

The Honorable Lisa Gorcyca is Presiding Judge of the Family Division of the Oakland County Circuit Court. Before her election to the bench in 2008, she spent fifteen years working at the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office as Chief of the Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Unit. She chairs the Oakland County Coordinating Council Against Domestic Violence and is founder and member of the Oakland County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. She was recently recognized as a Top Circuit Court Judge for 2014.

The Honorable Mattie McKinney Hatchett was first elected to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in 2002 and made history in 2011, when she became the first African-American woman to serve as President of the Michigan Association of Counties. Known as "The Mother of Pontiac," Mattie served as Deputy Mayor and has spent more than fifty years advocating for her community. Since 1963, she has been actively involved with the Pontiac School District as an employee and volunteer. Presently, she is a Trustee on the Pontiac Board of Education.

Ruth Elliott Holmes is President of the International Women's Forum—Michigan which brings together a global membership of women to exchange ideas, to learn, to inspire and to promote better leadership for a changing world. In eleven years overseas, she worked for the African-American Institute in Abidjan in the Ivory Coast and was active in the international community in Brussels, Belgium. She serves on many professional boards and is a Trustee for the National Association of Document Examiners. A handwriting examiner and personnel consultant, Ruth owns her own business and was named 2010 Innovator of the Year, one of Michigan's Top 10 Women Business Owners and, in 2002, Corp! magazine listed her among Michigan's 95 Most Powerful Women.

The Honorable Cynthia Thomas Walker currently serves as Chief Judge of the 50th District Court in Pontiac and has been a district judge since 2003. Before taking the bench, she worked as Court Administrator of that court, as Pontiac City Attorney, and as a staff attorney for UAW Legal Services and for Legal Services of Eastern Michigan. She serves on the board of the Oakland County Bar Association and is active in judicial, professional and civic organizations. She supports the Teen Court program at her court and volunteers her time at local schools, churches, and non-profit organizations.

All WONder Women demonstrate achievement in each of the following areas: contribute to the community beyond that which is required in their employment; demonstrate character, commitment and leadership; and assist women/girls in reaching full leadership potential through civic engagement, personal and professional contacts, or resources.

The WON Foundation advances the vision and mission of the Women Officials Network: empowering leaders of today and mentoring women leaders of tomorrow. The Women Officials Network envisions more women in Leadership positions at all levels of government.

## TALLGRASS ENERGY

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tallgrass Energy for being honored with the Business Recognition Award given by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Business Recognition Award is given to a Jefferson County company which shows growth in employment, sales and capital investment in the last year.

Tallgrass Energy provides natural gas transportation and storage services for customers in the Rocky Mountain region through its pipelines and natural gas processing assets. Tallgrass Energy is committed to public safety, monitoring their pipeline operation 24 hours a day every day. The company recently added 58 high paying jobs in 2013.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tallgrass Energy for receiving the Business Recognition Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your commitment to innovation high standards and delivering quality products.

## RECOGNITION OF SHEN YUN PERFORMANCE AT PROCTORS THEATRE IN SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

### HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2014*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming Shen Yun Performing Arts presentation at Proctors Theatre in Schenectady, New York on April 27, 2014.

Shen Yun Performing Arts troupe performances incorporate Chinese dance, ethnic folk dance, and story-based dance, accompanied by an orchestra mixing modern and traditional Chinese instruments. These performances incorporate large groups of dancers presenting traditional vignettes spanning several millennia of Chinese history. Dancers wear ornate costumes and make use of a variety of props, while performing in front of a projected backdrop.

As the largest Chinese music and dance ensemble in the world, Shen Yun offers an opportunity for cultural and artistic enrichment this month at historic Proctors Theatre in Schenectady, New York.

## COMMENDING THE ALL INDIA SHRI SHIVAJI MEMORIAL SOCIETY (AISSMS)

### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEAGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2014*

Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the All India Shri Shivaji Memorial Society (AISSMS) established in 1917 by the late His Highness Shrimant Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur and

His Highness Alija Bahadur Madhavrao Scindia Maharaj of Gwalior, with the foundation stone laid by the Prince of Wales on November 19, 1921 in Pune, India.

AISSMS was established for the purpose of "throwing open to all alike the doors of knowledge through liberal education." It was established to memorialize the great Shivaji, a statesman and warrior, a bold reformer who not only founded an Empire, but created a Nation, based on a vision of ideals and dreams which AISSMS is realizing.

From a renowned military school to Day schools to Junior Colleges to a foray into higher and technical education, AISSMS now runs world class institutions in various disciplines. AISSMS institutions have obtained accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation and have signed MOU's with Universities from the UK, the USA and Germany to run joint programs of global standards.

I am proud of AISSMS and recognize the importance of its history and impact on past, present and future generations. I especially commend its Office Bearers—H.H. Shrimant Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj who serves as President; Vice President Shrimant Yuvraj Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati; Honorary Secretary Shri Malojiraje Chhatrapati; Treasurer Shri Ajay Uttamrao Patil; Chairman of the Governing Council Shri Vishwas Bajirao Patil; Honorary Joint Secretary Shri Ratnakar K. Jitkar Shri Ajay Uttamrao; Chairman of the Managing Committee Shri Sahebrao R. Jadhav, the Governing Council, the Managing Committee and other notables.

I also pay tribute to Captain Shivaji Mahadkar, Managing Trustee of the Takshashila Education Trust, who visited my office in Washington, DC and personally extended an invite for me to speak to members of the esteemed All India Shri Shivaji Memorial Society and to a gathering of faculty, staff and students. In my absence, I have entered this Statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for historical purposes as a matter of appreciation for the invitation which was extended to me but moreover to recognize and commend AISSMS for the critical role it has played in shaping and defining India, and for bringing hope to all who are, have been, or will be associated with its noble cause.

As the former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, which has broad jurisdiction for U.S. policy affecting the region, including India, I am proud to be associated with AISSMS. The U.S. and India are on a path to expanding higher education partnerships with a focus to build more purposeful connections. In doing so, it is my sincere hope that AISSMS and my alma mater, Brigham Young University, and other institutions of learning, will connect in ways that bring new hope and new ideas to both countries.

I thank Mr. Sanjay Puri, founder and Chairman of the Alliance for U.S.-India Business (AUSIB) for introducing me to AISSMS, and for the good work he continues to do for and on behalf of India and Indian Americans. In 2011 and 2013, AUSIB hosted two of the largest U.S.-India education conclaves and, on March 13, 2013, Mr. Puri testified as an expert witness before the House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, calling for enhanced education collaboration as a means to strengthen U.S.-India relations.