

Kristen Marie Griest on the outstanding accomplishment of successfully completing the rigorous training at the U.S. Army Ranger School. She exemplifies the very best of our military and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO MS. FELECIA B.
PRINCE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, twenty-seven years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Internal Revenue Service in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, Ms. Felecia B. Prince began her career with the I.R.S. as a Taxpayer Telephone Operator in 1988 and today retires as a Revenue Officer; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents, giving the citizens of our District a friend to help those in need, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to insure that the system works for everyone; and

Whereas, Ms. Felecia B. Prince is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Felecia B. Prince on her retirement from the Internal Revenue Service and to wish her well in her new endeavors; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim July 31, 2015 as Ms. Felecia B. Prince Day in the 4th Congressional District. Proclaimed, this 31st day of July, 2015.

RECOGNIZING RITA SCARDACI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rita Scardaci, who has had a distinguished career working in the public health profession in Northern California. She will be retiring from her position as the Director of Health Services in Sonoma County after a decade of service.

Ms. Scardaci is a lifelong resident of Northern California, where she has given back to the community as a leader and pioneer in health services. She is a Registered Nurse, and has a degree in Public Health and Nursing, certification as a Health Education Specialist, and a Masters of Public Health. She has used her degrees to better the health of the residents of Santa Cruz County, and most recently Sonoma County through her work with the Health Services Department. Ms. Scardaci is an instructor at both University of California Santa Cruz and San Jose State University. She is a founding member of the California State Rural Health Association and sits on the board of the California Endowment and Sonoma-Mendocino-Lake County United Way,

as well as three different health boards in Sonoma County.

Ms. Scardaci's additional community involvement includes: member and past President of the County Health Executives Association of California; Commissioner Sonoma First Five, an organization charged with promoting, supporting and improving the early development of children from the prenatal stage through five years of age; member Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency Consortium Board of Directors; Past President and Board Member at the California Telehealth Telemedicine Center, which works to achieve the fully optimized use of telehealth and other technology enabled health care services.

Mr. Speaker, Rita Scardaci is a beloved and vitally important member of the community and it is appropriate that we acknowledge her today.

TRIBUTE TO WILBERT V. PAYNES

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Mr. Wilbert V. Paynes is celebrating forty-two (42) years of serving others in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. He currently serves as Director of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Deep Draft Navigation Planning Center of Expertise and as Chief for the Planning and Policy Division for the South Atlantic Division of the United States Army Corps of Engineers located in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mr. Paynes retires this year as a Director for the United States Corps of Engineers; wherein under his guidance as a Director, he has provided stellar leadership on an international level and has enhanced the lives of many in the Southeastern United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man is an ambassador of goodwill; he has managed projects, educated colleagues, and directed several major water resource feasibility studies; and

Whereas, Mr. Paynes is a man of compassion, a fearless leader, a servant to all and a visionary who has shared his time and talent to promote the best in Civil Engineering on behalf of the United States Corps of Engineers; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mr. Wilbert V. Paynes as he celebrates forty-two years in service and to salute him as he retires from the United States Corps of Engineers; A true Man of Excellence; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim October 2, 2015 as Mr. Wilbert V. Paynes Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 2nd day of October, 2015.

HONORING BERNARD SWEENEY,
SBA DISTRICT DIRECTOR, ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Bernard Sweeney who recently retired as the United States Small Business Administration's Connecticut District Director. In a career of federal service that spanned more than three decades, Bernie demonstrated a remarkable commitment to public service. Bernie's federal service included serving as Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Special Assistant to the Secretary at HUD, and Staff Assistant to the President of the United States at the White House. However, it was his work at the SBA that left an indelible mark on our state and region.

Bernie began his career with the SBA in the Connecticut District Office in 1987 as Acting Assistant District Director for Business Development. During his tenure with the SBA, he served as a Team Leader for Marketing and Outreach, a Loan Officer, and Business Development Specialist. Prior to being named the Connecticut District Director in 2005, Bernie was the Branch Manager in the Springfield, Massachusetts SBA Branch Office.

As District Director of the SBA's Connecticut District Office, Bernie oversaw the delivery of agency programs for the state of Connecticut, including financial assistance, management counseling, and business development. He was responsible for directing the activities of 10 permanent SBA employees, the administration of a business loan portfolio, oversight of the Connecticut Small Business Development Center (SBDC) network, including its 15 locations around the state, the coordination of 7 chapters of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and 3 Women's Business Centers (WBC) serving all of Connecticut. Bernie worked tirelessly to ensure that the district staff reached out to the underserved communities in Connecticut and that the SBA training programs reached these communities. He also helped to establish the three Hispanic Chambers of Commerce by offering both technical and financial assistance.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks to Bernie for all of the help and guidance he provided to myself and my staff over the last decade. From coordinating informational briefings to immediately responding to storm and fire damage in various communities, Bernie was always just a phone call away. He was always ready to assist in whatever ways the agency could provide. He was a remarkable resource for all of us.

For his many invaluable contributions to our small businesses, to our communities, and our state, I am honored to stand today to pay tribute to Bernard Sweeney. His is a legacy of public service to which we should all strive. I extend my very best wishes to Bernie, his wife, Sandy, and their son, Zack, for many more years of health and happiness as he enjoys his retirement.