

breadth of mission. Since its inception, the organization has expanded to provide assistance in 21 counties within the vicinity of the Arlington Catholic Diocese. It has adapted over the years with new goals and a renewed vision, while remaining true to its core mission of collaborating with others to support the development, construction, and rehabilitation of affordable housing. Catholics for Housing projects include affordable housing initiatives, affordable rental housing, senior citizen rental assistance, security deposit assistance, and collaborative education and advocacy efforts.

Catholics for Housing is sustained through the dedication and generosity of its board, staff, volunteers, and many community partners.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following Catholics for Housing partners for sustaining the vision established by Father Creedon and our dedicated community members. The 2018 Father Gerard Creedon Housing Award honorees are:

Mr. Robert Gibson is one of the co-founders of Catholics for Housing and is being recognized for his steadfast support of affordable housing and homelessness prevention.

Mr. Jonathan N. Francis, Esquire is being recognized for the assistance he provided to the residents of East End Mobile Home Park when they all faced eviction when the property was declared a health hazard due to ongoing sewer leaks.

The City of Manassas is being recognized for approving the sale of East End Mobile Home Park and working with Catholics for Housing as it rehabbed the water and sewer problems.

The leadership and actions taken by these honorees resulted in the preservation of affordable housing for approximately 300 residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2018 Father Gerard Creedon Housing Award recipients and in commending the efforts of Catholics for Housing, who continues to work with its partners to provide needed support and assistance to many of our most vulnerable neighbors.

RECOGNIZING OMNI FAMILY HEALTH, INC.

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Omni Family Health, Inc. for forty years of service throughout California's Central Valley.

Omni Family Health, Inc. was established in 1978 as a health center in the town of Buttonwillow, an unincorporated farming community in California's San Joaquin Valley. Responding to a profound shortage of medical care in the area, community members founded Buttonwillow Health Center. Before long, Buttonwillow Health Center was invited to expand to neighboring towns and eventually became Omni Family Health.

The San Joaquin Valley is an extremely rural region with a large population of underserved communities. Due to high unemployment and large populations of migrant workers, medical care can be difficult for many to

attain. Omni Family Health, Inc. directly responds to these needs, providing medical, dental, and behavioral health services to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. They strive to break longstanding barriers in the region and meet the communities' needs head-on. They are a mission-oriented organization, demonstrating a strong commitment to underserved communities. Omni Family Health, Inc. also prioritizes the respect of staff and the hiring of compassionate people. That simple show of respect has led to decades-long careers at Omni.

From their humble beginnings, Omni Family Health, Inc. has rapidly become one of the largest networks of health centers in the San Joaquin Valley. By the end of this year, they will be operating thirty health centers in Kings, Kern, and Fresno Counties. Their 750 employees serve over 100,000 patients, while their facilities generate \$123,000,000 in economic benefits. Their contributions have made them an invaluable and treasured member in the communities they serve.

Omni Family Health, Inc. has gained a national reputation for their exceptional care and compassion. In 2015, they were awarded two achievements by the National Association of Community Health Centers: The Outstanding Achievement Award and the Migrant Health Center of the Year Award, which they are extremely proud of. While Omni Family Health, Inc. serves a diverse population of patients, migrant workers will always be their passion. It was the small farming community of Buttonwillow, California, that birthed their mission, so being nationally recognized for their service to migrant workers was especially meaningful to them.

Omni Family Health, Inc. shows no signs of slowing down. As they continue to grow and meet the needs of the San Joaquin Valley, they remain committed to their two core ideals, providing healthcare for their community through compassionate service. The San Joaquin Valley will be forever thankful for the work they have done, and excited for the work they will still do.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Omni Family Health, Inc. for forty years of service and wishing them further success in their future.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER MICHAEL HUFFMAN

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the life and service of a constituent of mine, Madison Village Police Officer Michael Huffman. Officer Huffman, a 19-year veteran officer, unfortunately passed away while on duty on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. Originally from Painesville, Officer Huffman enjoyed working on cars and spending time with his wife, Viola, and his family. His legacy and dedication to public service will always be remembered. My prayers are with Officer Huffman's family, his friends, the Village of Madison, and the Madison Village Police Department during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE MCGOVERN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative FRANKEL and Representative HASTINGS, rise today in recognition of the accomplishments and extensive public service record of United States Senator BILL NELSON's State Director, and our dear friend, Michelle McGovern.

