

Hudson in June 2005, he was hired as the Technical Assistant for Department of Admissions and Recruitment for the Valley. In 2006, while working full-time and attending graduate criminal justice program at Valley, he survived a heart attack and had to drop out of school and stop working for a while. February of 2008, he became a Career Specialist with Arbor Education and Training. Robert taught a job readiness program called C.E.O. to young adults under the age of 20. In 2010, he joined Thompson-Clemons Post 200 of the American Legion in Greenwood, Mississippi. He was appointed as Public Relations and has served in that capacity since joining the organization. He is responsible for reflecting the Post to the public through media. My office and Mr. Beasley conduct a Veterans Town Hall meeting annually. The Directors of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Regional Office are invited to attend this meeting, which allow Veterans to speak directly with those in charge of servicing that population.

Presently, he is a candidate for a Masters of Social Work from Mississippi Valley State University. He is married to Dorothy F. Smith-Beasley. Robert has three grown children and a step-daughter. He is a Veterans Resource Coordinator for AmeriCorps, Mississippi Veterans Support Network. Robert is passionate about outstanding customer service for those who served this great country honorably. He assists Veterans with filing compensation claims and gathering evidence to support their claims. Mississippi Veterans Support Network Program works in collaboration with AmeriCorps, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Rehabilitation. Our mission is to connect veterans and/or family members of active duty military members to existing resources, dealing with military benefits, connections with the Veterans Administration on line registration, financial training, suicide prevention, and PTSD available treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Robert Beasley, a Veteran, Educator, Leader and Public Servant, for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA M. LOGUE,
AN EXTRAORDINARY CIVIL
RIGHTS LEADER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Judge Patricia M. Logue for her extraordinary leadership in establishing the civil rights of LGBTQ Americans and for her service to the state of Illinois.

In 1993, Pat brought the fight for LGBTQ civil rights to the heartland when she opened the Midwest Regional Office of Lambda Legal in Chicago. Over the next fourteen years, Pat built the office into a formidable force. Working with cooperating attorneys from law firms across the Midwest, Pat won groundbreaking legal victories that helped redefine equality and freedom for students, parents, and families throughout the Midwest.

Pat's deep understanding of constitutional law, ability to select and advance compelling

cases, and brilliant strategic thinking made her a leading voice of the LGBTQ civil rights movement. She has been a hero to many in the Chicagoland area and across the country, including to me. I am one of many who have relied on Pat to inform us and to inspire us.

In 1995, Pat helped win the right for gay men and lesbians to adopt children in Illinois. Four years later, Pat acted swiftly to preserve that right against a rogue circuit court whose extraordinary actions put adoptions for three small children at risk. In two separate cases involving lesbian couples, the judge disregarded social workers and court-appointed guardians who testified that the children were thriving in these couples' care and "highly recommended" the adoptions. Instead of crediting these experts, the judge appointed the Family Research Council—an organization that opposes all gay and lesbian adoptions—to represent the children's best interests. Pat immediately appealed these rulings and, minutes after hearing her argument, a unanimous three-judge panel moved to affirm the adoptions for both families. Reading from the bench, Judge Morton Zwick rebuked the lower court's rulings as "an inexcusable injustice" and a discredit to the "people of Illinois."

Pat played a similarly critical role in securing protections for students. For four years, Jamie Nabozny endured extraordinary cruelty and abuse at his Wisconsin high school. Students urinated on him, pretended to rape him, and at one point beat him so badly that he required surgery. Jamie asked for help, but school officials told him that this was what he could expect for being gay. When Jamie sued, the school argued that it was not legally obligated to protect gay students from harassment. Pat took Jamie's case on appeal and won the nation's first ruling that schools cannot turn a blind eye to anti-gay abuse in the landmark 1996 case *Nabozny v. Podlesny*. By protecting students from anti-gay harassment and abuse, Pat opened the door for the gay-straight alliances that now flourish in high schools and colleges across the nation.

Pat was one of the lead lawyers in *Lawrence v. Texas*. At the heart of the majority decision in *Lawrence* is the understanding that the Constitution's fundamental protections of liberty, equality, and freedom are guaranteed to all Americans. Affirmation of the equal dignity and respect of LGBTQ Americans set the stage for the Supreme Court's 2015 decision to recognize marriage equality in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

When Pat opened Lambda's Midwest office twenty-five years ago, law and public policy reflected stereotypes and prejudice against the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Children were removed from gay and lesbian parents; LGBTQ workers were denied employment or fired from their jobs; and elected officials cited state sodomy laws to deny equal protection under the law. To win cases for clients and lasting change for the nation, Pat helped change that landscape by opening minds and hearts to the realities of LGBTQ lives. She did this time and again, changing public attitudes and legal policies and proving that we are stronger as a nation when we recognize equality and freedom for all.

In 2007, and after leading Lambda Legal's Midwest office for fourteen years, Pat was named as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Pat brought the same clear-eyed sense of justice and fairness to the

bench, where she has served in the Domestic Relations Division.

Pat has enriched the lives of thousands of individuals, couples and families—those she represented directly and the many others who have benefitted from the landmark systemic changes brought about by her work—creating a lasting legacy of opportunity and hope for generations to come.

Pat's life and work are a call to action, a reminder that each of us has the power to effect significant change. For her leadership and courage, her intellect and compassion, we owe Patricia M. Logue a debt of gratitude.

IN HONOR OF JAY WARD'S RE-
TIREMENT FROM THE PARK
COUNTY LANDFILL

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Jay Ward on his retirement.

This is a momentous occasion and I hope that he will take the time to reflect upon all his hard work over the past 23 years working for the state of Wyoming and the Park County Landfill. I thank him for his contributions to the Park County Landfill and to our community.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Jay Ward on his retirement. I wish him the best in future endeavors.

HONORING LOIS RICHARD

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lois Catherine Banks Richard, who passed away after a life of devotion to her family and service to her community.

Born in Pasadena, California in 1931, Lois was instilled with the spirit of activism from a young age by her parents. She graduated from Pasadena High School at the age of 16 and went on to become the only African American student on the English Council, Red Cross Council and elected to the Pasadena City College Associated Student Body Cabinet. She transferred to UCLA, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education. After graduating in 1952, Lois married her husband, Rodney Richard, Jr., at All Saints Church in Pasadena. She and Rod soon returned to Pasadena, where Lois pursued teaching and dedicated her career to the students and families of her hometown.

Lois taught elementary school in the Pasadena Unified School District, where she was known for her positive and encouraging teaching style. In 1966, she spearheaded the development of the Pasadena Head Start Program, working to expand early education to underprivileged children and families in the community. Under her guidance, Pasadena saw the development of three new care centers, the Home Start Program, and the Head Start Enrichment Program—services that supported