

Patricia's leadership as CEO of the Contra Costa Health Plan will be truly missed. Patricia has left a positive impact on Contra Costa County's health care system, its patients, and the community at large. I am thankful for Patricia's service and I wish her the best in her retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE MERAMEC REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 11, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Meramec Re-

gional Planning Commission on their 50th anniversary.

On January 23, 1969, Governor Warren E. Hearnes signed a proclamation establishing the Meramec Regional Planning Commission. Dent County Presiding Judge J.E. Bergman, Salem Mayor Jack Masters, Washington County Presiding Judge Jesse Essmyer, Potosi Mayor Leon Camillo, and Dent County Clerk Don Prewitt were all in attendance to mark the historic occasion. A 5,154-square mile radius of beautiful gently rolling hills, deep valleys, and numerous rivers make up the region. Thirty-six towns serve as industrial havens and are surrounded by countryside where the small farmer continues to prevail.

The commission successfully serves 8 counties: Gasconade, Dent, Crawford, Maries, Osage, Phelps, Pulaski, and Washington. Throughout the commission's longstanding history, a strong reputation has been built with

a variety of programs being offered including grant writing and administration, economic development, community planning, emergency planning, training and grand administration, hazard mitigation planning, solid waste planning, grant administration and program implementation, small business loans, HUD housing rental assistance and family self-sufficiency programs, promotion/administration/growth of community foundations, project development, and legislative advocacy. From these programs, many businesses have been welcomed into the small towns where they have been successful while enjoying Missouri's picturesque natural beauty and diverse cultural heritage.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Meramec Regional Planning Commission on their 50th anniversary. This milestone is a great testament of their commitment to the counties they serve.