

and a home after they grow out of the foster care system. I applaud Michaela in her efforts to create a better environment and future for children within the system.

I am proud to stand with the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth in celebration of the Eighth Annual Foster Youth Shadow Day, which gives youth an opportunity to experience firsthand the foundations and principle of the United States Congress, instilling the characteristics of leadership that they can continue to use throughout their lives.

TRIBUTE TO WISCONSIN SUPREME
COURT JUSTICE SHIRLEY
ABRAHAMSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the career and ongoing legacy of Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley Abrahamson, the first woman and longest serving justice on our state's highest court. Born and raised in New York City, Justice Abrahamson often says, "At first I intended to be a teacher, but somewhere around 5 or 6 years old, I decided to be a lawyer, and when I really looked back to before wanting to be a teacher, I was going to be President of the United States, and don't count me out yet."

Her path to the potential presidency led her to the Indiana Law School in 1953 after graduating magna cum laude from New York University. Justice Abrahamson was one of the only two women enrolled during a time when there were not a lot of women in the law practice. While attending, her fellow classmates stood in awe of her performance and ability to recite cases and make arguments. According to her it was often the gossip amongst the students that whoever finished top in the class would automatically get an offer from large

leading Indianapolis law firms, but the Dean thought that they wouldn't hire a woman.

Despite that belief, she persisted, graduating with high distinction from the Indiana School of Law, she was then hired and quickly promoted to partner at a law firm in Madison, Wisconsin. As she continued her private practice, Justice Abrahamson served as a professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Her career would be redirected in 1976 when she was appointed to be an Associate Justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Justice Abrahamson would be repeatedly elected to 10-year terms on the bench with clear majorities each time and would be later sworn in as Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 1996.

When she joined the court, she was given a voice—a voice that she was never reluctant to use. At times when our state and court's fundamental values were continuously challenged, she expressed her views off the bench when necessary. She is an unshakable defender of progressive values, a protector of victims and a voice who fought against the special interests, and corporate wrong-doing. She is a judicial heavyweight, one of the most respected justices in United States history, and a trailblazer for women everywhere.

Justice Abrahamson often says that her accomplishments are due to the generations of women who blazed that trail so that she can walk on it. However, Madam Speaker, in a time when very few women were in the law practice, she took that risk, picked up the mantle and continued to pave the way so women like myself, in this Congress and across the nation could walk on it. As Justice Abrahamson heads to retirement, her absence will leave a void in our state, but the legacy she leaves behind will inspire generations to come.

Madam Speaker, Justice Shirley Abrahamson has helped change the course of American History for the better, and I applaud her for everything she has contributed to the state of Wisconsin and our nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MELISA D.
MONTEMAYOR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, Melisa D. Montemayor was born in Duval County, Texas, and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in biology.

Mrs. Montemayor served the state of Texas for 29 years, including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Mrs. Montemayor also worked as the Laredo District Advance Transportation Planning Director and managed long-range and short-range transportation planning for the district. She also arranged transportation improvement plans with the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Through her extensive work with local and federal legislators, consulting firms, and fellow TxDOT staff, she developed essential projects for Laredo and the state of Texas. For her efforts she received the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Design for Transportation 2000 National Award" and the Texas Department of Transportation Environmental Achievement Award.

Mrs. Montemayor's involvement has been essential to the Laredo community. I have confidence that she will continue to aid her community in any way she can and I wish her well on her retirement. Today, Mrs. Montemayor lives in Laredo, Texas with her husband, Adrian, and their daughter, Ari.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Mrs. Montemayor and her outstanding career.