

Her legacy as a broadcaster, community leader, and trailblazer will continue to inspire, empower, and uplift the community now and for future generations, making her a true San Francisco Bay Area icon.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN CHAPMAN ON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Karen Chapman, my District Chief of Staff and leader of my exceptional District office team upon her retirement from the federal government.

Karen grew up in San Mateo County and attended local schools. A graduate of Castilleja in Palo Alto, she went on to receive her BA in history with a focus on comparative political systems from the University of Colorado in Boulder. For her senior thesis she conducted research at the University of Kent in Canterbury in conjunction with Cornell University, with the focus of her studies centered on political propaganda. While working on various political campaigns, including my first congressional campaign and later, former Governor Jerry Brown's campaign for State Party Chair, Karen also participated in the Practical Politics Master's Program at San Francisco State University.

During my service on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Karen served as my Executive Assistant and Legislative Aide. At the each Supervisor had only two staff members, demanding that Karen had to do essentially everything. She also managed my schedule, planned events, staffed commission meetings and conducted casework and field work.

When I was elected to Congress in 1992, Karen joined me in Washington, D.C. as a senior staffer and helped set up the best office on the Hill. She returned to Palo Alto two years later to be my District Director.

Karen brought her superb leadership and diplomatic skills to the District Office operations and established the best Congressional constituent services operation in the Nation, an organization known for getting things done right, solving difficult problems and treating each constituent with dignity, respect and kindness. My District operation includes Co-Deputy Chiefs of Staff Anne Ream and Patty Kim, Senior Field Representatives Nicholas Hargis and Justin Jeong; and Communications Director Katrina Rill, all of whom are seasoned, engaged and highly professional.

There are many examples of Karen's drive and dedication throughout the years. When the CZU fire devastated parts of my District in Santa Cruz County, Karen led her colleagues in the field, working alongside FEMA and our other partners in government. They worked nights and weekends along with tremendous help from Brian Perkins of Congresswoman Speier's office, staying in the field during the pandemic until all constituents had opened cases with FEMA and received local, state and federal help. Karen builds bridges between people, organizations and agencies, bringing everyone together to find solutions that are practical and that reflect my values.

My Congressional District includes four federal facilities which require consistent support.

Karen carried out this support in this ongoing work including advocating for USGS and NASA Ames when each was threatened with significant cuts by various Administrations. Karen staffed me, together with her D.C. counterparts on the fight to preserve the iconic Hangar One and retain the 129th Rescue Wings both located at Moffett Federal Airfield.

Karen has been highly involved in several key projects, including the soon to open National Monument, Cotoni-Coast Dairies near Davenport in Santa Cruz County. She also worked with her D.C. counterparts to staff me for decades of work in the District to electrify Caltrain. This game changing project was completed this year for the Bay Area and will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 176,000 metric tons annually.

In true Silicon Valley spirit, our District Office operation has always had an innovative approach toward representing over 740,000 people. We were the first District Office to conduct casework using digital signatures as a result of my legislation establishing their legality. This legislation allowed us to conduct casework via the Internet, reducing processing times and promoting greater efficiency, and saving significant tax dollars. We were the first Congressional Office in the Nation to become a 'Green Congressional Office' having worked with property owner Premier Properties. The Eshoo office invested in renewable energy resources, with 100 percent of the energy used by the Eshoo office derived from renewable resources and the office exceeding established green standards. Our office was the first where the Member of Congress established a Congressional Student Advisory Board (SAB) for high school students, giving voice to students about the legislative process. Karen and my team made sure the SAB was robust and every year graduated more than 100 students, while providing resources and information to ensure their success. Each year SAB became more professional and the staff time devoted to it was a significant and worthwhile investment.

During the entirety of the pandemic, Karen's innovative work continued as she remained in the office full time, and staffed me while I ran the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health from my home in San Mateo County. Karen adapted quickly in order for us to remain resilient and nimble, and through her innovation she increased responsiveness and productivity for committee work, casework and fieldwork during the pandemic and beyond in ways that kept my staff safe and healthy while keeping up with the unique challenges of a pandemic and multiple wildfires.

Karen Chapman is a public servant's servant. She's humble, loyal, generous, disciplined, resourceful, and steadfast. Often sought after for her discretion and wise counsel, Karen has also advised campaigns and supported local candidates. She cares deeply about making a difference in people's lives and improving their circumstances. She staffed me on some of my most challenging cases including seeing success for Carl Clark who had been denied by the Navy for his heroism due to racism during World War II, protecting Dr. Christine Ford's identity before she decided to tell her story in public, and making sure my late friend Hank Sciaroni's package was complete to receive the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his courageous heroism when

his plane was shot down behind enemy lines during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor and thank Karen Chapman for her extraordinary dedication and exemplary service on behalf of the people I've represented for over three decades. I'm unendingly grateful to her for her sterling leadership, her 32 years of devoted service, and for the gift of her friendship.

