

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. PATRICIA "PATTY" PARKER CULLEN

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 10, 2019*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader and outstanding citizen, Mrs. Patricia "Patty" Parker Cullen, on the occasion of her retirement as the Executive Director of the River Valley Regional Commission.

A native of Phenix City, Alabama, Patty received both her bachelor's degree in Home Economics and her master's degree in Community Planning from Auburn University.

For almost four decades, she has been a well-respected leader in the community development industry in the Chattahoochee Valley region. She has built quite an impressive career, which began with her position as an Economic/Energy Planner for the Lower Chattahoochee Area Planning and Development Commission. During her extensive tenure in the community development industry, Patricia has held several leadership roles within the Lower Chattahoochee Area Planning and Development Commission, the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center, and the River Valley Regional Commission. Patty has done a tremendous job in upholding the highest standards of achievement, service and public distinction.

Throughout her career, Patty has served on a number of boards and was affiliated with several associations including the Advisory Council at Auburn University; the American Planning Association; the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions; the Georgia Planning Association; and Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumni Association.

Patty has accomplished much throughout her life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of her late husband, George; and her stepdaughter, Sally.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." The Lower Chattahoochee Valley area is a better place because Patty Cullen gave so much to so many to make our community stronger. As a woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise are unparalleled, but her heart for helping others utilizing these qualities has made her life's work truly special.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the more than 730,000 citizens of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Patricia "Patty" Parker Cullen upon the occasion of her retirement from an outstanding career of public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INAUGURATION OF DR. ADELA DE LA TORRE

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 10, 2019*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an important milestone in the history of San Diego as Dr. Adela de la Torre is set to be inaugurated as San Diego State University's (SDSU) ninth President on April 11, 2019.

Her inauguration is taking place at a unique juncture in the history of San Diego State University and has the potential to impart a significant impact on higher education throughout San Diego County.

SDSU is, and always will be, a major driver of San Diego's economy. With an annual economic impact of over \$5.67 billion dollars, it is important that we continue to support SDSU and the thousands of students who graduate from the institution every year; more than 60 percent of whom stay in San Diego and put their degrees to work in our local communities.

Dr. de la Torre is a graduate of UC Berkeley, and holds a master's degree and Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics. She has been a dedicated leader in the higher education space for over 30 years.

Dr. de la Torre was appointed as SDSU's first woman president in June of 2018. Throughout her first year in this position, she has spent significant time "listening and learning" to stakeholders in the region and embarked on a listening tour throughout San Diego County to ensure she has an intimate understanding of the unique needs of the students SDSU serves.

As she assumes control of SDSU, Dr. de la Torre has an opportunity to establish her vision for the future. At a time when the University is planning a major expansion in Mission Valley, it is important that its leaders clearly articulate their plans for growth and development.

Under Dr. de la Torre's leadership, SDSU embarks on a journey to increase its local footprint and establish the infrastructure necessary to support students over the next century. By engaging with the community, she has positioned herself well for success.

As I reflect on Dr. de la Torre's past accomplishments, and on her vision for the future, I am inspired by her dedication to social justice, and to improving higher education for the good of all students. I believe that her experience has prepared her well for achievement of SDSU's lofty goals.

I am pleased to be able to welcome Dr. de la Torre as SDSU's new president, and look forward to seeing her vision for SDSU take shape. Under her guidance, SDSU stands poised and ready to greatly expand its impact, and emerge as a mecca for innovative higher education in California and beyond.

I extend my congratulations to her on her appointment and inauguration. In the short time she has been in San Diego orienting herself to every opportunity here, she has epitomized the future of our community. Dr. de la Torre is SDSU and will surely touch lives.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL ROBERT HENDRIKS

**HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 10, 2019*

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my deepest sympathy and sorrow in the passing of Corporal Robert Hendriks. The son of Erik Hendriks and Felicia Biondo-Arculeo, Robert was a United States Marine who died this week while bravely serving his country in Afghanistan. This was his second deployment. Robert grew up in Locust Valley, New York, next to my hometown of Glen Cove. Almost immediately after graduating from Locust Valley High School in 2012, Robert joined the United Marine Corps Reserves, and was assigned to the Site Support 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment in Garden City, NY.

On Monday, April 8th, Robert, along with the members of his unit were driving in a convoy near Baghran Air Base when an improvised explosive device was detonated near his Humvee. Robert, along with two other members of his unit were killed in this attack.

Known for his selflessness and commitment to duty, his friends and family also knew him as a kind and gentle person. "He was the kind of kid you just want to hug," said his aunt. Robert's brother, Joseph, also a Marine, arrived in Afghanistan last week to begin his tour. Joseph is now escorting his brother's remains back home to their family.

Robert Hendriks is an American hero who reflects the best of the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps, and the Third Congressional District of New York. May God bless Robert Hendriks, and grant peace and strength to his family.

CLEAN FUELS NATIONAL AND THE CLEAN FUELS NATIONAL FUEL SUMMIT

**HON. JIM BANKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 10, 2019*

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Clean Fuels National and the Clean Fuels National Fuel Summit held in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Hundreds of attendees spanning from Washington State to Pennsylvania will participate in this invitation-only forum. Business leaders will discuss important issues facing the industry, such as natural disaster preparation, card skimming and UST regulations.

This forum would not be possible without the hard work of Clean Fuels National and the Vanover Family. Kas, Mike, and Gregg Vanover founded Clean Fuels National in 2000, on the idea of providing exceptional fuel filtration and tank cleaning services to Northeast Indiana. Nineteen years later, Clean Fuels National is the largest fuel filtration and tank cleaning company in the United States. However, its roots remain grounded in Northeast Indiana. The bedrock of Clean Fuels National lies in the close-knit support of the surrounding community and its loyal customers. Today, Clean Fuels National employs over 60 individuals from Northeast Indiana and is constantly expanding.