

whom I have selected to receive the American Dream Award for California's 5th Congressional District. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in my district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service. Ms. Deherrera is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Ms. Deherrera was born in Angeles City, Philippines and immigrated to the United States. She is a successful business owner and a compassionate volunteer.

Ms. Deherrera is driven by integrity. Her personal success and contributions to our community are examples of the American Dream at work. As owner of TaxAce Group Inc., a five star accounting firm, she voluntarily assists hospice groups, firefighters, and teachers with their annual tax returns. She also provides free tax classes for small business owners and free educational workshops for families. She volunteers for the national organization, City Impact, which supports urban youth, families and neighborhoods.

With a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Accounting and Computing, Ms. Deherrera has set an exceptional example for her two daughters, Natasha and Andrea. Natasha is a graduate of the University of California at Davis, and Andrea is currently attending San Francisco State University.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Ms. Nataly Deherrera for her achievements and for enriching our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today with the American Dream Award.

#### ON THE RETIREMENT OF DIANE GRIFFITHS

#### HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 6, 2017*

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Diane Griffiths on a long career of service to the State of California, and on her retirement on June 1, 2017.

Diane Griffiths served many years as chief of staff to my friend and former colleague in the California legislature, Robert Hertzberg, including during his two terms as the 64th Speaker of the California Assembly, as well as after his election to the California Senate. As a former Speaker myself, I know how vital a role the Speaker's chief of staff plays in the success of each legislative session and the legislature overall. Diane worked diligently to keep herself informed on the substance of a wide range of issues, while also handling the myriad management tasks involved in the running of an operation as complex as a legislative leadership office.

She has worked in the Legislature in many different roles and handled a broad range of

policy, legal and administrative issues. Senator Hertzberg describes her as "the consummate chief of staff" and praises her for always striving to help others to be as effective as possible.

Previously, Diane served as chief of staff to the University of California Board of Regents. She was also General Counsel to California's Fair Political Practices Commission. A graduate of the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, she clerked for the California and Alaska Supreme Courts after graduation.

Diane will be missed, but I appreciate the decades of service that she gave to the citizens of California and I wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

#### HONORING SONU CHANDI, RECIPIENT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AWARD

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 6, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sonu Chandi, whom I have selected to receive the American Dream Award for California's 5th Congressional District. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in my district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service. Mr. Chandi is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Mr. Chandi was born in India and immigrated to the United States in 2000, at the age of sixteen. He is the successful founder and CEO of Chandi Hospitality Group, which manages fourteen restaurants and the North Bay branch of Mountain Mike's Pizza.

Though Sonu Chandi arrived in the United States with little money and knowledge of English, his powerful work ethic helped him achieve his dream of owning a restaurant. After seeing his father work tirelessly in restaurant kitchens, Sonu and his brothers helped their father open his own restaurant, forming the Chandi Hospitality Group. In 2007, the Chandi Hospitality Group invested in the Mountain Mike's Pizza franchise and became integral to the franchise's development in the North Bay area of California.

Mr. Chandi's business strategy is community centered, and he has used his profits to support local organizations, such as Food for Thought, The Cancer Society, The Living Room, and The Heart Association. The Chandi Hospitality Group has also funded programs for Santa Rosa Junior College, Sonoma State University and several local public schools. Sonu Chandi is an active member of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce. He is

a fine example of a socially conscious businessman, using his impressive success to nourish his local community.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Mr. Sonu Chandi for his achievements and for enriching our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today with the American Dream Award.

#### HONORING NEWTON LUU AND JACKIE TRUONG, RECIPIENTS OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AWARD

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 6, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Newton Luu and Mrs. Jackie Truong, whom I have selected to receive the American Dream Award for California's 5th Congressional District. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in my district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service. Mr. Newton Luu and Mrs. Jackie Truong are very deserving of this award and recognition.

Mr. Luu was born in Vietnam and immigrated to the United States in 1975, following the fall of Saigon in the Vietnam War. Mrs. Truong, also born in Vietnam, arrived in the U.S. shortly after the end of the Vietnam War.

Newton Luu and Jackie Truong met while attending San Francisco State University. Newton is now the president and founder of LeChat Nail Care Products. Jackie is the head of international product education and is the driving force in product development. Together, they have built a company that does business with hundreds of distributors and salons in over 40 countries.

Newton and Jackie received the U.S. Department of Commerce President's "E" Award for their business. Though Newton and Jackie have achieved international business success, Mr. Luu and Mrs. Truong have kept the company headquartered in the Bay Area, with facilities in Hercules and Richmond providing employment opportunities for underserved communities.

Newton and Jackie volunteer for local Vietnamese American groups and fundraise for local elections. Their greatest happiness is being parents to two daughters: Logan, age 13, and Megan, age 12.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Mr. Newton Luu and Mrs. Jackie Truong for their achievements and for enriching our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor them here today with the American Dream Award.