

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.