

## RECOGNIZING JUDY MARTZ

**HON. RYAN K. ZINKE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the former governor of Montana, Judy Martz. Governor Martz is having her statue unveiled at the Montana State capitol this month. I want to highlight the incredible legacy that Governor Martz has left on our state.

Judy Martz was born on July 28, 1943, in Big Timber, Montana, left an indelible mark on her state's history. Raised by ranching parents, she embodied the spirit of the American West. Her journey from speed skating champion to Montana's first female governor is a testament to her resilience and leadership.

Judy attended Butte High School, graduating in 1961. Her athletic prowess was evident early on, earning her a spot on the 1963 U.S. World Speed Skating Team and later representing the nation at the 1964 Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria. Beyond the ice rink, her ranch upbringing also led her to claim the title of Miss Rodeo Montana in 1962.

In 1965, Judy married Harry Martz, and together they operated a garbage disposal business in Butte. They raised two children, Stacy and Justin. Judy's commitment to her community was unwavering. She served as vice-chair of the St. James Hospital Board of Directors and as President of the Butte Chamber of Commerce.

From 1989 to 1995, Judy worked as a Field Representative for U.S. Senator Conrad Burns. In 1996, Governor Marc Racicot appointed her as Lieutenant Governor, making her the first woman to hold that office in Montana. In 2000, she ran for Governor, partnering with the Honorable Karl Ohs. Despite being outspent by her opponent, Judy took the oath of office on January 2, 2001, becoming Montana's first, and only, female governor.

During her term, Judy focused on education, economic development, and healthcare. Her impact extended beyond politics. She served on the boards of Maternal Life International, University of Montana Western, and the Big Sky State Games. Sadly, in 2014, she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and on October 17, 2017, Montana lost a trailblazer and a dedicated public servant.

Judy Martz's legacy lives on—woman who broke barriers, served her state, and inspired generations.

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, I ask you to join me in recognizing the great legacy of the late Judy Martz.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 2024*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 8772—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025.

As with all the additional appropriation bills up for consideration on the House Floor, I

strongly oppose the passage of this bill for a myriad of reasons—including the following.

First, although this bill provides for a 3.5 percent increase over FY24 levels, sadly the underlying text contains many of the same harmful partisan policy riders as last year.

In particular, this bill fails to confront the climate crisis by removing a longstanding provision to eliminate or reduce plastic waste across the Legislative Branch and the requirement for Members to lease low-emission vehicles;

contains the repeated misguided and harmful clause prohibiting discrimination against any person with a "sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman," opening the door for discrimination against LGBTQI+ Members and staff; and

bars funding for any diversity, equity, and inclusion training or implementation, a clear prohibition on the return of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODI) that was eliminated last year.

Indeed, it is truly unfortunate that this bill, like several others that the House Appropriations Committee recently reported, continues the Republican's obsession with cutting federal funds and eliminating programs that help to grow and diversify our country.

Yes, it is certainly a sad day in our nation's government that where we are at a place in time that backtracks and rolls back critical advances in diversity and inclusion.

It is bad enough that last year's bill eliminated dedicated funding for the House Office of Diversity and Inclusion, an office put in place to diversify and expand access to the House of Representatives.

To continue efforts to prohibit any funding for programs and training aimed at supporting diversity, equity and inclusion is simply an untenable legislative policy within our nation's government.

This House should make every effort to be reflective of the ENTIRE Nation we serve, and the districts Members represent.

Which is why I also put forth the following amendment that was shamefully excluded during the Appropriations Committee markup.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 30 if adopted would have stricken from the bill Sec. 212, which seeks to prohibit funding to be used for purposes of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion "DEI".

The Legislative Branch bill should never be a place for divisive politics.

Rather, it should be used to ensure Congress has the tools it needs to legislate and support the constituents we serve.

In my home state of Texas, I proudly represent TX-18, a district that embodies the diverse melting pot of America.

According to the Greater Houston Partnership, Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the nation, with no ethnic majority and where nearly one-in-four residents are foreign-born.

Specifically, according to census data, Houston's population is 46.8 percent White, 44.5 percent Hispanic or Latino, 22.6 percent Black, 10.8 percent two or more races, and 6.8 percent Asian.

