

HONORING WASHINGTON STATE
SENATOR MIKE PADDEN

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, my heart is full today as I rise to recognize my good friend and former colleague, Washington State Senator Mike Padden, who will retire at the end of the year after serving the people of Spokane Valley and the Fourth Legislative District for 28 years. I'd like to be the first of many to congratulate him on a distinguished career of service and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Senator Padden, a graduate of Spokane's very own Gonzaga Law School, was first elected to the State House in 1980. He quickly earned the trust and confidence of his peers who elected him as their Majority Floor Leader in 1995. Shortly after, Senator Padden stepped away from the State House to accept an appointment as a judge on the Spokane County District Court, a position he would be re-elected to three more times before retiring—the first time—in 2007.

If there's one thing my colleagues should know about Mike, it's that he is a devout public servant who committed himself to putting people before politics. That's why, in 2011, Mike answered the call to serve once again, this time in the State Senate; a position he will hold until the year's end.

For nearly three decades, Senator Padden cultivated a reputation built on principled conservatism. He is a staunch defender of life, a steadfast advocate for stronger public safety, and a fierce promoter of everything Eastern Washington has to offer. While serving in various leadership roles on both the House and Senate Law and Justice Committees, Mike made it a top priority to build relationships with his colleagues across the aisle to pass meaningful legislation and improve lives.

Thanks to his dogged determination and commitment to delivering results, he successfully strengthened laws around DUI convictions, expanded access to housing by reducing barriers to condominium construction, and provided critical support to businesses trying to help their employees invest in the company's future. These are just a few of his most recent legislative achievements from a long career of service that will be remembered for years to come.

In addition to serving in the State Senate, Mike has spent the past six years on his parish council, volunteers for Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels, is a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus, and acts as a state commissioner—and one time Spokane chapter president—for American Legion Baseball.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Mike's committed service to his community and our great state. He has been a tremendous advocate for those he has represented, and as he looks ahead to his well-deserved retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his almost three decades of devotion and public service. The best is yet to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to make the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 179; NAY on Roll Call No. 180; NAY on Roll Call No. 181; NAY on Roll Call No. 182; YEA on Roll Call No. 183; NAY on Roll Call No. 184; NAY on Roll Call No. 185; and YEA on Roll Call No. 186.

HONORING MONIQUE KOLTERMAN

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Mrs. Monique Kolterman of St. Veronica Catholic School who is an extraordinary educator very selflessly dedicated to the instruction and guidance of children during one of the most dynamic periods of their lives.

Throughout her career as an elementary school teacher, Mrs. Kolterman has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless young men and women as they advance into the next chapter of their academic career.

In 2009, Mrs. Kolterman joined the Diocese of Arlington as an instructional aide at the Nativity Catholic School in Burke. She remained there until 2012. Three years later, she was hired at St. Veronica Catholic School as an instructional assistant for the second grade. By 2019, she began her tenure as a lead teacher for the fifth grade.

Prior to her time in Arlington, Monique held various teaching positions throughout Ohio. There, she was a social studies teacher, a middle school English teacher, a CCD teacher and eucharist minister, a substitute teacher for French courses, and a learning resource assistant.

For years, Monique has served children from all over the United States with tremendous passion. As the teacher for Josiah and Elijah Hawatmeh, who are the nephews of my Chief of Staff, Nicola Hawatmeh, Mrs. Kolterman has left a lasting impression not only on their lives, but on the countless children she has influenced throughout her outstanding career.

Mr. Speaker, I join the wider St. Veronica community in thanking Mrs. Kolterman for her tireless commitment to her students and their families. With National Teacher Appreciation week fresh in our hearts, I am proud to honor her and all the men and women who dedicate their lives to educating the next generation.

HONORING ALFREDA HELEN
ABBOTT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of long-time

community activist, Alfreda Helen Abbott, who passed away at the age of 92 on March 2, 2024, in Oakland.

Alfreda was born on March 8, 1931, and raised in Oakland, graduating from Oakland High School in 1949 and with her Bachelor of Arts from UC Berkeley some years later.

After completing her degree, she married Robert P. Abbott on June 6, 1954. They were married for 56 years before Robert passed away in 2010.

Alfreda was an avid traveler, who had visited six continents. Along with traveling, she enjoyed caring for her plants, spending time with family, fine dining, and public service.

Her love for public service manifested in her professional life, where she served as a Deputy Public Officer for Alameda County and a Group Counselor for the Social Service Bureau. She was also an original member of the Oakland Black Caucus in the 1960s. Alfreda was one of the founding members of the Black Women Organized for Political Action and continued to serve on the state board for several years.

Alfreda had a long career in the government, serving as an Advisor and Field Representative for California State Senator Nicholas Petris for over 30 years. Upon her retirement from Senator Petris' office, she returned to local government to serve as Chief of Staff for Oakland City Council member Dezie Woods-Jones.

Alfreda always stayed active in her community, serving on the Oakland Unified School Board, the Oakland Planning Commission, the Bay Area Urban League, the NAACP, the Black Educators Association, the California Democratic Party, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and the Board of Directors of the Museum Association. I honor Alfreda Abbott's long-standing commitment to community activism in Oakland and beyond.

