

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING COMMUNITY BRIDGES OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 40th anniversary of Community Bridges of Santa Cruz County, which has acted as a catalyst for a brighter future by opening doors, offering hope, and providing a hand up to the people of Santa Cruz County, California, since 1977.

Community Bridges' family of ten vital programs meets the needs of more than 22,000 children, families and seniors each year. Its programs empower seniors to live with independence and dignity, increase access to medical care and good nutrition, and provide education and family support.

Throughout the years, Community Bridges has helped launch more than ten nonprofit programs, saved five from closing their doors, and provided leadership to countless community initiatives. Every day, they work collaboratively to build on the safety net in our community and discover solutions to emerging issues across a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Community Bridges effectively engages a broad base of support to carry on their important mission that touches every part of our community for the benefit of all who live and work here.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Community Bridges for 40 years of strengthening our diverse community by providing innovative human services.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JUSTICE KATHRYN WERDEGAR

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of California Supreme Court Justice Kathryn Werdegard on her retirement after 23 years of exceptional stewardship on the court and 55 years of public service.

A resident of Marin County, Justice Werdegard received her Bachelor's degree with honors from the University of California, Berkeley, whereupon she began her subsequent legal studies and became the first woman to be elected editor-in-chief of the California Law Review. She completed her law degree at the George Washington University School of Law, where she graduated as the valedictorian of her class.

Upon graduating from law school, Justice Werdegard went to work as an attorney for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in 1962. She showed clear determination and initiative, working directly with Attorney General Robert Kennedy and writing the

amicus brief that pressed for the release from jail of Martin Luther King, Jr.

After moving back to California in 1963, Justice Werdegard took on a number of academic and legal challenges before going to work as a research attorney for the State Court of Appeal in 1981. Showing a voracious work ethic and attention to detail, she went on to become a senior staff attorney for the California Supreme Court only four years later.

Justice Werdegard's career as a judge began in 1991, when Governor Wilson appointed her to the State Court of Appeal, only ten years after becoming a staff member for that body. Shortly thereafter, in 1994, Justice Werdegard was appointed by the Governor to the California Supreme Court where she has been ever since.

During her tenure on the California Supreme Court, Justice Werdegard strove to understand the real world impacts of each case brought before her. In doing so, she went beyond politics and ideology to prioritize the rights of people in both her majority and dissenting opinions. Some notable examples of this include her majority opinion that greatly softened California's three strikes law, her 2008 ruling that bans on same-sex marriages are unconstitutional, and her single dissenting opinion that gun manufacturers have a responsibility for the weapons they sell to the public. Because of her clear dedication to the law and rigorous approach to each case, Justice Werdegard is well regarded by her colleagues on and off of the bench.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing deep appreciation for Justice Werdegard's extraordinary service to the legal profession and the public at large by extending to her best wishes on her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA RIVERA CHAVIS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2017

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Martha Rivera Chavis, and the many contributions she made as a dedicated resident of Montclair, New Jersey, and to countries abroad.

Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, Mrs. Chavis was an astounding woman who loved caring and providing service to people. She completed her studies at San Pedro Apostol Catholic School in the Dominican Republic and received her degree in French Civilization from Sorbonne University in Paris, France in 1987. Following her graduation she served as a French to Portuguese translator for the Republic of Angola's Ambassador to the United Nations. It was during this time she met the love of her life, Rev. Dr. Benjamin Franklin Chavis. The couple married in September, 1988.

Mrs. Chavis was a beloved mother and fierce advocate for freedom, justice, and equality in the United States, Africa, and the Dominican Republic. She was an astounding First Lady of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and First Lady of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Her service, however, far expanded from her First Lady roles. After her husband, Rev. Dr. Chavis, visited Angola, the couple cared for nine Angolans including six children with missing limbs as a result of the civil war in Angola, in their home in Montclair, New Jersey. Due to the Chavises' unwavering care, when the nine Angolans returned to Africa, they were able to go back with prosthetics.

Mr. Speaker, I know my fellow members of the U.S. House of Representatives agree that Mrs. Chavis deserves to be recognized for a job well done, and for many years of service to her local and international communities.

ONGOING EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS THE VOTE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring awareness to the Trump Administration's nefarious voter suppression campaign. On June 28, a letter from the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity asked states to hand over personal information of voters ranging from Social Security numbers to party affiliation.

As I have stated before, these so called "election integrity" efforts are a sham, and a "solution" that is in search of a problem. The Administration's ridiculously inaccurate claim that the President lost the popular vote due to millions of undocumented immigrants illegally voting is just another false and misleading statement. There are no facts that back up the Trump Administration's claims. Unfortunately, these false claims are now being used as a justification to illegally collect voter information and suppress Americans' sacred right to vote.

Fortunately, these voter suppression efforts by the Trump Administration have received bipartisan opposition. When asked if he would release his constituents' private information, the Secretary of State from Mississippi, Mr. Delbert Hosemann, said that "they can go jump in the Gulf of Mexico, and Mississippi is a great state to launch from". The Secretary of State from my home state of Alabama, Mr. John Merrill, has also refused to turn over private information. The opposition to this commission is so strong that 44 states have refused to turn over this private information.

If the Trump Administration were truly concerned about the integrity of our elections, he would join Congress in condemning Russia for interfering in our election and work with our intelligence community to prevent future election-related cyber threats.

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