

FRAN BAKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Fran Baker for receiving the West Chamber's Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award. This award honors outstanding individuals who have had significant and long-lasting impacts on Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

Fran Baker is the Executive Director of Enrichment for the Gold Crown Foundation where she oversees program development, community outreach and fundraising efforts. However, Fran's first love is fashion. She started her career as a fashion buyer for May Company in Denver, after receiving a marketing degree from The Fashion Institute of Technology at NYU. She left the fashion industry and dedicated several years to raising her children. While raising her children, she returned to school to receive her BA in Early Childhood Development and teaching certificate from Metro State University.

For nine years, she worked as a Title One Reading Teacher and Literacy Coach in Jefferson County. From there, she went on to lead a needs assessment for the planning, designing and implementation of the Enrichment programs for the Gold Crown Foundation's Field House. Under Fran's direction, Gold Crown Enrichment was awarded licensing for the international after school program, "The Clubhouse." She worked to develop the relationship with Jefferson County schools to establish programming during the school day, which has served thousands of students from neighboring elementary and middle schools. After providing Enrichment programs for 14 years at the Field House, Gold Crown recently opened a second Clubhouse in Edgewater. Fran currently serves on the board for the Clubhouse Network, which includes 100 Clubhouse sites in 19 countries.

Congratulations to Fran Baker for this well-deserved award, and I thank her for her continued dedication to our community.

HONORING RISE AWARD
RECIPIENT, KIM KARNOFSKI

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kim Karnofski, a constituent of mine from Castle Rock, Washington. Kim is receiving the prestigious Recognizing Inspirational School Employees Award for her outstanding service to the students of Washington state and I'm proud to recognize her achievement today.

Since 1988, Kim has served as an invaluable resource to students and families of Castle Rock. She has dedicated her life to leading service projects in her community, working with credit recovery students to help them achieve post-graduation success and even implementing a Life Fitness P.E. program to teach healthy habits to students. Kim also devoted her time as a member of the Public

School Employees of Washington SEIU Local 1948, serving as an advocate for her colleagues dedicated to serving our students.

The RISE Award is presented by the National Coalition of Classified Education Support Employee Unions, a coalition of state and national unions that represent one million school support employees. Five individuals from across the country are recognized for their extraordinary efforts to promote quality education, foster positive learning environments and ensure student success. The award is given to those who have made exceptional contributions to education, promoting student achievement, student safety, as well as helping to build a brighter future for our children.

I was very proud to learn about Kim and the work she's done to become one of those five individuals recognized for their exemplary service to students, and I am equally proud to have her as a member of Southwest Washington's community. I want to congratulate Kim on receiving this well-deserved award and thank her for her unwavering leadership and contributions to the students of Castle Rock.

IN HONOR OF TRICIA STILES
SIMPSON

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable woman who has made an extraordinary contribution to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the people of the northern Shenandoah Valley.

With the retirement of Tricia Stiles Simpson from her position as Legislative Assistant to Virginia State Senator Jill Vogel, those attending the 2018 session of the Virginia General Assembly experienced a clear loss of energy, enthusiasm, honesty and intelligence that constitute this extraordinary human being.

A gifted speaker and writer, Tricia has always displayed natural leadership skills and has been highly sought after for a variety of boards and commissions. Over the years, she has generously given of her time, energy and money to a wide variety of organizations, serving as chairman or vice chairman of the following: Frederick County School Board, to which she was elected and reelected; United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley; Frederick County Department of Social Services; Winchester Branch of the American Association of University Women; Shenandoah Valley Private Industry Council; and Tri-County VA Opportunities Industrialization Center.

As one who has consistently lived her life out of the conviction that each individual has inherent dignity and worth, Tricia Stiles Simpson's overriding passion has been to serve and advocate for the most vulnerable members of our society, especially disabled children. During her 35 years of service to individuals with disabilities, Tricia has been an award-winning Special Education Teacher in Clarke County; Director of Rehabilitation Services for Northwestern Workshop; National Project Director of the National Association of Rehabilitation Facilities; administrator at Grafton School; and Executive Director of the Winchester-Frederick County Child Advocacy Center.

In each of these positions, as well as during the 10 years she spent as Senator Vogel's Legislative Assistant, Tricia generously gave of her time and energies to those struggling with almost every challenge imaginable, treating each with honesty and compassion, so that they left her presence knowing that they had been heard and respected. Asked how she managed to deal so successfully with confused and troubled people, Simpson explained her simple three-part rule: "Say what you mean and do what you say; be consistent; and love them absolutely."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing and thanking Tricia Stiles Simpson for her extraordinary career serving the people of the northern Shenandoah Valley and the Commonwealth of Virginia and wishing her and her husband, HB Simpson, many years of continued happiness in their retirement years.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTENNIAL
YEAR OF McDONOGH 35 SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Centennial Year of McDonogh 35 Senior High School. McDonogh 35 Senior High School is the oldest public high school established for African-Americans in New Orleans, Louisiana. The year 1917 was a crucial year in educational advancement for African-Americans in the city. After decades of being denied the opportunity to attend public schools beyond the eighth grade, African-American students would have a public high school that offered courses that prepared them to attend the colleges throughout the city of New Orleans.

Despite the location of McDonogh 35, in a section of the city that once housed brothels, barrooms, and boarding houses, the school would become a beacon of hope and pride to New Orleans' black community. For decades, the campus on South Rampart and Girod Streets was not equipped to serve with fidelity the needs of its students. Science labs were not modernized. There was no gymnasium to provide fitness for student-athletes. Moreover, many students took it upon themselves to provide nutritious meals for their classmates by preparing food by growing gardens of fresh produce. It was, for those times, an unsustainable set of low conditions.

Despite these circumstances, the students achieved accomplishments in the academic, artistic, and athletic fields of education—and also took on the challenges of addressing the social injustices of their day. Even with the destruction to their fifty-year-old building by Hurricane Betsy in 1965, this situation did not discourage the McDonogh 35 community from achieving excellence. The students continued to excel as they called a federal courthouse and an older school building home—until the opening of the historic Kerlerec Street building in 1972. In 2005, when Hurricane Katrina struck the city, the returning students of McDonogh 35 rallied and fought to have their school opened, making passionate pleas to the Orleans Parish School Board for the restoration of this historic institution. In 2015, a