

the best as he begins to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Mr. Dan Roach that I am especially proud to serve Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Mr. Dan Roach for an exceptional career and thank him for all of his contributions and service to the community.

HONORING VERNEAL BRUMFIELD  
WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR  
AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Verneal Brumfield as a woman of the year. She is committed to serving her community and devotes her time to help further the development of Solano County. She retired as a Correctional Administrator with 28 years of service to the State of California, where she was responsible for thousands of inmates and staff over the years. She has gone on to become actively involved in many community service organizations where she advocates for causes she believes in. She has served in leadership positions with the National Council of Negro Women, the Tri-City NAACP, the Solano County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and Democratic Women in Action. During her time as President of the Solano County Chapter of Links, Inc., she worked to secure a large grant which funded a STEM collaboration benefitting Solano County students. She also worked with the National Council of Negro Women and Campfire Girls of America to put on an event providing a holiday meal and gifts to underserved children in her area. Throughout her years of service to her community, Ms. Brumfield has been an integral part of many such projects benefitting the people of Solano County. She is always willing to serve wherever there is need and consistently does so with kindness and compassion.

CONGRATULATING LTC(RET) NICHOLAS  
M. LAIACONA ON RECEIVING THE 2018  
VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2018*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate LTC(RET) Nicholas Laiacona on receiving the 2018 Veteran of the Year Award.

Each year, the Friends of the NYS Military Museum and the Capitol District of NY Chapter, Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) recognize an outstanding veteran from the local community. This year's awardee, LTC Laiacona, has made distinguished contributions to his country as a soldier and to his community as a veteran.

LTC Laiacona entered the Army in 1966 and served in Vietnam as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander in the Mobile

Riverine Force, 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta. After returning home, he transferred to the Ordnance Corps, fulfilling assignments in the United States, Germany, and Korea. In 1985, he was selected as one of the first certified U.S. Army Material Acquisition Managers and became one of the first officers in the Army Acquisition Corps. LTC Laiacona retired in 1991 with over 24 years of service and numerous awards and decorations, among them the Purple Heart and Vietnam Service Medal with 4 stars.

After retiring, LTC Laiacona continued to contribute to the Army by applying his expertise to several corporations in support of U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering. He also remains active in several Veterans organizations, including the AUSA where he served as President of the Capital District Chapter and continues to serve on its Executive Committee.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate LTC(RET) Nicholas Laiacona on his well-deserved award of 2018 Veteran of the Year. We are thankful for his service and dedication to both his country and community.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2018*

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representatives DEBBIE DINGELL, PAUL MITCHELL, MIKE BISHOP, SANDER LEVIN, DANIEL KILDEE, FRED UPTON, JOHN MOOLENAAR, and JACK BERGMAN to recognize Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, on the occasion of its 150th—or sesquicentennial—celebration. Located in the heart of Detroit, Wayne State University is ranked among our nation's best research institutions, educates over 27,000 students among 13 schools and colleges, and is the eighth-largest employer in the city of Detroit.

In addition to educating and training leaders in research, the arts, law, and medicine, Wayne State University has for over 150 years, consistently served the people of Detroit, the great state of Michigan, and our nation. Wayne State University began, and has remained, in Detroit—a city that has seen the highest heights and the deepest depths, and is now reinventing the very definition of the great American city.

Through the tireless work and effort of its first university president, Dr. Edward W. Jenks, to the current president Dr. M. Roy Wilson, Wayne State University is the embodiment of public service and access to education. Under the direction of Dr. Wilson, Wayne State University has dramatically increased its overall six-year graduation rate, with African American graduation rates double what they were just a few years ago. Today, Wayne State University attracts, and is composed of, many of the best and brightest students and researchers, with an excellent team of administration, faculty, and staff professionals. They remain firmly rooted in the community while preparing their diverse student body to impact locally and globally making the university a thriving hub of innovation and academia.

Wayne State University has also cemented its status as a leading research institution and a champion for women and children in our nation. In fact, Wayne State University is the only site outside of Bethesda, Maryland, that houses a branch of the National Institutes of Health. Thanks to the Perinatology Research Branch, over 20,000 women, children, and families have received access to world-class prenatal health care that they might not have otherwise been able to access.

Through the Integrative Biosciences Center (iBio), the University is reimagining the way science approaches urban health issues. iBio was named the 2017 Renovated Laboratory of the Year by R&D Magazine and Laboratory Design. This 127,000-square-foot, \$90 million facility is dedicated to studying and eliminating the many health disparities that plague residents of Detroit and communities across the country. iBio includes faculty with expertise in environmental sciences, bio and systems engineering, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and bio-behavioral health. Opened this fall, the Mike Ilitch School of Business, further expands the Wayne State campus into The District Detroit while adding academic programs in the business of sports and entertainment.

The mission of Wayne State University is to create and advance knowledge, prepare a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impact local and global communities. We congratulate and thank Wayne State University's student body, Board of Governors, President M. Roy Wilson, faculty and administrators for living out the passion and principle of their mission statement. Reaching their 150th anniversary is a milestone, and we eagerly look forward to what the University accomplishes in its next 150 years.

Wayne State University has been, is and will always be Warrior Strong.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. IRENE  
WHITLEY MARCUS

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2018*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a civil rights hero in the greater Kansas City area for her dedication and determination to ensuring the success of the African American community through equality and opportunity. Since the mid-twentieth century, Ms. Irene Whitley Marcus has worked feverishly to demolish anti-Black sentiments and discriminatory policies, in order to create accessible housing in the Kansas City community. During a time when segregation laws disproportionately afflicted Black Americans and civil unrest persisted, Ms. Marcus held firm to her belief that all of America's children were deserving of the liberties and rights guaranteed under the constitution, regardless of their skin tone.

Through her memories and experiences, the history of the Black community in Kansas City is preserved and respected. World War II provided many Black families an opportunity for upward social mobility in the workforce and created the opportunity for minorities to purchase homes. Ms. Marcus tells of a time when Black businesses were rare and social life existed only in Black American homes due to