Since her time as a student at Florida Atlantic University, Michelle has demonstrated a passion for government and the capacity to lead. Her tireless work ethic, combined with her many successes, earned her election as FAU's student body Vice-President and appointment to Florida's Board of Regents, as the first and only FAU student appointee.

Fast forward to today and Michelle has honorably served Senator NELSON and the State of Florida for 18 years. She rose quickly through the ranks from a Legislative Correspondent to her current position as State Director. In each of her roles, she exemplified leadership and collaboration, while providing superior service to the citizens of Florida.

In addition to serving the entire state, Michelle devotes much of her time to serving her local community. She is a past President of the Forum Club of the Palm Beaches, SunFest, and the West Palm 100. She has also served on the Mayor's Nominating Committee for the City of West Palm Beach, Charter Review Committees for West Palm Beach and Wellington, and Wellington's Education Advisory Board. Michelle is currently the Chairwoman of the School Advisory Committee at Binks Forest Elementary School, where she has long been active in the PTA. On top of all this, Michelle and her husband John, have raised two wonderful daughters, Emilia and Victoria.

Today we ask this body to recognize Michelle McGovern for her endless dedication and leadership in our community. Michelle has demonstrated a commitment to service that we should expect from all of our civil servants. We, along with the citizens of Florida, thank her for her service.

HONORING MONTEREY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY DEAN FLIPPO

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of retiring District Attorney Dean D. Flippo, who has served the people of Monterey County since 1972. Mr. Flippo's retirement comes after serving eight terms as Monterey County District Attorney. I had the distinct privilege to serve under Mr. Flippo as an Assistant District Attorney and can personally attest to his character. While our community is losing an exceptional public servant, we certainly wish him the best on his well-earned retirement.

Mr. Flippo received his bachelor's degree in 1963 at the College of William & Mary and

earned a Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School in 1966. He began his law career in the United States Army in 1967, where he served as a Chief Prosecutor, Post Judge Advocate, and Military Judge. He was awarded the Army Meritorious Service Medal for his honorable service to our country.

Mr. Flippo began his career as a prosecutor in Monterey County in 1972 as an Assistant District Attorney and was overwhelmingly elected to the position of District Attorney in 1990. During his tenure as District Attorney, Mr. Flippo was instrumental in establishing numerous innovative programs to improve public safety in Monterey County. Among these programs was the award-winning Truancy Abatement Unit, which has received statewide recognition for success in working closely with schools and families to bring about compliance with mandatory school attendance laws. Mr. Flippo was also instrumental in making the Monterey County District Attorney's office one of California's most productive in child support enforcement. This effort was recognized in 1999, when Mr. Flippo was awarded the Outstanding Manager of the Year by the National Child Support Enforcement Association. Under Mr. Flippo's leadership, the Monterey County District Attorney's office maintained a steadfast commitment to finding new ways to protect our community.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Flippo has also served in numerous civic and community organizations. Among the most important lessons I learned from my time as a prosecutor is the paramount importance of serving one's community both inside and outside the courtroom, and Mr. Flippo certainly embodied this ideal. He is the past President of the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) and a past member of the Board of Directors of the National Child Support Enforcement Association. He is also the State Chair for the CDAA Consumer Protection Committee and a Board Member of the National District Attorneys Association. Locally, he is involved in serving on the board of directors of numerous organization including the Monterey Peninsula College Foundation, Monterey Peninsula Foundation Grant Committee, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Children's Council of Monterey County, and Community Alliance for Safety and Peace. He was also an educator at Golden Gate University and Monterey Peninsula College, where he taught Public Administration, Administration of Justice, American History, and American Government to the next generation of public servants. Mr. Flippo's extensive service to his beloved community stands as an enduring legacy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to share the accomplishments and distinguished record of one of Monterey County's most committed and decorated public servants. I know he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Renee; daughter, Tracy; son, Derek; daughter-in-law, Marianna; and grandchildren, Katherine, Anne, and Douglas. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our best wishes to District Attorney Dean Flippo and his family and thank him for his innumerable contributions to the central coast of California.

