

BLACK HISTORY MONTH—HAROLD JACKSON

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a third-generation servant leader from my community of Tampa, Florida, Harold A. Jackson, Jr. who was born at Tampa Negro Hospital to the late Jacqueline Haynes Jackson and the late Harold A. Jackson, Sr. Jackson learned about service at a young age as his father served in the U.S. Army during World War II and returned to Tampa to become one of our hometown's pioneering African American civil rights attorneys and led local desegregation efforts. His mother was a beloved educator and retired after 33 years as an elementary school teacher in Tampa.

Mr. Jackson followed in his parents' footsteps of service and dedicated his professional life to the health and well-being of our community. In 1978, Mr. Jackson started a 30-year plus career with the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department. He rose through the ranks to become a Recreation Area Supervisor during a time of tremendous growth and change for this county. He planned, organized and directed the overall operations of community-based recreation programs, which are critical in promoting healthy, prosperous and connected communities as well as building social equity and support for working families. During his tenure with Hillsborough County, he continued to build on his legacy of community service. For 27 years, he served on the board of directors for Tampa Family Health Centers, a federally qualified health center. He was elected chair and vice chair of the board of directors on several occasions. During this time, Tampa Family Health Centers grew from one clinic to 14 and greatly expanded access to comprehensive health care services for hundreds of thousands of our neighbors, especially uninsured or underinsured individuals.

After retiring from the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, Mr. Jackson began a leadership role for Tampa Family Health Centers as Community Relations Liaison. He truly extends himself to help meet the needs of the medically underserved, whoever and wherever they are. His efforts while serving on my 14th Congressional District of Florida Puerto Rico Recovery and Assistance Task Force were nothing short of extraordinary and very meaningful at a time when displaced Puerto Rican families faced significant challenges in re-establishing their lives following the devastating landfall of Hurricane Maria in 2017. Mr. Jackson ensured families who relocated to Tampa had access without barriers to the services of Tampa Family Health Centers, facilitating their medical appointments to cut down on wait times with scheduling and transportation challenges.

He is a graduate of St. Peter Claver Catholic School in Tampa, a 125-year old historically black school that today proudly continues to provide families and students excellence in education. Mr. Jackson returned to St. Peter Claver to serve on the school's board of directors and in 1994, as president of the school's development council, he launched a \$2 million capital campaign to establish a state-of-the-art

learning environment. Mr. Jackson also graduated from Tampa Catholic High School in 1974 and went on to complete his criminal justice degree from the University of Tampa.

Mr. Jackson strongly exhibits the unequivocal mark of a servant leader, one who quietly aspires and inspires leadership by consummately doing good—going the extra mile. His contributions to community initiatives are numerous—helping to launch the University Area Community Development Corporation, co-founding a youth council in our community that has now grown to be one of its largest and serving as organizer for Tampa's largest Veterans Day Parade.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Tampa Bay community, I am proud to recognize Mr. Harold A. Jackson, Jr. for his servant's heart and carrying forth his family's legacy of community service across the Tampa Bay Area.

HONORING ALOK K. VERMA FOR RECEIVING THE TIDEWATER CHAPTER HUMANITARIAN AWARD

**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dr. Alok Verma on receiving the 2019 Humanitarian Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Dr. Verma's lifetime of service and commitment to the promotion of respect among people of diverse backgrounds. Dr. Verma generously serves the students of Old Dominion University and the community as a whole. His input at international conferences and in scholarly publications is exceptional. His service to the Norfolk Sister City Association, World Affairs Council, and Asian Indians of Hampton Roads demonstrates his heart for service.

Dr. Verma's dedication to strengthening bonds among people of different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Dr. Verma's leadership and the role he plays in making our community a better place. The Tidewater Region has significantly benefited from his presence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Monday, March 11. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 119 (Passage of H.R. 1122, the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act): YES

Roll Call Vote Number 120 (Passage of H.R. 758, the Cooperate with Law Enforcement Agencies and Watch Act): YES

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAHANA HAYES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mrs. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on March 11th due to unavoidable travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 119; and YEA on Roll Call No. 120.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK O'CONNOR

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Hillsborough Police Chief Mark O'Connor upon the occasion of his retirement after a total of 33 years in law enforcement, 32 of those years with the Town of Hillsborough. Chief O'Connor is an uncommon law enforcement professional, and the residents of Hillsborough have been extraordinarily lucky to have his services for over three decades.

Hillsborough is a town of 11,500 persons nestled in the hills of the San Francisco Peninsula. Mark O'Connor joined the police department of this beautiful town in 1986 after serving for a year in the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. He began as a Police Officer and then served as Canine Officer, Motorcycle Officer, Field Training Officer, Police Corporal, Press Information Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Administrative Captain, Patrol Captain and, finally, as the Chief of Police. However, Mark is a highly talented person, and for a while the town also tapped him to be Public Works Director. Apparently, he enjoyed catching burglars more than fixing broken sewer mains, so that stint was relatively short-lived.

Chief O'Connor served on a committee of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs' and Sheriffs Association working on technology issues and was responsible for upgrading Hillsborough's department to take advantage of computers in patrol cars, officer body cameras, and Computer Aided Dispatch equipment, among many innovations. During Mark's time in charge, Hillsborough residents were protected by the latest technology available.

As an institutional source of "lessons learned" for the department, Mark excels. For example, he once pointed out that making it easier to navigate a community isn't necessarily good for public safety. Among its many features, Hillsborough is a hard place to navigate at night without a lot of experience. Many pizzas have gone cold in the hills of Hillsborough. Burglars would also occasionally get lost. They would then meander repeatedly through the town seeking frantically to escape. The police would notice, and the thieves would become future candidates to make public endorsements on behalf of the Google Maps app for smart phones—after they were released from jail and subject to any applicable terms of probation. This story illustrates Mark's wisdom from years of on-the-ground experience. He is a walking library of such lessons.

Mark O'Connor has many obvious skills. He is respected by his staff because he is authentic. He mentors others with ease. He is smart