

Mr. Tate's record of service to our community is exceptional. He has served in numerous civic and industry positions including on the Farm Service Agency Community Committee, Madison County Farmers Federation Board of Directors, Alabama Farmers Federation Cotton Committee, U.S. Department of Agriculture Cotton Board, Alabama Cotton Commission, and Madison County YMCA Board of Directors, just to name a few. As a member of Flint River Baptist Church, Mr. Tate has served as a Sunday School Teacher, Deacon, Trustee, and Deacon Emeritus, among others. Mr. Tate has set a fine example for others in our community to follow.

In closing, I would like to thank Mr. Tate for his contributions to our community, and wish him a very happy 90th birthday.

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\*IN RECOGNITION OF TOM MCCOY,  
PH.D.

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom McCoy, Ph.D., Vice President of Research and Innovation, as he retires from his position at the University of North Texas.

Dr. McCoy joined UNT from his role as Vice President for Research, Creativity and Technology Transfer at Montana State University in July 2013 where he had previously helped MSU reach Carnegie Tier One research status. In assuming the role at UNT, Dr. McCoy was charged with similar expansion of the university's growth, breadth and impact in research toward the Tier One status here in Texas. Ultimately, UNT was announced as reaching the classification in February 2016.

Additionally, Dr. McCoy ably led UNT's path forward with the development of the 2017–2022 Strategic Plan for Research which was approved by the President and submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This was accomplished, along with continued efforts on organization and funding related to the four Institutes of Research Excellence; pursuit of partnerships involving the Army Research Lab and also Denton Municipal Electric; recruitment of targeted research faculty; review of grant management processes; and review and allocation of research facilities and related processes.

I have personally appreciated Dr. McCoy's direct involvement and assistance with the Annual Energy Efficiency Summit held each July at UNT's Discovery Park and the educational opportunity it affords the Constituents of the 26th Congressional District and the showcase it provides of UNT's facilities and research efforts. I wish both he and his wife Shari much happiness in their retirement plans. I have been honored to represent them during their time as residents in Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT J.  
WASTE

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Robert J. Waste on the occasion of his retirement as Director of UC Davis Health's Government and Community Relations Program. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Waste for his leadership and commitment to UC Davis Health, as well as for his dedication to the strength of the greater Sacramento region.

Since joining UC Davis Health (UCDH) eight years ago, Mr. Waste has been instrumental in building the Government and Community Relations Program into what it is today. His leadership has led to such revolutionary projects as the creation of the UCDH Infant Cord Blood Banking Program, the Burn Outcome Research Institute, and the UCDH Center for Behavioral Health Excellence—the multi-year Mental Health Collaborative that resulted in strengthening Sacramento County crisis mental health services.

In addition to his work in UC Davis Health's Government and Community Relations Program, Mr. Waste has also been an active member of the Sacramento community. Mr. Waste's experience includes service as chair and member of the City of Sacramento Planning Commission, membership on the Sacramento Heritage Board, and chair of the City of Sacramento Campaign Reform Commission.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Waste, outgoing Director of UC Davis Health's Government and Community Relations Program, as his friends and colleagues celebrate his well-earned retirement. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring his tenacity and dedication on behalf of the Government and Community Relations Program, as well as his dedication to the Sacramento region.

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RECOGNIZING THOMAS HOWARD

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Thomas Howard for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The son of Bob and Susan, Thomas is a sophomore at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, VA. Thomas has been an active member of Cub Scout Pack 194 and Boy Scout Troop 648. He is an active leader on the local and national level, most notably serving as Patrol Leader at the National Jamboree. He currently serves as Junior Assistant Scout Master for his Troop.

For Thomas' Eagle Service Project, he led a team of scouts, friends, and adults to create thirty-seven, 2x3' environmental awareness poster puzzles for the Fairfax County Park Authority and invested over two-hundred and thirty-four service hours. With his dedication and leadership, every Park Authority building in the

county now has access to these learning tools.

In addition to scouting, Thomas is an altar server at St. Thomas More Cathedral, a National SeaPerch competitor, and Mission Manager for Bishop O'Connell's ThinSat satellite program.

I am honored to recognize Thomas for his achievement and wish him all the best in his continuing education.

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RECOGNIZING WORLD HEARING  
DAY 2018

**HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Hearing Healthcare Caucus, I rise today to recognize World Hearing Day, which is held on March 3rd of each year to provide awareness focused on the importance of hearing preservation, hearing loss identification, and treatment. This day, founded by the World Health Organization, moves the needle as it relates to hearing healthcare in the United States.

Hearing plays a critical role in one's quality of life and personal safety. We rely on hearing to feel connected to the world around us. Over 37 million adults in America suffer from hearing loss, and we're seeing a growing number of children as well. Hearing loss has been tied to depression, economic hardship, and underlying medical conditions. Hearing aids are a proven method of rehabilitation for the majority of those who have lost their ability to hear. Yet just 30 percent of those who could be helped by hearing aids use them.

That's why I joined my colleague from California, Mr. THOMPSON, in introducing H. Res. 740, which expresses support for the designation of March 3rd as World Hearing Day, and recognizes the importance of hearing loss prevention and hearing healthcare access. I encourage my colleagues in the House to co-sponsor this resolution, and encourage all Americans to take appropriate steps to protect their hearing.

