

RECOGNIZING HAROLD BLATTIE

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2018*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harold Blattie, the executive director of the Montana Association of Counties. After more than 15 years serving MACo and more than 40 years as a public servant, Harold Blattie will retire in May.

Mr. Blattie's public service has crossed the paths of many Montanans. In 1975, he was elected to serve on the local school board which he did until 1995. He also served his community as a volunteer firefighter, in local organizations, and on the board of the local electric cooperative.

Mr. Blattie became involved with MACo in 1995 as a commissioner in Stillwater County. He began serving as MACo's assistant director in 2002, and three years later, became executive director. Throughout his time with MACo, Mr. Blattie has been an ardent advocate of the association's goals and vision.

Under his leadership, the organization has grown its staff from 10 to 40. MACo is strong, diverse, capable, and influential. Harold Blattie may have lost a lot of sleep along the way, but he has inspired generations of Montanans committed to serving their communities.

Today, I honor Harold Blattie for his dedication to public service and his tireless defense of our Montana way of life.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2018*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes held on April 25, 2018, I was inescapably detained handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. If I had been present, I would have voted YES on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 3144, NO on final passage of H.R. 3144, and I would have voted YES on final passage of H.R. 5447.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE HARD WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY BLUE RAIDER DEBATE TEAM

**HON. SCOTT DESJARLAIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2018*

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and hard work of the Middle Tennessee State University debate team.

The team has achieved great success, the likes few have rivaled in the MTSU debate team's long history. While recently in Spo-

kane, Washington, the team placed first in the varsity division, and earned the top season-long award in the team International Public Debate Association format. This year's team has earned five top national awards, a regional title, two state titles, and a total of 148 awards in this season alone.

Today I applaud the 25 dedicated students who make up the Blue Raider Debate Team. These young men and women of all backgrounds coming together to work as a team to accomplish a common goal, serves as an excellent example for all of us. Congratulations to Middle Tennessee State University and the Blue Raiders Debate Team for representing not only their school, but the 4th district of Tennessee in a first-class manner.

## HONORING MRS. GLORIA DURAN

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2018*

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a champion for children, education, and the LGBTQ community from my Southern California district. Mrs. Gloria Duran passed away March 12, 2018 at the age of 80 after a lifetime of service to the local area. Gloria grew up in Silver City, New Mexico until moving to California. She ultimately made Santa Fe Springs, California per home. Ms. Duran began her career in education as a secretary at Los Nietos Middle School and committed her life to the betterment of the education system, serving as a member of the Los Nietos School Board for 16 years, with unending verve and dedication.

Ms. Duran was a dynamic, energetic woman who fought with passion for the children and seniors she served. Her activism and drive led her from den mother to Chair of the Santa Fe Springs senior citizens advisory committee and membership in the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults. She went to great heights, quite literally, to raise money for HIV/AIDS research by jumping out of a plane while in her sixties with her son John Duran. There was no mountain too high for Gloria to climb if it meant making her community a better place.

Gloria Duran was a shining example of what dedicated people can do for their community. While I know the pain of losing such a strong leader will run deep, I hope her family and friends will be comforted by the outpouring of love and fond memories of Gloria's lifetime of service. May her legacy live on and inspire others to serve.

TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE KATHY RICHARDSON FOR HER SERVICE TO INDIANA

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2018*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Kathy

Richardson from the Indiana State House of Representatives after 25 years. For more than two decades, Representative Richardson served her constituents in Indiana's 29th district with distinction. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth District, we are forever grateful for her contributions to our community and the State of Indiana.

Representative Kathy Richardson is a life-long Hoosier. Born and raised in Hamilton County, Kathy graduated from Noblesville High School in 1974. She began her career in public service working in the Hamilton County Clerk's office filing traffic tickets at the age of 19. She eventually worked her way up to Deputy Clerk, and was elected Hamilton County Clerk in 1982. In 1992, when few women ran for state offices, Richardson was successfully elected to the Indiana State House, representing the 29th district. Kathy continued to work with the Hamilton County Clerk's Office as the Election Administrator for Hamilton County. While serving as Indiana's 29th Representative, Kathy has continued her service with the Clerk's Office.

A born leader, Kathy has stood out among her peers. During her time in the Indiana General Assembly, she served as an elected member of the House Republican leadership. Kathy broke barriers as Republican Caucus Chair, becoming the first woman in Indiana's history to serve in an elected caucus leadership. As Caucus Chair, Kathy guided members and staff in making legislative decisions, while spearheading caucus meetings. Kathy also served on the Elections and Apportionment and Legislative Council, where her years of experience and knowledge brought a high degree of leadership and success.

Kathy's leadership created long lasting, positive change in the State of Indiana. During her tenure, Kathy partnered with Governors Mitch Daniels, Mike Pence, and Eric Holcomb to deliver balanced budgets, lower taxes, and bring jobs to the state. In 2011, Kathy was influential in drawing new redistricting maps for the Indiana House, Senate, and Congressional Districts to reflect the changes in Census data. As a prominent member of the House Elections Committee, Kathy was a crucial contributor to several of Indiana's election reform initiatives. Her guidance and no-nonsense leadership style throughout the process was instrumental in its passage. Kathy was influential in the creation of the Hamilton County Youth Assistance program in Westfield, which works with youth who are at risk prior to entering the courts system. Due to her leadership, and the program's success, it is now being replicated in other communities around the State of Indiana.

Kathy's lifetime of service to her community has been invaluable not only to her district but to the entire state of Indiana. Thanks to work on the economy and job creation, Indiana continues to be a great place to live and do business. Kathy's hard work and invaluable leadership helped make the Indiana General Assembly successful for so many years. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Representative Richardson for her lifetime of service. I wish the very best to Kathy, her husband Perry Williams as well as the rest of her family as she moves into the next phase of her career in public service.