RECOGNIZING DR. GERALD L. GORDON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an individual who has made an indelible mark on the Fairfax County community and the Northern Virginia region as a whole. Dr. Gerald L. Gordon, President and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, is retiring from that role after 35 years of extraordinary service. During his tenure, he has guided Fairfax County through incredible transformative changes.

When Dr. Gordon joined the EDA in 1983, Fairfax County had a population of approximately 661,000. Our commercial sector was small compared to those of our regional neighbors, with 32 million square feet of office space supporting 243,000 jobs. Fairfax County was largely a bedroom community for federal workers who commuted to Washington, D.C. and the surrounding area. Fast forward 35 years and today, the population of Fairfax County has nearly doubled to more than 1.1 million.

Fairfax County is home to a thriving commercial sector anchored in Tysons with over 117 million square feet of commercial real estate supporting over 600,000 jobs across the county. Ten Fortune 500 companies make their headquarters in Fairfax County, more than 30 states. Fairfax County has evolved from a bedroom community to the economic engine of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Dulles corridor, which stretches from Tysons to the Loudoun County line supports more tech jobs than any other region of our country outside of California. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in Fairfax County at the end of September, 2018 was 2.5 percent lower than the Commonwealth of Virginia rate of 2.9 percent and more than a full percentage point lower than the national unemployment rate of 3.7 percent.

Successfully managing this explosive growth and economic expansion requires visionary leadership from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to make the necessary investments to ensure that the groundwork could be laid for the transformation that is well underway. Visionary leadership is not enough by itself however. It is also critical that the County government had a willing and able partner in Dr. Gordon and the Economic Development Authority. The benefits of the partnership that we were able to forge are still being recognized and will be for decades to come.

Dr. Gordon leaves an extensive legacy of accomplishments. These include the creation of the Emerging Business Forum to support small minority and woman-owned businesses and the successful campaign for Fairfax County to host the 1998 World Congress on Information Technology. He has also received a litany of awards, including the Virginia Business Person of the Year Award from Virginia Business Magazine in 2010, the Leadership Fairfax Northern Virginia Leadership Award in 2011 and the Jeffrey A. Finkle Organizational Leadership Award from the International Economic Development Council in 2015. Virginia Business has listed him annually as one of its 50 Most Influential Virginians since 2013. He

is also a widely respected author who has written 13 books on economic development and strategic planning.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Gordon for his many decades of service to our community and congratulate him on his vast array of accomplishments. While he will be dearly missed and leaves behind sizeable shoes to fill at EDA, he will be leaving Fairfax County better positioned to face tomorrow's challenges. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him continued success and all the best in his retirement.

HONORING MS. GINA WIRONEN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a proud servant of the people and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Ms. Gina Wironen. Gina has been an integral part of the Leominster School District for over four decades as an educator and administrator.

In her 43-year career in education, Gina has held many prominent roles within the Leominster School District including serving as the Assistant Principal of Saint Leo School and Principal of Samoset Middle School. Most recently, Gina worked as the Director of Community Engagement and Media Relations for the entire school district.

Throughout her distinguished career, Gina has consistently been recognized for her exemplary service to our district, including: the Learning for Life Leadership Award, Teacher of the Year—Leominster Rotary Award, and most recently, the M.W.C.C. Lifetime Achievement Award.

Because of Gina's leadership and advocacy, Leominster has become one of the most active and collaborative districts that participates in the United Way Youth Venture program.

This service-oriented educational experience works with children and young adults to create ventures using their passions to support the community. Due to Gina's efforts, over 74 service teams have made an impact within the district since the program's inception in 2002. Gina has continually worked to expand the program within Leominster and all of Central Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, this alone would be an impressive list of achievements that deserves our respect and gratitude. But since 2013, Gina has successfully advocated in support of the development of two new innovation schools in Leominster, and secured funding for a new athletic facility for the local high school. Gina understands that education does not just happen in schools. She has worked with the entire community to enhance what is happening in the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and the people of Massachusetts, I would like to thank and recognize Gina for her work in the Leominster School District to improve the Massachusetts education system. Her tireless efforts have forever changed Leominster for the better.