

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.