five decades in supporting Congressional offices' continuous efforts to improve their staff management skills and function as high-performing teams. Through individual and group training, informative publications and events that highlight best practices in management and constituent service, CMF has been instrumental in helping Members and staff fulfill their responsibilities to their country, state and district.

Brad first joined CMF in 2001 as Deputy Director and returned to lead the organization as CEO in 2010. Prior to joining CMF, Brad spent the early years of his notable career as a congressional aide, journalist, consultant, college instructor, internet entrepreneur, and writer.

Brad has served Congress in a variety of roles throughout his professional life and is well-known and regarded in Washington. Those who know Brad won't be surprised to learn he began his career out of school as a radio and television reporter. His compelling speech and engaging personality have been cornerstones to his success.

In 1988, when Brad began on Capitol Hill, he worked for four members of Congress in a variety of positions, including press secretary, campaign manager, legislative director and chief of staff. It was during this period that it became clear that Brad was a passionate advocate for the institution of Congress as well as the members and their dedicated staff.

This year is the 40th Anniversary of CMF's consequential book—Setting Course: A Congressional Management Guide. This book has been extremely influential in how Congressional offices are run today and we applaud Brad's significant role in its many updates and biennial distribution for over half of its existence.

In 2002, during a period of rapid—but uneven—shift of Congressional office communication to the internet, Brad initiated the Gold Mouse Awards to recognize the best congressional websites and share their best practices for communicating with, and providing services

to, constituents. The research and analysis that CMF performed for the Gold Mouse Awards identified the most innovative and effective web page practices and then shared that critical information with all Congressional offices so they could benefit everyone.

In 2018, Brad's vision for establishing an "Academy Awards" for Congress provided the spark for the creation of CMF's Democracy Awards program. The Democracy Awards, in a similar approach to the Gold Mouse Awards before them, are presented to both staff and members to acknowledge their exemplary use of best management practices, constituent services and transparency. By shining a spotlight on these leaders, the awards showcase their skills and practices for others to utilize and improve on.

Through his tenure at CMF, Brad has carefully stewarded its strong reputation for non-partisan work strengthening the management skills and workplace practices in Congress while building public understanding and trust in the legislative branch. Brad has been a life-long advocate for the institution of Congress, members, and staff and we thank him for his dedication and work on our behalf.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR KAY PATTERSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trusted leader, a tireless champion for civil rights, and a treasured friend. South Carolina State Senator Kay Patterson transitioned on December 13, 2024. His integrity, courage, and wisdom will leave an indelible mark on the State of South Carolina for years to come.

Mr. Patterson was born in Darlington, South Carolina in 1931 and grew up in our shared hometown of Sumter. After graduating from Lincoln High School in 1949 and attending Claflin University, Kay joined the Marine Corps. After his discharge from the Corps, he returned to Claflin and later Allen University through the GI Bill. As a student at Allen, Kay cleaned offices at the South Carolina Statehouse where Black people were forbidden from entering in any official capacity.

Kay graduated from Allen in 1956 and began a public-school teaching career at W.A. Perry Middle School in Columbia where he taught for 14 years. When Columbia schools were integrated in 1970, Kay joined the South Carolina Education Association, where he worked for 15 years, in 1974, Kay was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives from House District 73 representing North Columbia. For the next 32 years, Kay served in the building where he was once forbidden from entering except to clean the offices.

As a Representative, Kay was singularly focused on being a voice for the voiceless. His background as a teacher made him a tireless advocate for public education and South Carolina's children. Eventually, he was selected as a member of the influential House Budget Committee. Kay was excited about this new opportunity, but that excitement vanished when I, among others, urged him to run for

the State Senate in 1984. Reluctantly, Kay eventually agreed to my appeal, and he went on to serve in the State Senate for 24 years, becoming just the second Black member to be elected to the chamber since the Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras.