Alfreda Helen Abbott is survived by her two sons, Ross Abbott and Brian Abbott, one "daughter-in-love", Carolyn Abbott, two Goddaughters, Michelle Randle and Carla Kennedy, and a grandson, Kamal Kennedy, along with a host of cousins.

RECOGNIZING JIMMIE LEE
RODGERS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Jimmie Lee Rodgers who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Mr. Rodgers and his fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, one month that is commonly and unfortunately overlooked in our country is Jewish American Heritage Month. As we witness anti-Semitism rise across the country, it is more important now more than ever that we recognize the great accomplishments that Jewish Americans have contributed to the United States and the world. Jewish Americans have thrived in our great nation for generations by serving honorably in the government and military, winning Nobel prizes, leading universities and corporations, and serving on the Supreme Court as symbols of Justice. In South Jersey, it is no different as we boast of many successful Jewish authors, physicists, entrepreneurs, and a former Secretary of Homeland Security. We are proudly home to over 200,000 Jewish Americans so join me as we honor this great group of individuals by celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month. God bless our Jewish Americans, God bless Israel, and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING CONNOR DELO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Connor Delo for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Connor has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Connor, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Connor's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Mandalay Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Connor Delo on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Orange County Sheriff John Mina, City of Apopka Police Chief Michael McKinley, City of Ocoee Police Chief

Vincent Ogburn, City of Winter Garden Police Chief Steve Graham, Town of Oakland Police Chief Floyd Mitchell, Town of Windermere Police Chief David Ogden and all the law enforcement officers who keep Orange County safe every single day.

This week marks the annual observance of Police Week. Though we set aside one week a year to honor law enforcement, I encourage all Americans to join me not only this week, but every day, in recognizing the honor, courage, and commitment of America's law enforcement.

Our law enforcement officers are heroes in the community. They keep us safe and are willing to put their lives on the line every day in the course of their duties. It is impossible to fully express our gratitude or adequately recognize the professionalism of the men and women who voluntarily put their lives on the line for our safety and security. It is with deep respect that we pause today to honor the memory of the heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion and made the ultimate sacrifice.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all the law enforcement officers who bravely and selflessly serve throughout Orange County. It is an honor to recognize them and all men and women in law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING MR. WEARLEY'S RETIREMENT

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the recent retirement of a remarkable Montanan, Mr. Milford Wearley, who served his community and dedicated years of his life to training and teaching future farmers and ranchers across Montana.

After graduating from Choteau High School in 1971, Mr. Wearley attended Montana State University in Bozeman, where he later graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science and a Master's degree in Agricultural Education.

Upon graduation, Mr. Wearley chose to pursue his career in training and educating students about Agriculture as he served as an FFA Advisor at Malta High School in 1981. Since then, Mr. Wearley's passion for teaching and training the next generation of farmers in Montana flourished. After three years in Malta, Mr. Wearley moved to Choteau to continue his career and passion for teaching, where he stayed until recently retiring.

Agriculture isn't just an industry in Montana, it's our way of life, and thanks to Mr. Wearley's lifelong dedication to training, teaching, and advising aspiring farmers, ranchers, and students, our state is stronger, and our agricultural industry is more resilient.

It is a privilege to recognize Mr. Wearley's 40 years of service and his impact while instructing the next generation of farmers and ranchers across the Treasure State.

RECOGNIZING STEPHANIE PETERS FOR 15 YEARS WITH MICROSOFT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Stephanie Peters for over thirty-five years of work in corporate social responsibility, and to congratulate her on her retirement as one of Microsoft's Directors of Federal Government Affairs for the House of Representatives.

Throughout her 15 years with Microsoft, Stephanie has been instrumental in guiding and evolving the company's public policy practice. She was responsible for engaging Democrats in the House of Representatives to advance a wide range of priorities for Microsoft, including supply chain management, national security, and intellectual property matters.

While Stephanie's service to Microsoft is commendable on its own, her prior experience and achievements with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, and Patton Boggs LLP are equally worthy of praise and recognition.

Thanks to her unmatched combination of work ethic and subject matter expertise, House Democrats were able to draft and pass the landmark Digital Millennium Copyright Act, as well as navigate complex immigration reform negotiations throughout the late 1990s. Moreover, her legal work on international issues ranging from corporate global sustainability to pro-bono representation of refugees is a testament to her commitment to building a better world and helping others advance.

From her service on the Boards of Directors for organizations like the Ohio State University Alumni Association to her co-founding of DC Jazz Fest, Stephanie's desire to foster positive community is evident in every personal and professional effort she embarks on. Her mentorship to others and dedication to lifting as she climbs has left an indelible mark on everyone in her path, and they will continue leaving a positive impact on her community and our country for years to come.

HONORING LOIS A. MURELL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lois A. Parish Murell, who passed away at the age of 103 on April 8, 2024.

Lois was born on November 20, 1920, in El Paso, Texas to parents William C. Parish and Willie C. Parish. She attended Douglass High School and graduated from Austin Tillitson College with a Bachelor's degree in Home Economics.

She met her husband, John Melvyn Murell while teaching, and moved with him from Texas to Oakland, California. They later settled in their dream home that they built in Windsor, California.

Lois and Melvyn were prominent businesspeople in the Bay Area. Lois opened a high-end gift shop called "Hi Lite Décor" on