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RECOGNIZING CHARMAINE KELLY

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the accomplishments and the public service record of Palm Beach County's Chief Deputy Supervisor of Elections, Charmaine Kelly.

Ms. Kelly began her career with the Supervisor of Elections office as an election day worker, her earnings donated to a local charity in which she was active.

Noticing the talent and excitement of this young volunteer, the Supervisor of Elections office recruited her to work part-time, and then full-time, as an elections specialist. That was 35 years ago.

Ms. Kelly oversaw voting and voter registration in Palm Beach County, the third largest county in Florida and the 28th most populous

in the nation. As the Chief Deputy Supervisor of Elections, she is the highest ranking non-elected public servant in the office. She has served under four elected Supervisors through nine Presidential elections, 17 congressional and state elections and countless municipal and local district elections.

Ms. Kelly has mentored a generation of young people in the importance of protecting the process of voter registration and voter participation. If any Supervisor or Supervisor of Elections employee has a question from around the state, Ms. Kelly is on their speed dial and will always help find the answer or solution.

Today I ask this body to recognize Ms. Kelly as she begins her well-deserved retirement.

Ms. Kelly represents the best of public servants and I, along with the citizens of Palm Beach County and the State of Florida, thank her for her service protecting our right to vote and assuring that our vote counts.

**THURSTON SMITH RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE-COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM THE VVC FOUNDATION**

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thurston "Smitty" Smith, who was awarded the Distinguished Service-Community Service Award from the Victor Valley College Foundation on February 24, 2018.

Smitty was selected for this award because of his distinguished career as a public servant. As a former member of the Hesperia City Council, Smitty devoted countless hours of his time and expertise to economic and urban development of the city. He was instrumental in the completion of the Hesperia Civic Plaza Park, Rancho Underpass, and Rancho Bridge project. In addition to his work in Hesperia, Smitty serves on the Mojave Water Agency's Board of Directors, chairs the Victor Valley Bicycle Tour, and is active with several non-profit organizations.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate Thurston "Smitty" Smith for receiving the Distinguished Service-Community Service Award from the Victor Valley College Foundation. It is a well-deserved and long-overdue honor.

**RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MS. KATE HITCHCOCK TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND CALIFORNIA'S 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN THE SPRING OF 2018**

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional young woman who is spending the spring semester interning in my Washington, D.C. office. Ms. Kate Hitchcock came to our office as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme

(UCWIP), and has been a valuable contributor to our efforts on behalf of California's Eleventh Congressional District.

Since 2000, UCWIP has worked with congressional offices to foster strong ties and understanding between the United States and Australian governments by bringing the best and the brightest from top Australian universities to intern on Capitol Hill. I am proud to be involved in this wonderful program for the third year in a row.

Kate Hitchcock, a student from the University of Canberra, has quickly proved herself to be a highly valuable member of our team. She has drafted legislative requests, attended briefings, written constituent mail, and researched important issues, among many other duties. She consistently displays a deep desire to learn and treats everyone she encounters with respect. Her hard work and dedication is an asset to our office and the Eleventh Congressional District.

Kate has learned about the United States and the U.S. Congress, and our team has learned a great deal from Kate about her native country. She is a pleasure to have in the office and I offer her my thanks for a job well done. I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2018**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill similar to one I have introduced in five previous Congresses, the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2018. This bill is particularly important today because recent reports indicate that Americans are limiting the number of children they have due to the cost of child care. My bill begins the process of providing universal prekindergarten education in public and public charter schools in states that have or plan to phase in or are phasing in prekindergarten education for three- and four-year-old children. The District of Columbia has made considerable strides since I first introduced this bill, but today's bill is still needed to fill a hole in the "Every Student Succeeds Act," which addresses elementary and secondary education, but ignores the prekindergarten years, the most critical years for children's brain development. My bill also seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing the initial funding for states to encourage local school districts to add prekindergarten for children at three or four years of age, whereas kindergarten programs for five year olds are now routinely available in public schools. This bill would eliminate some of the major shortcomings of unevenly available "day care" and, importantly, would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools. Unless early education becomes a necessary part of a child's education, it almost surely will continue to be unavailable to the majority of families with children.

My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent

with the state's own funds, to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds, regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique money-saving aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all, saving billions of dollars in its implementation.

The success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandate the expansion of early childhood education to all children today. Early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by my bill. My bill provides a practical way to universal, public preschool education for the majority of families. The goal of the bill is to afford the benefits of early childhood education to the majority of the American working poor, lower-middle-class and middle-class families, most of whom have been left out of this essential education for their children.

We cannot afford to continue to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass, only to wonder why a child cannot read. The bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as to today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

My bill reflects what jurisdictions throughout the nation increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve D.C. public schools. A recent report highlighted the economic benefits of early childhood education, emphasizing its role in expanding job opportunities and decreasing the amount of money spent on programs to address teen pregnancy, crime and the like.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

**FRED HUNTER RECEIVE PRESIDENT'S AWARD FROM THE VVC FOUNDATION**

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fred Hunter, who received the President's Award from the Victor Valley College Foundation on February 24, 2018.