

sections of the country for the next century with the enactment of “Jim Crow” laws which made racial segregation and discrimination legal (“Separate but equal” as the US Supreme Court ruled in *Plessy v. Ferguson* [1896]). However, the path toward racial reconciliation continued. The Armed Forces were racially integrated by President Harry Truman during the Korean War and *Plessy v. Ferguson* was overturned by the US Supreme Court in 1954 with the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision which ruled that “Separate but equal is not equal at all” to cite several examples of the country moving toward complete reconciliation. The struggle to legally abolish racial discrimination and insure civil rights for all Americans of whatever racial background, in which struggle both black and white Americans participated, came to a head in the civil rights protests and demonstrations of the 1960s. This resulted in the landmark Civil Rights Legislation of the era which ended racial segregation and outlawed discrimination on the basis of race.

In our lifetime we have had an African American president, African American cabinet officers, including two secretaries of state, two African American Justices on the Supreme Court, several African American four-star generals including one Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, many Members of Congress in both the Senate and House, along with African American leaders in business, industry, science, medicine, academia, and the arts.

Tragically today there exist small radical minorities among both white and black Americans who seek to undermine over a century and a half of progress toward the reconciliation between regions of America and the races of Americans, creating harmful division and discord between our people and threatening to destroy our country. This has got to stop. We are ALL Americans and as Abraham Lincoln said in 1858 “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed Roll Call vote number 480 regarding Motion to Concur (H.R. 601). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes; I missed Roll Call vote number 481 regarding On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 55 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted No; I missed Roll Call vote number 482 On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 56 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted No; I missed Roll Call vote number 483 regarding On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 57 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes; and I missed Roll Call vote number 484 On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 63 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted No.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MICHAEL DURANT

### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of Senior Deputy Sheriff Michael Durant of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and to thank him for his unwavering commitment to making California—and the United States—a safer place.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all of our nation's law enforcement officers, but Californians are especially thankful for the impact that Mike has made in his community and state. Over the course of his law enforcement career, which now spans more than three decades, Mike has held a number of important roles. He has been assigned to patrols and field trainings, conducted numerous investigations, and done extensive work with the canine unit.

At each step as Mike rose through the ranks, he gained experience and expertise that prepared him well for the position he currently holds with the Peace Officers Research Association of California, more commonly known as PORAC. PORAC's mission is to identify the public safety needs in communities and help to provide the services necessary to adequately meet those changing needs. After serving for seven years as the group's Vice President, in 2013 Mike was unanimously elected President and has since led the association with distinction.

As leader of the largest law enforcement organization in California and the largest such statewide association in the nation with over 70,000 active members, Mike has strengthened the association and enhanced PORAC's voice at the state and national levels. I have seen firsthand Mike's passion for enacting public policy aligned with PORAC's honorable mission, at both the state and federal levels.

When PORAC meets with Members of Congress this week, it will be the last time it does so under the leadership of President Durant. With Mike's productive tenure as PORAC President coming to an end, I want to thank him for his service to California, congratulate him on a job well done, and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to Mike's wife, Roxanne, and his three children—because as a son of a police officer and brother of two members of law enforcement myself, I recognize the sacrifices such families make while their loved ones serve in the line of duty.

#### HONORING DELPHINE METCALF- FOSTER

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Delphine Metcalf-Foster, who is the National Commander of Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Along with her position with DAV, Ms. Metcalf-Foster serves on the First Data Mili-

tary Advisory Council, is a member of the DAV Department of California Claims and Service Committee, and has served as Chairman of the DAV Department of California Resolution Committee. In November 2015, she completed a four-year appointment as a member of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster has served in multiple tours and units. In 1991, she was injured while serving in Saudi Arabia as a part of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield. She has also served with the U.S. Army Reserve, 689th Quartermaster Unit, 6253rd Hospital Unit and 6211th Transportation Unit at the Letterman Army Medical Center. In 1996, Ms. Metcalf-Foster retired from the Army Reserves with the rank of first sergeant.

She is a graduate of Solano Community College and Sonoma State University, where she majored in psychology and liberal studies, respectively.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and honoring Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster.

#### REMEMBERING JOSE RAMOS

### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember my dear friend, and fierce advocate for his fellow veterans, Jose Ramos. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and my thoughts are with his wife, Sylvia, and his family at this very difficult time. Jose was a member of my Veterans Advisory Committee and a well-respected resource for veterans throughout our community. He will always be remembered for his tireless work to gain national recognition for Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

Jose Ramos was born in 1948 to Augustine and Herminia Ramos. He attended Garfield High School but chose to enlist in the Army when he was in 10th grade. He worked as an Army Combat Medic, and in 1968 he received the Purple Heart. After returning home, Jose worked at the Los Angeles County USC Medical Center and at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital. He retired in 1999.

Like his fellow Vietnam veterans, Jose Ramos returned home from an unpopular war only to face hostility and resentment. And like his fellow soldiers, Jose quietly went back to his normal life, built a family and stayed in touch with his veteran friends. He became a powerful advocate for veterans in our community and across the country. It was his personal experiences, and those of his fellow GIs, that motivated him to work toward establishing a national day of recognition. He inspired many, including me, to help give Vietnam veterans their long overdue welcome home.

His legacy lives on as several states all across the nation have already adopted Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. It is long past time for our country to officially recognize and commemorate their service. I will continue to introduce and advocate for legislation to establish a national 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day' on behalf of Jose Ramos and all of our veterans who fought bravely in the Vietnam War.

