

the hard work and dedication of all members of this year's Roanoke Valley Christian boys basketball team, and congratulate the administrators, teachers, coaches, parents, students, and fans. In particular, I would like to recognize the contributions of the team's seniors, and their head coach Todd Mann. Congratulations on a great end to the season.

IN HONOR OF ZORICA PANTIĆ,
OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF ONE
OF BOSTON'S TOP UNIVERSITIES—WENTWORTH INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Zorica Pantić, the first woman president of Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston and first woman engineer to lead an institution of technology in higher education in the United States.

President Pantić is leaving her position at Wentworth at the end of May, following a 14-year-tenure that can only be described as transformative and historic in scope. Dr. Pantić's contributions to this 115-year-old institution have earned her respect far and wide. Just recently, while saluting Dr. Pantić during his keynote remarks at Wentworth's graduation on April 28, 2019, Charlie Baker, the esteemed Governor of Massachusetts, characterized President Pantić as, "a gift to Wentworth and blessing to Massachusetts."

Born in Serbia, Dr. Pantić first became interested in electrical engineering as a young girl, while watching her father work on repairing a radio. She went on to earn her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Niš, Serbia, and became the founding dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Texas at San Antonio; director of the School of Engineering at San Francisco State University; a Fulbright fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and an associate professor at the University of Niš.

As Wentworth's President, she has been an important role model and tireless advocate for traditionally underrepresented students, particularly young women wishing to pursue a college education and career in the STEM arenas. Under her leadership, Wentworth has introduced its first seven graduate programs, becoming a master's degree-granting institution and achieving "university" status in 2017. Dr. Pantić has overseen the introduction of 10 new undergraduate programs (seven in engineering), a \$300 million investment in state-of-the-art facilities, and a 20 percent enrollment increase on the school's campus.

During her presidency, Wentworth has enhanced its experiential-learning educational model by implementing EPIC Learning (Externally-collaborative, Project-based, Interdisciplinary Culture for Learning), and is focusing on innovation and entrepreneurship. The Institute continues to earn annual recognition in the top national and regional college rankings.

Applauding her "energetic, entrepreneurial, and ambitious leadership style," the Council

for the Advancement and Support of Education, District 1, in 2017 honored Dr. Pantić with its Chief Executive Leadership Award. That same year, Dr. Pantić was inducted into the National Academy of Construction. In January 2018, Governor Baker appointed her to serve on the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Strategy Council. And more recently, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce honored her as one of its Pinnacle Award winners for 2019.

President Pantić has served on various boards and professional organizations, including the board of directors for the World Association for Cooperative Education, the American Association for Presidents of Independent Universities and Colleges, the New England Association for Schools and Colleges, the Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board, and the Presidents Council for the NCAA Division III.

Madam Speaker, Zorica is known for her love of students and for helping to guide and serve thousands of young women and men who have attended Wentworth since she became president in 2005. She is the proud mother of one son, Daniel Tanner, who graduated from Wentworth and is busy building his own career.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to thank Zorica Pantić for her incredible leadership over these past 14 years at one of Boston's oldest and most venerable educational institutions, and to salute her for her many contributions to higher education in the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF WORLD WAR II
VETERAN RAYMOND BURRELL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th birthday of World War II Veteran, Mr. Raymond Burrell.

In the winter of 1944–45, Raymond Burrell was a member of the famous 761st Tank Battalion, the Black Panthers. The 761st Tank Battalion was the first to consist of African-Americans and saw extensive action at the Battle of the Bulge. Raymond Burrell demonstrated bravery and a cunning military mind on multiple occasions. Despite experiencing seemingly hopeless situations, Raymond persevered along with the other members of the 761st Tank Battalion and held their vital positions on the battlefield. Our nation is lucky to have had someone like him risk his life to protect us all.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments, bravery, and dedication of Raymond Burrell. Words alone cannot express our gratitude. May God bless Raymond Burrell, and I look forward to seeing his excellence in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF THE HONORABLE SERGIO
AMARAL, AMBASSADOR OF
BRAZIL TO THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Brazilian Ambassador to the United States, Sergio Silva do Amaral, whose invaluable commitment to the bonds of friendship between Brazil and the American people has left an indelible mark on our bilateral and hemispheric relations. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Brazil, I have worked on numerous occasions with Ambassador Amaral to deepen our bilateral relations, and build upon the great history of partnership between Brazil and America.

In September 2016, Sergio Amaral was appointed Ambassador of Brazil to the United States in Washington, D.C. Since then, Ambassador Amaral has worked tirelessly to promote a closer U.S.-Brazil friendship, as well as to promote the expansion of our economic, political, defense, and cultural relations, bringing a message of friendliness and cooperation during his travels through our country in furtherance of his mission to spread Brazil's message of peace and prosperity for all people. On June 1, when he retires from his Ambassadorial role in the U.S., he will conclude nearly 45 years of service to Brazil. His time as Brazil's Ambassador is thus an appropriate capstone to his long and distinguished career.

Born in São Paulo, Brazil, and as a graduate of the University of São Paulo and the University of Paris, France, Ambassador Amaral has served in a number of senior official posts in the Brazilian public service over five decades. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to the U.S., he served as Ambassador to London and Ambassador to Paris, as well as Minister of Development, Trade and Industry, and Chief-Minister for Social Communication of Brazil's Presidency. His other notable positions include Vice Minister of Environment and the Amazon, Secretary for International Affairs of the Ministry of Economy, President of the Council of Brazil's Chamber of Foreign Trade, and President of the Brazil-China Business Council.

Ambassador Sergio Amaral has continuously reminded us of the great potential that lies ahead of Brazil and the United States as two of the largest democracies and economies in the Western Hemisphere. We must build upon the common beliefs that have historically connected the peoples of Brazil and America: our commitment to democracy, our commitment to the rule of law, and our commitment to the dignity of all people in our own countries and around the world. Today, I thank Ambassador Sergio Amaral for his service to these ideals, and wish him a long and happy retirement.