

and has what the military calls “command presence.” My office works regularly with him on security issues that impact my office and the broader community. He is a rock-solid source of advice, even outside his formal job duties.

For example, in 2010, a 30-inch high pressure natural gas transmission pipeline operated by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company exploded in San Bruno, north of Hillsborough, killing eight persons and injuring dozens more. Mark O’Connor is a master welder. Through the months after the explosion, he lent his judgments to my staff and to federal and state officials as they sought the cause of the rupture. He also noticed the vulnerability of Hillsborough and other cities to a similar disaster. In part because of his recommendations to me and to others, new pipes have been installed. Thousands have been removed from the path of possible harm, in part due to the insights lent by Chief Mark O’Connor.

It is Chief O’Connor’s integrity, grit, and determination to be of service to all law-abiding residents that has been the secret to his success. It’s hard to imagine a man with such an active mind sitting still. Maybe, he’ll write a book about his years in law enforcement. Hillsborough is visited regularly by Presidents, Ambassadors and other global leaders. Mark’s career-based police thriller might be entitled, “I Saw The President—But He Never Saw Me.” It’s likely that many citizens and luminaries never saw Mark O’Connor, but we know that he had their backs all along their way through the community. This, in the end, is the highest mark of police service in any town—no flash, just skill and professionalism. That’s Mark O’Connor, the retiring Chief of Police of Hillsborough, California.

HONORING JOAN BROCK FOR RECEIVING THE 2019 LENORA MATHEWS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT 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 Ms. Joan Brock for receiving the 2019 Lenora Mathews Lifetime Achievement Award through Volunteer Hampton Roads. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Joan’s lifetime of hard work and service to the community. Her dedication to improving global health and the Chesapeake Bay is truly inspiring. Her input on various boards and councils such as Virginia Wesleyan University’s Board of Trustees, the National Board of the United Way Women’s Leadership Council, the Chrysler Museum Board, and her leadership on the ACCESS College Foundation—just to name a few—has been invaluable. Joan’s generosity with her time and resources to improve the environment, education, and health of our community is exceptional.

I want to thank Joan for her leadership in philanthropy and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Hampton Roads has significantly benefited from her presence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, my voting card did not properly register my vote, so I was counted not present. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 123.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH—BETTY REED

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor beloved community leader, Florida State Representative Betty Reed. She was raised in Thomasville, Georgia, in a close-knit family of hardworking sharecroppers and with 12 other siblings Representative Reed and her husband, James, moved to Tampa after he was discharged from the military to raise a family of their own.

Representative Reed was an active parent while her children attended school, and her involvement grew over time in the Parent Teacher Student Association, then the Hillsborough County Council of PTSA and all the way to the Florida State PTA.

As her children became older, she was prompted to complete her own high school diploma by attending night and weekend classes. Her pursuits only grew over time—she earned an associate’s degree from Hillsborough Community College, then her bachelor’s degree in behavioral science from National Louis University.

Representative Reed’s commitment to access to education grew as a financial aid assistant for Education America (which eventually became Remington College) and then as its director of financial aid. All the while, she was active in her own community, becoming president of the Lucy Dell Civic Association. But advocating for her community didn’t stop there. She was elected as a Florida State Representative for the 59th District, a seat she held until she was elected to represent the 61th District in 2012.

During her tenure as a Florida State Representative, she passed meaningful legislation, including the Black Health Practice Initiative (BIHPI, pronounced “Bippy”), which passed both chambers of the Florida Legislature without a single dissenting vote. With stark disparities between the infant mortality rates of different races—in some areas, the rate of black infant mortality was more than four times the rate for whites—the legislation funded state grants to local Healthy Start coalitions that served counties with significant disparities: Hillsborough, Gadsden, Palm Beach, Orange, Broward, Duval, Putnam and Miami-Dade. The University of South Florida and Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University were selected to provide technical assistance and scientific guidance. BIHPI produced positive outcomes and was particularly meaningful due to the relationships built in communities with the greatest needs. She also championed and helped

to secure state funding to help open numerous Tampa Family Health Centers and expand the robust safety net of comprehensive health services to medically underserved communities. Representative Reed passed legislation to end shackling incarcerated pregnant women during labor, delivery as well as postpartum, and legislation to provide additional funds to combat homelessness throughout the state of Florida. In her final two years, she served as the Democratic Ranking member of the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Representative Reed is a compassionate leader, who immersed herself in the challenges of her neighbors, and that allowed her to serve as a strong advocate. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Tampa Bay community, I am proud to recognize Representative Betty Reed for her drive for meaningful progress on behalf of our children, students, women, families and communities across the State of Florida.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROSE ENG

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Rose Eng, who turned 100 years old on February 22, 2019.

Rose is a model citizen who truly encapsulates the highest ideals of the American dream.

She came to the United States from China in 1948, and together with her husband Bill Y.F. Eng, a veteran of World War II, owned and operated the Canton Cafe in Walla Walla, Washington between 1949 and 1980.

Through hard work, sacrifice and perseverance, Rose and her husband were not only able to send all five of their children to college, a remarkable feat onto itself, but were also able to put a down payment on the first home for each of their children, laying the foundation for a prosperous future.

In the words of her daughter, they are “forever grateful to such amazing parents.”

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this milestone birthday and wish her the best in the future.

HONORING SUSAN COLPITTS FOR RECEIVING THE 2019 CORPORATE VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 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 Ms. Susan Colpitts on receiving the 2019 Corporate VOLUNTEER Excellence Award through Volunteer Hampton Roads. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Susan’s lifetime of hard work and service to her community. Her dedication to her company and to her community is truly inspiring. She founded a highly competitive firm and led a group of advisors in the service of ensuring that clients have their