In the Senate, Kay became known for his sharp wit and oratory skills. Though Kay didn't speak on the floor of the Senate often, when he did, everyone listened. He wasn't afraid to discuss difficult topics like race and always believed in speaking up for what he believed in. His courage and wisdom made him a natural leader among his colleagues, who elected him to Chair the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and the Richland County Legislative Delegation, and to membership on the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees—the first Black man to serve on the board in the modern era.

Kay's proudest legislative achievement was his advocacy for removing the Confederate flag from the South Carolina Statehouse Dome. He introduced his first bill calling for the flag's removal in 1983 and eventually helped negotiate a compromise that saw the flag removed from the top of the dome to the statehouse grounds in 2000. When the flag was fully removed in 2015, it was, in no small part, due to Kay's decades of advocacy.

After his retirement from the South Carolina General Assembly in 2008, Kay continued to serve his community. Kay believed that true leadership involved being an example to those who are destined to follow. Many elected officials in South Carolina have sought his mentorship and many have been inspired to enter public service through his example. A civil rights icon and champion for the poor, Kay was an advocate for all who couldn't advocate for themselves. He was an extraordinary public servant not only for his community, but for the entire state of South Carolina.

I wrote in the Introduction of my Memoirs that, "All of my experiences have not been pleasant, but I have considered all of them to be blessings." I count my experiences with Kay as some of my life's greatest blessings, and he was a blessing to all who knew him. Kay will be sorely missed and may he rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Senator Kay Patterson.

CELEBRATING DR. RACHEL HARDEMAN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent and friend Dr. Rachel Hardeman for her extraordinary antiracist scholarship.

Dr. Hardeman is the founding director of the Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity (CARHE), and the Blue Cross Endowed Professor of Health and Racial Equity in the Division of Health Policy & Management at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Her tremendous work at the Center led to her being named one of TIME's 100 most influential people in the world this year.

Led by Dr. Hardeman, the team of researchers at CARHE has garnered national and

international attention for their research on structural racism in healthcare. TIME specifically recognized Dr. Hardeman's work to address America's maternal health crisis, which has focused on disparate birthing outcomes across race and how police brutality can impact pregnancy and childbirth. Dr. Hardeman is committed to lending her expertise to shape policy that will positively impact our communities for generations to come, including Minnesota's groundbreaking Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act and the federal Momnibus Bill.

Dr. Hardeman has always placed community at the forefront of her work, and consistently partners with stakeholders to better inform her research. A prime example is her long-standing partnership with the Black-owned Roots Community Birthing Center in North Minneapolis which has been instrumental in her research to demonstrate a culturally-centered approach to birth equity that can help address the maternal health crisis we are facing.

This honor from TIME is indicative of Dr. Hardeman's dedication to working closely with community to produce results that are relevant not just locally, but around the country and the world. We are very fortunate to have such a brilliant, diligent, and thoughtful leader in Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District whose work has, and undoubtedly will continue to, lead to better health outcomes in Minnesota and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Hardeman for this recognition and share our gratitude for her invaluable contributions to the fields of health and racial equity.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT COLABELLA: FOUR DECADES OF HONORABLE PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity today to highlight the deep, widespread and heartfelt appreciation shared by many across Ocean County, New Jersey for their extraordinary County Clerk, Scott Colabella, who will retire at the end of this month after a lifetime of outstanding public service to our New Jersey communities.

Scott is a great American patriot. His story of commitment, dedication and outstanding work on behalf of New Jersey citizens—and his leadership in securing foolproof, reliable elections—belongs in our Nation's congressional record, the official written history of this country since the Continental Congress.

I first met Scott in the early days of my campaigns and congressional service. In fact, Scott was among one of my first congressional interns in my freshman term in the 97th Congress in 1981. Serving in my Washington, D.C. office, Scott proved to be an outstanding worker, assisting me in the delivery of top-notch constituent service and legislative analysis.

After working on Capitol Hill and graduating from Rider University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, Scott began a career of public service rewarded with promotions, achievements and advancement over the course of the next several decades.