CONGRATULATING NAYA
STAMETS, GIRL SCOUTS GOLD
AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Naya Stamets. Naya is an extraordinary leader with a heart as bold and inspiring as her mission. It's the only way you get to receive the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award. She earned this award by turning her personal battle with Type 1 Diabetes into a powerful PSA, raising awareness of the condition one person at a time.

It is so wonderful to have Naya as my constituent from Farmington, New Mexico. She is one of New Mexico's golden treasures.

She has been a member of the Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails, Troop 10068 for 13 years. She is now a first-year undergraduate student at New Mexico Tech studying Mechanical Engineering and Digital Media—go Miners.

To earn the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts must identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces lasting change.

In pursuit of this prestigious award, Naya created a PSA video with the help of medical professionals to educate the community about T1D symptoms, prevention, and management. Naya's PSA titled "SEE T1D" will have a positive impact on our New Mexico community for years to come.

Naya was inspired to create this PSA after a life-threatening emergency in her childhood, where she learned she had Type 1 Diabetes (T1D). As she grew older, she noticed the lack of T1D education in her community. At the end of the PSA, Naya included a QR code to a Google Form, which asks people if they experience any T1D symptoms and if someone selects 4 or more then it immediately tells them to contact their physician.

As a result of her PSA, she has been able to collect over 50 survey responses and speak with 4 individuals who sought help after seeing her video and survey. Two people were able to get a diagnosis for early onset diabetes after consulting with their doctor and two others learned they had other underlying health issues.

In addition, Naya was able to present her research and PSA to the International Order of the Rainbow Girls, where she shared her findings with over 100 people from across the U.S. ranging from Connecticut, Kansas, Ohio, and California.

On behalf of the 3rd Congressional District of New Mexico, I congratulate Naya for

achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. We are so proud of her.

TRIBUTE TO NA YOUNG PATTY
KIM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary member of my congressional staff, Na Young Patty Kim, on the occasion of her retirement after serving as a member of my staff for over 26 years.

Patty was born Na Young Kim in Seoul, South Korea, in 1976 to Chong Seung Kim and Young Suk Kim. In 1985, her parents decided to immigrate to the United States to pursue the American dream for their young daughters, Na Young and Jee Young. Landing first in San Francisco, they eventually settled in Newark, California. Na Young became Patty in the process of learning English and she learned about being a bridge for immigrants like herself while helping her parents navigate the unfamiliar system in America.

Patty graduated from Newark Memorial High School in 1994 and went on to study at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Although she was initially interested in pursuing Business Economics, Patty developed a pas-

sion for political science and opted to study abroad in South Korea at Yonsei University to learn about international relations. She also participated in the University of California Washington Center (UCDC) program and interned with the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice in the special litigation section. These experiences helped her develop her passion for public service and in 1998, Patty graduated with a B.A. in Political Science and a specialization in Business Administration from UCLA.

Following her graduation from UCLA, Patty joined our Palo Alto District Office for the 14th Congressional District of California in the heart of Silicon Valley where she began as a Staff Assistant, moved to be a Scheduler, then a Caseworker, a Constituent Service Director, and now Deputy District Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel. Patty opted to work full time while attending Santa Clara University School of Law, as a part time student. During this time, she studied abroad at Oxford University to obtain a Certificate in International Law and also spent time working for the Federal Public Defender's office in San Jose on a case to help acquit a defendant on death row. After graduating in May 2005, Patty passed the California Bar exam in November and decided to remain in public service as my Counsel. In 2010, she married Steve Yu, a Marine Veteran and entrepreneur, and they have two beautiful children; Gloria and Michaela. While raising her two young children, she continued to work

tirelessly to serve constituents in a diverse district encompassing Silicon Valley.

Patty is an exceptional professional who truly understands the important connections between legislative work and constituent services. She works quietly behind the scenes to use her deep knowledge of immigration, tax, telecommunications, and high-tech issues to help those in need. Patty has helped thousands of constituents navigate the federal bureaucracy, has led a casework operation second to none, and been a trusted advisor in times of crisis. Over all the years, Patty has worked effectively with community stakeholders, federal agencies, and constituents to get results. Through it all, she has always been positive, never losing sight of the fact that we are in the business of hope.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the work of Patty Kim as she begins the next exciting chapter of her life. From the 105th Congress to the 118th Congress, Patty Kim has proven herself to be a dedicated public servant and leader by working tirelessly to serve the people of the 14th, 18th, and 16th Congressional District through five administrations. Like so many women, Patty has juggled family commitments with work obligations to make this world a better place for the next generation. The American dream that Patty's parents envisioned for their daughters has been realized and exceeded through her extraordinary life of service. How proud and grateful I am to have had her by my side.