Additionally, as one of the fastest growing cities in the nation with increasingly important industries, Houston has the opportunity to set the standard for DEI practices in the workforce and society.

Despite dangerous attempts by the Governor of Texas to roll back and strip out DEI across educational and state-wide agencies, we must continue to push back and fight for what is right for our country and for the future generations of our Nation.

I look forward to contributing to diversity efforts around the nation and in my community in Houston.

Yes, it is important to embrace diversity—and it is good for the economy, too.

Not only have waves of immigration changed the face of the nation, but they have also brought in fresh perspectives, skills, and technologies to help the U.S. develop a strong adaptability to change.

It is no secret that economies generally fare better when they openly embrace and capitalize on new ideas.

Cultural diversity is also a mighty economic engine that powers our city, state, and national economy.

Diversity is important in all industries, as it allows businesses to work with a variety of perspectives, which can lead to best results for more communities.

I am a strong proponent of diversity in all of its forms as a means of advancing opportunity, inclusiveness and quality of life for everyone.

As a society, we have collectively directed a critical eye on the injustices that many Americans unfortunately face due to the color of their skin, gender, sexual orientation, migration status, socioeconomic standing.

We cannot let words like diversity, equity and inclusion become tarnished by extremists talking points.

No, DEI is not anathema to a free society, as it has been so disingenuously portrayed.

This pernicious emergence of a counter-narrative to DEI has spread false and dangerous misnomers that diversity and cultural inclusion is the promotion of racism and discrimination and that acknowledging and aiming to redress disparate impact is somehow inherently racist.

As we all know, "equity" literally means "fairness and justice".

How this term has somehow become a dirty word is symbolic of the dangerous territory we are now entering and must remain vigilant in claiming and reclaiming not only the words, but the meanings and actual and true implementation and realization of what we all know (and should know) words like "justice" "fairness", "equality" and "equity" mean and look like.

For these reasons, it is disappointing that this Jackson Lee Amendment No. 30 did not receive the full and fair consideration it deserves.

I respectfully request that my colleagues vote in opposition to H.R. 8772, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025.

HONORING THE AWARDEES OF  
THE ENGLISH EMPOWERMENT  
CENTER'S 2024 RECOGNITION  
CEREMONY**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the English Empowerment Center

(EEC) and to congratulate the volunteers, instructors, students, community partners, and others who will be recognized at the 62nd EEC Recognition Ceremony.

The mission of EEC is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English in order to empower them to participate more fully and confidently in their communities and in society as a whole.

EEC provides the crucial first steps of language and literacy proficiency for workplace, citizenship, and community integration to help adults make measurable improvements in their lives. This past year, they have served over 2,000 adult learners, with the help of at least 500 volunteers who gave over 20,000 hours of service.

Each year EEC recognizes students and members of the community who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to achieving the mission of EEC. EEC will also recognize the recipient of the Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship along with the Mid Allen Rees Award. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2024 EEC honorees and scholarship recipient:

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Mainstreet Bank  
Fairfax County's DPWES, Solid Waste Management  
Philip Graham Fund

#### VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Dan Clancy  
Eva Kaplan  
Kathleen McCleary

PARICIA M. DONNELLY MERIT SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENT

Carminia Zurita

#### MID-ALLEN REES AWARD

Jackie Corkins

I also want to recognize those volunteers who are celebrating service anniversaries with EEC. Volunteers are being recognized for the service milestones of 20, 15, 10, and 5 years.

20 years: Elizabeth Magee

15 years: Naomi Gittins, Mary Kalfatovic, Kenneth Portnoy, Anne Spear

10 years: Mark Charette, Stan Citron, Pam DiRamio, Cheryl Heidel, Corrie Paeglow, Dennis Shannon, Marie Tibor, Linda Zenker

5 years: Parisa Ashraf, Eric Barboriak, Robert Brown, Ann Therese Carlozza, Madeline Chulumovich, Zoe Danon, Jacqueline Davey, Linda Debrewer, Astrid DeJesus Rivera, Eric Dittmeier, Glen Finland, Harriette Kinberg, Nisha Kumar, Karen Lillard, Mario McMillan-Okuadido, Bill Meara, Elaine Michl, Sandra Olson, Debra Pfaff, Ray Potter, Jennifer Pryor-Abraham, Jane Schulman, Maura Sleeve, Natalie Southwood, Anuradha Srirangarajan, Janet Swanson, Kathleen Utgoff, Joy Yamamoto

I have always believed that education is one of the most fundamental and important skills to have in one's life. As we have learned here in our own community, reading is one of the basic foundations on which to build a young person's education and their career opportunities. I want to extend my personal thanks to the Center and its many volunteers for your tireless efforts to promote literacy as a lifelong skill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the English Empowerment Center and in thanking and congratulating each of the honorees of the 62nd EEC Recognition Ceremony.