HONORING USPTO NATIONAL SUMMER TEACHER'S INSTITUTE ON INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PARTICIPANT  
BECKY McDOWELL

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Becky McDowell for being selected to participate in the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) 4th Annual National Summer Teacher's Institute on Innovation and Intellectual Property (NSTI).

The NSTI is a week-long program designed to provide teachers with a comprehensive understanding of intellectual property, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The USPTO reviewed over 500 applicants for the program and accepted only 44 participants, highlighting Ms. McDowell's unique qualifications.

Representing the schools of Roslyn Road, Barbara Rose, North Barrington, and Sunny Hill Schools in Wauconda, Illinois, Ms. McDowell worked with a group of fellow teachers to come up with their own invention. Ms. McDowell's group invented an animal care app where owners could update key information about their pets for use by kennels and animal caregivers to ensure the safety and well-being of pets.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing Ms. Becky McDowell for her outstanding service, and congratulate her on being selected to participate in the United States Patent and Trademark Office's 4th Annual National Summer Teacher's Institute on Innovation and Intellectual Property.

IN HONOR OF JIM McCANN

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, and long-serving member of the Westerville Community, Jim McCann who celebrated his 80th birthday on August 18, 2017.

Jim McCann has dedicated his life to service; to his nation as a soldier in the United States Army, to his students as an educator, and to his neighbors as an indefatigable community leader.

After years of teaching at Columbus South East High School in subjects such as journalism and psychology, he was selected in 1975 to become the Assistant Principal at the newly created Westerville North High School. For almost thirty years, he invested himself into fostering academic rigor and community pride in the students, faculty and staff of Westerville North. He served fourteen years as Assistant Principal before taking on a subsequent fourteen years as Principal. During Jim's tenure, he created the Warrior Way—a hallmark of the high school and a philosophy he developed in collaboration with students

and faculty. Upon graduation, students receive a card printed with the Warrior Way as a constant reminder to respect themselves, fellow students, their school, their family, and their community. Jim's Warrior Way can be seen displayed proudly throughout the school, both in writing and in the actions and achievements of students.

In recognition of his tremendous impact, his friends and neighbors renamed Westerville North Stadium in his honor. As a testament to Jim's continued service to his community, the Jim McCann Award for Excellence in Journalism is given to a handful of seniors across the school district who exemplify his selfless style of leadership and passion for reporting.

Time and again, Jim's friends and colleagues have leaned on his wisdom and vision. He has brought these traits to the benefit of the many civic organizations with which he's involved, including the Westerville Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, the American Legion Young Budd Post 171, the Westerville Kiwanis, the Westerville Symphony advisory board, and the Westerville Parks Foundation. In addition to all of this, Jim serves as the chairman of my service academy selection board, helping advance dozens of students into the ranks of our military officer corps.

I am honored to recognize my dear friend, and fellow Buckeye, for his lasting friendship and innumerable contributions to the city of Westerville and Central Ohio. It is with great pride that I join the residents of Ohio's 12th Congressional District to wish Jim a very happy 80th birthday.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2017*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my Amendment No.19 to H.R. 3354, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018, included in Division A En Bloc 1. My amendment would increase the funding for the Smithsonian Institute Salaries and Expenses by \$2 million with the intended purpose of providing increased resources for the recently launched Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative.

I strongly support the Initiative and its goal to more completely include the contributions of women throughout Smithsonian institutions by directing resources toward cataloging collections inventory, expanding exhibits, and developing educational programs on American women's history.

I strongly believe that ultimately we need a new Smithsonian museum dedicated to Amer-

ican women's history. Last year a bipartisan Congressional Commission made a strong, unanimous recommendation that our country needs such a museum and that it belongs in the Smithsonian system and should be prominently located on the National Mall. I have introduced legislation that incorporates those recommendations, and I'm grateful for the support of 247 bipartisan members of the House who have cosponsored my bill. I hope there will be broad support for this amendment as well. This Initiative represents the first important step toward establishing a physical Smithsonian Museum on American Women's History and aims to make important improvements in existing museum exhibitions to more accurately and completely tell the story of our nation's history.

I strongly urge the passage of this amendment and the en bloc.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF EVELYN SOMMERS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Evelyn Sommers, who passed away on August 25, 2017.

During her tenure as Executive Director of the District of Columbia Nurses Association from 1980 to 2002, Evelyn Sommers touched many lives. After obtaining a journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin, Ms. Sommers went on to obtain a Master of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University. During that time, Ms. Sommers recognized her passion for helping others, which led her to the District of Columbia Nurses Association.

After Ms. Sommers retired from the District of Columbia Nurses Association, she went on to volunteer for the YWCA National Capitol Area in a number of leadership capacities, including president, vice president, and as a member of the board of directors. Aside from her time spent as a volunteer with the YWCA, Ms. Sommers and her husband volunteered their time and talents to other organizations, such as the Mid-County United Food Bank, the Homeless Project Advisory Board and the Voluntary Action Center. Additionally, Ms. Sommers and her husband assisted with the construction of St. Bernard Secondary School in the village of South Kinangop, Kenya, after they had toured the country and fell in love with its culture. The school continues to graduate many students and have a significant positive impact on the village and its surrounding communities.

Ms. Sommers leaves behind her husband of 50 years, John Sommers; her brothers, Jack Dugan, Fred Sommers, Martin Sommers and James Sommers; and countless nieces and nephews, as well as their spouses.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Evelyn Sommers and remembering her selfless dedication to others.