

THE LEGACY OF CONGRESSMAN  
JOHN CONYERS, JR.—DEAN OF  
THE HOUSE

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I notified Speaker RYAN, Leader PELOSI and Governor Snyder of my retirement from the United States House of Representatives.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve the citizens of Detroit, Michigan as their United States Congressman in the 13th and 14th Congressional District for more than 50 years.

I came to Congress in 1965. Since then, I have devoted my entire career to improving the lives of my constituents in Detroit and fighting for justice everywhere. These years witnessed a profound evolution in civil rights, led by millions in the streets who marched for justice, and people of conscience in the Congress—both Democrats and Republicans—who heard them and enacted the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act and other landmark reforms.

I have been at the forefront of the civil rights movement, I have been a champion of justice for the oppressed and the disenfranchised. I have never wavered in my commitment to justice and democracy. I am proud to have been part of that rich history.

I have been privileged to be a founder of the Congressional Black Caucus and to represent the United States Congress as Dean. I spearheaded and passed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Act, the Violence Against Women Act, the Hate Crimes Act, the USA Freedom Act, and the extensions of the Voting Rights Act into law. I have led the fight against mandatory minimum sentences, hoping to reverse the devastating incarceration rates for African Americans and poor people, I have tried to pass a universal healthcare law (H.R. 676) every Congress since 1989. I have introduced H.R. 40 to study reparations for slavery, and I deeply appreciate those handful of courageous colleagues who have joined me.

For Detroiters, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish by bringing hundreds of millions of dollars in critical grants and federal funding to Southeast Michigan to revitalize our great city, attract rich talent, and return us to prosperity.

I vehemently deny any and all allegations of harassment or dishonor, but I recognize that in this present environment, due process will not be afforded to me. I was taught by a great woman, my mother, to honor women. The first employee I ever hired was Mrs. Rosa Parks, who worked in my office for 22 years. It has been a great honor to work alongside some of the most talented and honorable staff on Capitol Hill and in Detroit, both women and men.

Given the totality of the circumstance of not being afforded the right to due process, in conjunction with my current health condition, and to preserve my legacy and good name, I am retiring.

I hope that my retirement will be viewed in the larger perspective of my record of service, and as I enter a new chapter, I pledge to continue my commitment to a progressive vision and a better future for this country that I love. I owe that to the legacy of my father, John

Conyers, Sr., who integrated labor unions in this country; to my brother Nathan, who integrated business and is my “main man” and to my loving wife Monica, my sons John III, whom I believe offers hope to this generation of leadership, and who is committed to being an advocate of fairness and justice for all, and Carl Edward who never leaves my side.

I cannot allow the great work of this body or the important work or the goals of the Democratic Party to be distracted. It has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life to represent the people of Michigan in the House of Representatives, but that responsibility will now fall to my colleagues and my successor. They have my deepest support and prayers. Jobs, Justice, Peace.

PROCLAMATION FOR MS. ETHEL  
CRAIG

**HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation for Ms. Ethel Craig:

Whereas, A virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Educational System on September 17, 1973; and

Whereas, Ms. Ethel Craig began her educational career in teaching with the Atlanta Public School System as a Math Teacher, she also taught as a teacher for the intellectually gifted students and currently she serves as a School Psychologist. She has provided guidance to school personnel, parents and students in regards to counseling, assessments, instructional support, interventions and prevention services; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Teacher, Mother, Grandmother, Educator and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader, a devoted scholar and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of our youth; and

Whereas, Ms. Craig is formally retiring from her educational career today after forty-three and a half years of service, she will continue to promote education because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Ethel Craig on her retirement from the Atlanta Public Schools System and to wish her well in her new endeavors; now therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 30, 2017 as Ms. Ethel Craig Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 22nd day of May, 2017.

RECOGNIZING MS. JACKIE  
ZARATE-ROBERTS

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jackie Zarate-Roberts on the occa-

sion of her retirement from a lifetime of civic service to the Latino community of the City of Los Angeles.

Ms. Zarate-Roberts began her journey in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California, where she graduated with a Master's Degree in Public Administration in 1984. Her career in the City of Los Angeles started as a Junior Administrative Assistant in the Personnel Department's Examining Division. This was just the beginning, as she quickly rose through the ranks, eventually ending in the Selection Division. At one point, she was the Assistant Director of the Fire Commission's Equal Employment Opportunity Office, serving as a Sexual Harassment Counselor for employees of the LA Fire Department.

Concurrently, Ms. Zarate-Roberts actively engaged in efforts to assist the Latino community through her membership in the Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA), where her track record here is just as impressive. In her first year, she was quickly appointed to the Executive Board as Recording Secretary and over the years she has served as Executive Secretary, Treasurer, 1st and 2nd Vice President, and President several times—the first Latina to ever hold this position, I may add.

Her passion is portrayed through her active participation in voter registration drives, redistricting committees in support of Latino issues, scholarship fundraisers, among others. As a former 911 dispatcher, I saw firsthand the power of her commitment to the LACECA. She was instrumental in the return of bi-lingual pay to the City's 911 Operators along with improving training, working conditions, and increasing the number of bi-lingual operator positions serving the city. Much of this was accomplished by serving on Mayor Bradley's and Reardon's “Presidents Roundtable on Affirmative Action”, where she met monthly to advocate for the underrepresentation of minorities and women in the work force.

For all of the aforementioned Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize a true community icon on the House floor today: Ms. Jackie Zarate-Roberts. Her unmatched commitment to the City of Los Angeles since 1984 and the innumerable contributions she has made to the greater Latino community will reverberate for generations to come and our community is better because of it.

RECOGNIZING BYRD LOCHTIE AS  
2017 NONPROFIT LEADER

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Byrd Lochtie of Humboldt County, who is honored by the Northern California Association of Nonprofits with the 2017 Nonprofit Leader Achievement Award, a recognition she richly deserves.

Byrd Lochtie has served as a nonprofit consultant, trainer, coach and mentor in Humboldt County since 1984. Shortly after earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from Cornell University in 1960, Byrd became involved with the Sierra Cascade Girl Scout Council where she served as a volunteer, volunteer leader, and trainer of leaders. She continues to volunteer with the Girl Scout Council