

plays softball and is an office aide and peer tutor.

Toneca is active in the community as a volunteer helping the Mid-South Food Bank hand out food to the needy in Quitman County. She participates in campus beautification, the MS Drop Out Prevention Campaign walk, sings in her church choir, and serves as a mentor for the youth of her church.

Toneca has scored a very high on her ACT and she plans to attend MS Valley State University and major in math. Her college admission is complete and she has been applying for scholarships to aid in her furthering her education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Toneca Pickens as a student who is goal oriented and making a difference in her community.

HONORING MARGIE WRIGHT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margie Wright as California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) changes the name of Bulldog Diamond to Margie Wright Diamond. For nearly three decades, Margie dedicated her life as the head coach to the softball program at Fresno State. Her passion for the sport is truly exemplary, and she is more than deserving of this special recognition.

Margie was raised in Warrensburg, Illinois, and her extraordinary athleticism was evident at a young age. In 1974, she graduated from Illinois State University where she played on both the softball and basketball teams for four years as well as the field hockey team for three years. Upon graduation, Margie played three years in the Women's Professional Softball League.

Margie's career as a softball coach quickly took off. She began coaching at Metamora Illinois high school, and then continued on to become the assistant softball coach and the head volleyball coach at Eastern Illinois University. Prior to her arrival at Fresno State, Margie coached six years at Illinois State University.

The expertise and knowledge that Margie brings to the game of softball goes unmatched. Margie changed the dynamic of the game during her career at Fresno State. Her leadership and dedication to ensuring the success of her teams has led to increased attendance and revenue for the university. Margie has the most wins of any softball coach on the Division I level, and she has the second most wins among National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I coaches, regardless of sport.

In 1998, the Fresno State Bulldogs won the NCAA Women's College World Series under Margie's leadership, which was the first national team title won by the university. Margie also directed the program to three NCAA runner-up finishes while leading the program to 10 NCAA Women's College World Series appearances and 26 straight NCAA postseason appearances. Earning National Coach of the Year honors, she also led the program to 27 straight years ranked in the national polls and

captured 17 outright or shared conference titles. Margie has coached 16 Academic All-Americans, 53 NCAA All-Americans, 4 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Award winners, two NCAA Top VIII Awardees, 15 Olympians, 8 professionals, and two No. 1 professional draft picks while averaging 48 wins a season. In addition, in 1996, Margie served as the assistant coach to the United States Olympic Softball National Team which won the gold medal in the inaugural year of the Olympic sport. Margie is undoubtedly a legend as she has been inducted into 14 halls of fame.

Most important are the lives Margie has positively affected through her dedication and work. Margie is a pioneer who fought for the rights of women. It is because of Margie's advocacy for equality that college campuses have grand stadiums, better salaries, and workable budgets for women's sports. The renaming of Bulldog Diamond to Margie Wright Diamond is a deserved tribute to her exceptional service at Fresno State.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Margie Wright. Margie impacted the lives of many through her love of softball and has worked tirelessly for the advancement of women's athletics in California and the entire nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESTON, VIRGINIA AND THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RESTON'S FOUNDER, ROBERT E. SIMON, JR.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of America's first planned community, Reston, Virginia, and the 100th Birthday of Reston's Founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr.

In 1961, Mr. Simon, a New York-based developer, sold his family's interest in Carnegie Hall to finance the purchase of 6,750 acres of farmland 20 miles west of Washington, D.C., and five miles east of Dulles International Airport, which was under construction at the time. Mr. Simon envisioned building a "New Town" based on the following seven principles:

1. That the New Town should provide a wide range of cultural and recreational facilities as well as an environment for privacy.

2. That by providing the fullest range of housing styles and prices, housing needs can be met at a variety of income levels and at different stages of family life.

3. That the importance and dignity of each individual be the focal point for all planning, and take precedence for large-scale concepts.

4. That the people be able to live and work in the same community.

5. That commercial, cultural and recreational facilities be made available to the residents from the outset of the development—not years later.

6. That beauty—structural and natural—is a necessity of the good life and should be fostered.

7. That Reston be a financial success.

Mr. Simon and his team produced a plan considered quite radical at the time because it

consolidated residences, industry, commerce, schools, places of worship, cultural institutions, natural resources, social, and recreational facilities in an integrated and independent community. Many of its features were inspired by great European cities and the Garden City movement of early 20th century America and serve as models for mixed-use development today. Indeed, the key innovation and lasting success of Reston lies in the way its buildings, infrastructure, and the natural environment have been arranged in ways that encourage a sense of community.

Reston also became a pioneer for civil rights. Although racial deed restrictions were very common in Virginia in 1964, to Bob they were "inconceivable." Many lenders refused to finance the first integrated community in the south, but he persevered despite tremendous personal financial risk. As a result, numerous African Americans and others seeking diverse neighborhoods chose to live in Reston in its early years.

Today, Reston is home to nearly 60,000 people in approximately 27,000 households as well as 3,000 businesses, several non-profits, and numerous federal, state, and local government agencies employing approximately 60,000 people. People visit from around the world to tour Reston's public art, world-class architecture, festivals, and innovations in environmental stewardship.

The socioeconomic diversity, vibrant aesthetics, economic success, and natural beauty we see in Reston today are direct results of the wisdom and courage Bob Simon brought to Northern Virginia 50 years ago. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for Reston and in wishing Robert E. Simon, Jr. a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the Cooperative Extension Service. The Cooperative Extension Service is a state-by-state network of educators who research and provide educational outreach to farmers and local communities. Today, it continues to address a wide range of agricultural issues in both urban and rural areas.

North Carolina's agricultural industry is very diverse and poses a unique set of challenges to our farmers. The Cooperative Extension Service's educational programs have been essential to addressing these challenges by providing the necessary research to assist farmers across the state. Their research has increased the productivity of farmers, and has allowed rural and family-owned farms to keep up with changing technologies across the industry.

The Cooperative Extension Service has also been active in land-grant colleges and universities throughout the nation. Its work promoting agricultural knowledge in young adults will help the entire industry continue to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, as the centennial date is celebrated on May 8, 2014, we should all be