I wish all of them great success in their future endeavors.

### RECOGNIZING THE FIRST COLONIAL WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

#### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the First Colonial Women's Soccer Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the First Colonial Patriots were able to bring the Class 5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The First Colonial Women's Soccer Head Coach, Joe Tucia, led this talented team to a two to zero victory.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the First Colonial Women's Soccer Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

### CELEBRATING CHEF BOBBY ANDERSON

#### HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an incredible member of our community, Chef Bobby Anderson. A trailblazing culinary artist, passionate leader, and dedicated mentor, Mr. Anderson has shaped the futures of countless young people in Western New York.

Born and raised in Niagara Falls, Mr. Anderson studied at the Culinary Institute of America, pursuing his passion for sharing culture through food. After graduating, Mr. Anderson returned to Buffalo to begin his career at the Hyatt Regency's EB Green's Steakhouse. Under his leadership, EB Green's Steakhouse was recognized as the fourth-best steakhouse in the nation. Following this success, Mr. Anderson spearheaded the opening of the Seneca Niagara Casino Restaurant and Buffet, which received a four-star recognition.

Mr. Anderson then entered the national culinary stage, competing on Chef Gordon Ramsay's TV series, Hell's Kitchen. His outstanding performance allowed him to finish in the top four. Gordon Ramsay then extended the rare opportunity for Mr. Anderson to work at two of his restaurants in Manchester and London.

Upon returning home to Niagara Falls after his time abroad, Mr. Anderson wanted to use his skills to give back to our community. In 2009, Mr. Anderson founded his nonprofit, Food Based Interventions with Technology, Science, and Energy, better known as F BITES. By providing students with culinary

training, F BITES equips youth with hard and soft skills necessary for their future success in the industry. Over 85 percent of F BITES program graduates have enrolled in higher education or entered the workforce, improving the youth poverty rates and employment rates in Western New York.

Under Mr. Anderson's stellar leadership, F BITES has become a comet stone of our community. Beginning as an afterschool program in Niagara Falls City School District, F BITES has now expanded to over 60 institutions in the region, ranging from schools, community centers, city programs, and reentry initiatives. From opening the first Barista Training Program in America at Niagara Falls High School, to giving students their first job opportunity at F BITES eateries around Niagara Falls, Mr. Anderson has made our community a more equitable place.

Despite his numerous culinary achievements, Mr. Anderson remains most proud of the transformative impact he has had on countless individuals in our community. Today, we thank Chef Bobby Anderson for his tremendous work in using his culinary talent to bring opportunities and joy to all.

### RECOGNIZING THE INCREDIBLE PUBLIC SERVICE OF MR. GREG PORTER

#### HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Greg Porter, City Manager for the City of Cedar Hill, TX in my District. Mr. Porter assumed this role in January 2015 and has steadfastly served since then. While he has played a key role in putting Cedar Hill on the map and driving the growth of this rapidly developing City, it is important to acknowledge that Mr. Porter strayed away from his core of being a servant.

Mr. Porter began his career with the City of Cedar Hill as an intern in 1987 and has dedicated the entirety of his 37-year career to the city. I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand his unwavering dedication to our neighbors and his unwavering commitment to building community. Serving in roles with the city's planning, parks & recreation, human resources, economic development, public safety, animal control, emergency management, utilities, and public works departments, it's safe to say that Mr. Porter is well-versed with the ins and outs of the city.

Although Mr. Porter is set to retire from the city at the end of this month, I am confident that he will never cease to be the epitome of a true public servant. Because of him, I know that our communities across Cedar Hill have grown stronger, and many will continue to benefit from his leadership, impact, and foundation of service that he laid. Congratulations to Mr. Greg Porter on a job well done.