

Diocese. He shepherded a "living church" where parishioners practiced their faith through service to others.

Today, due to Father Geoffrey's leadership, St. Anne is one of the largest parishes in my congressional district, with over 5,000 parishioners. In addition, ministry groups have thrived while faithfully and effectively serving Union City and the entire Tri-City area. They have established a variety of programs to assist the homeless and hungry in their community.

Father Geoffrey was also instrumental in establishing S.M.A.R.T., which stands for "St. Anne Medical Action Response Team." He helped assemble a medical team of over 80 volunteers, including doctors, nurses, medical students, and other health professionals to provide first aid and basic care to parishioners during all of the often-crowded weekend services.

Father Geoffrey will begin a new ministry starting on July 1, 2016, when he becomes Pastor of St. Joseph's Church and School in Pinole. I wish to thank Father Geoffrey on his contributions to the 15th Congressional District during his time at St. Anne, and I wish him well in his new assignment.

IN HONOR OF MARILYN BITTERMAN AND HER RETIREMENT FROM COMMUNITY BOARD 7 IN NEW YORK'S 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2016*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Marilyn Bitterman. Marilyn is a beloved member of the Queens community, who plans to retire after 40 years of service to Community Board 7.

Marilyn has been working part-time for the Community Board since 1976 and was promoted to Assistant District Manager in 1984. In 1988, she was appointed to the position of District Manager, and she has worked diligently for the people of Queens ever since. She has been a blessing to the community for over four decades and the Community Board, and surrounding community, will miss her dearly.

Marilyn is an extremely active member of the Queens community in many ways. She has worked on the Borough President's Flushing Meadows Corona Park Coordination Committee and the Queens Traffic Safety Board. She currently sits on the Community Advisory Boards of Flushing Hospital and the New York-Presbyterian Hospital Queens. She is a graduate of the Citizens Police Academy and presently serves as co-president of the Bay Terrace Garden Jewish Center. Marilyn is an incredible and giving individual, who has dedicated her life to the betterment of her community.

At the end of August, Marilyn will be retiring as District Manager from the Community Board. She has worked for much of her life to improve her community, and I would like to personally thank her for her dedication to serving the residents of Queens. I also would like to acknowledge Marilyn's loving husband, Jack, two children, Noel and Tracy, a son-in-

law, Michael, and three grandchildren, Gabriel, Sadie and Cassidy, and thank them for sharing Marilyn with the people of Queens for so many years. While the Community Board may be losing an asset to their team, the whole community is extremely grateful to Marilyn for her many years of selfless service.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in honoring Marilyn Bitterman's service to the Queens community and in wishing her a happy retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF AMBASSADOR RUTH A. DAVIS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2016*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Ruth A. Davis on receiving the prestigious Lifetime Contributions to American Diplomacy award. I want to give thanks to this exceptional public servant for her exemplary service to her country as a United States diplomat. Her contributions to American diplomacy over the length of her impressive career with the Department of State, as well as in retirement, have contributed to making the world a safer and more peaceful place. Her vision has especially ensured that the future of America's diplomacy reflects our country's strength—its diversity.

Ambassador Davis was born in Phoenix, Arizona, but was primarily raised in Atlanta, Georgia during the Jim Crow era. She graduated magna cum laude from Spelman College where she studied abroad in Europe and the Middle East as a Merrill Scholar. She later received her Master's Degree from the University of California at Berkeley. In 1969, she embarked on one of the most challenging and rewarding careers as a U.S. diplomat.

Among her many notable accomplishments, Ambassador Davis was the first African American to become a Career Ambassador, the highest ranking position within the Foreign Service. At the time of her retirement, she was the longest-serving Career Ambassador in the department's history. Her hard work, sacrifice, and dedication to public service allowed her to serve her country all over the globe including in Porto, Benin, Nairobi, Kenya, Tokyo, Japan, Barcelona, Spain, and Naples, Italy. As the Consul General in Barcelona, Spain, she played an important leadership role in the organization of the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, and later utilized her experience to help Atlanta's successful Olympic bid in 1996. As a colleague and a friend, I have always admired her strength, tenacity, and selflessness in choosing to serve on the frontlines of American foreign policy at a time when the participation of African Americans and women was not welcomed at home or abroad. Through her leadership, she emulated the excellence of our society to America's global partners and pioneered a path and secured a place for minorities to represent our nation as diplomats.

Her unique talents and skills continued to bring greater understanding of and interaction between domestic and foreign policy matters. As a Pearson Fellow, she worked as a Special Advisor for International Affairs for the Washington, DC Municipal Government where she

substantially enhanced the city's involvement in the international, economic, cultural, and diplomatic fields. In 2002, she was nominated by Secretary of State Colin Powell and appointed by President George W. Bush as the Director General of the U.S. Foreign Service. As the Director General, Ambassador Davis managed the promotion, discipline, career development, recruitment, and retirement policies and for all of the State Department's Foreign and Civil Service employees. During her time in Washington, she generously imparted her knowledge, expertise, and wisdom as the Distinguished Advisor for International Affairs at Howard University.

I am lucky to count Ambassador Davis as a friend and a fellow advocate of civil rights. She has dedicated her life in the Foreign Service and beyond to fostering the next diverse generation of diplomats. Her work as a mentor and supporter of those from underrepresented backgrounds will ensure that America's diplomatic force mirrors the beautiful mosaic of races, religions, and ethnicities in our country. From her service at Howard University, to the President of the Thursday Luncheon Group, an affinity group at the State Department, to her helping found the International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge, to her endless support for the Charles B. Rangel Fellowship, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Foreign Service is a more inclusive, and thus a more effective institution. I am certain that her efforts in diversifying the American diplomatic corps and mentoring rising diplomats will continue to advance the safety, security, and prosperity of our country for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, for this, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues in Congress join me in applauding this extraordinary public servant, whose service to our country has made the U.S. and the world a better place.

RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS ON OBTAINING CERTIFICATIONS AND RENEWALS FOR THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Prince William County Public School Division and congratulate the following educators on being certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The National Board is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting excellence in education and is governed by classroom teachers, school administrators, school board leaders, governors and state legislators, higher education officials, teacher union leaders, and business and community leaders.

To qualify for certification, each teacher must meet or exceed the demanding standards established by the National Board and must successfully complete a rigorous multi-component assessment that demonstrates that he or she has mastered the knowledge, skills and practices required of an accomplished educator. A National Board Certification denotes