

IN HONOR OF JULIE SCHWIETERT
COLLAZO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I, along with Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ, rise to recognize Julie Schwiertert Collazo who received a women's history month award from us and from Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas at a ceremony in Queens on March 22nd. Ms. Schwiertert Collazo is being recognized for her part in founding Immigrant Families Together, which works to support families in danger of being separated by anti-immigrant policies.

In June 2018, along with her husband, Francisco Collazo, she founded what has evolved into Immigrant Families Together (IFT), an organization of rapid response volunteers who fight back against punitive immigration policies, including zero tolerance and family separation, that have traumatized the nation's diverse population. IFT was created when a group of mothers learned about Yeni Gonzalez, a Guatemalan immigrant who was jailed in Arizona because she could not post bond, and whose three children were taken to New York. Ms. Gonzalez could not put together the \$7500 needed to secure her release. When Ms. Schwiertert Collazo and others heard about her plight, they raised the money to pay her bail and then helped transport her to New York, arranging for her to sleep at the homes of volunteers. They eventually helped her gain full custody of her children, and found her shelter, food and legal counsel.

In six short months, almost entirely through social media, Ms. Schwiertert Collazo and IFT raised nearly a million dollars. IFT now provides funding to pay bonds to secure the release of other immigrants facing deportation, and often donates critical funding to cover living expenses, medical costs and legal fees. To date they have posted bond for more than 65 parents, grandparents, and older siblings who had been detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and separated from their families. They also provide ongoing support and services for families who have filed asylum applications so that they can build healthy, stable lives while their applications are being processed.

As a result of her work with Immigrant Families Together, Ms. Schwiertert Collazo has become a much sought-after speaker and commentator on immigration policy, migration, and resettlement issues.

Ms. Schwiertert Collazo is a former social worker and creative arts therapist, who is currently working as a writer, editor, and translator. She left the field of social work and psychotherapy in 2004 to live abroad and to focus on her own writing full-time. She has interviewed the First Lady of Belize and the Spanish chef Ferran Adria, has covered the state visit of Prince Harry in Belize, and in 2008 was one of the few journalists permitted to visit the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. She co-wrote/edited a book about Pope Francis, which to date has been translated into more than a dozen languages and is a bestseller in Italy.

Madam Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing the compassionate work

Julie Schwiertert Collazo and Immigrant Families Together are doing to help recent immigrants achieve their American dream.

HONORING DENNIS L. PATILLO

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dennis L. Patillo.

On January 16, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) board of directors elected Dennis L. Patillo, of Victoria, as chairman of the nine-member governing body. The GBRA was established in 1933, and serves as a steward of water resources for ten counties, including, Calhoun, DeWitt, Refugio, and Victoria counties.

Mr. Patillo is the owner of the PumpHouse Riverside Restaurant and Bar in Victoria, Texas. In addition, he is the president of Stewart Title of the Coastal Bend Inc. and president of Evangelynn Hospitality LLC.

The GBRA first appointed Mr. Patillo to the board of directors in 2011. Mr. Patillo's participation and service in the district is noteworthy. He is the past chairman of the Victoria Economic Development Corporation, the Texas Association of Realtors, and the Houston Association of Realtors. Mr. Patillo served on the Texas Tax Reform Commission, the University of Houston Commission on Downward Expansion, the DeTar Healthcare System, and the Victoria County Airport Commission.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Dennis L. Patillo on becoming chair of the GBRA, as well as my thanks for his years of dedication to the people of Victoria and the 27th District of Texas.

COMMERCE CITY BUSINESS APPRECIATION 2018 AWARD—OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE INC.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Old Dominion Freight Line Inc. for receiving Commerce City's Business Appreciation 2018 Business on The Move Award.

The Business of the Year Award is given to a Commerce City company with a pioneering spirit that has shown a history of leadership within its industry and the community. Old Dominion Freight Line has demonstrated longevity and sustained growth within the community. Old Dominion Freight Line is a less-than-truckload (LTL) motor carrier providing regional, inter-regional and national LTL service and value-added logistics services.

Old Dominion Freight Line built its Commerce City service center in 1997, expanded in 2016 and then expanded again in 2018. These renovations accommodate the tremendous growth in the Colorado marketplace, making the service center the most advanced service center in the Denver Metro area and enabling the company to expand its customer base both locally and globally.

The facility employs 330 people, 26 of which were hired because of service center growth. All of these employees have future growth potential within Old Dominion Freight Line. I extend my deepest congratulations to Old Dominion Freight Line Inc. for this well-deserved recognition from Commerce City.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF VETERANS ADVOCATE AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY LEADER DALE "ANN" MORAN

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late Dale "Ann" Moran, a dedicated and selfless advocate for the veterans community across the Commonwealth of Virginia, especially here in Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

Ann was an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary, unit 293 of Purcellville, VA for 35 years. Mrs. Moran truly lived the Auxiliary motto, "Service, Not Self". Ann demonstrated this commitment through her tremendous leadership over the course of her time with the Auxiliary. Her roles included the Department Historian for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Virginia, 2-time Northern Zone Vice President, and multiple chairmanships. She served as the 16th District President and held various chairmanships at the district level. In her home office, Unit 293, Ann at one time served in every office, in every chairmanship, and served as a mentor to countless members. She played a major role in the Unit's successes at the Department and National Level, including receiving national awards for her Department Chairman reports.

In addition to her various leadership positions, Ann played an important role in directly assisting veterans through her work as a Veteran Service Officer where she worked with veterans in identifying and correcting a need, and helped them obtain the services that they had earned. She also established the "Blanketing Veterans with Love" initiative. Through this initiative Ann enlisted the involvement of her family, friends, and community to craft more than 300 blankets for veterans returning from combat. Ann also worked with the Martinsburg Vet Center to bring a satellite vet center to Loudoun County, and was a tireless supporter of Boulder Crest retreat, a local retreat for Military, Veterans, and their families. Ann was also a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. Her legacy lives on through her husband, Thomas R., and son Thomas D. Moran, daughter in law Shannon, and two grandchildren. Mrs. Moran was also a 25-year employee of the Loudoun County School system.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions that Mrs. Ann Moran so graciously made to our veterans, our district, the commonwealth, and nation. While we join her family in mourning her loss, we stand today to celebrate her commitment and legacy, on behalf of a grateful nation.