

2018, in my hometown of Springfield, MA, and over the past year has done a remarkable job of piloting the association. He has proven himself to be a strong and thoughtful leader for independent insurance agents across the country.

Joe graduated from Western New England College and is currently the President of Leahy & Brown Insurance & Realty, Inc., which he founded with his wife Frances in 1989. Joe has a fine record of public service as he previously served as Chief of Staff to Massachusetts State Senator Martin T. Reilly (D-Springfield).

At the state association level, Leahy was elected to the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents (MAIA) in 2001, served as chairman in 2005, and was Massachusetts director on the Big "I" national board from 2008 to 2013. In 2013, Leahy received the MAIA Henry F. Barry, Jr. Memorial Pacesetter Award, which is awarded to an agent who has contributed his or her talent, time and energy for the betterment of the agency system and is the highest honor that the MAIA bestows.

On the national association level, Joe has served on numerous Big "I" committees and task forces including the Big "I" Executive Committee, Government Affairs Committee, Tax Task Force, and the InsurPac Board of Trustees.

I would also like to recognize the aforementioned Frances Leahy, Joe's esteemed wife. Joe has been married to Frances for more than 30 years. Together they reside in Northampton, Massachusetts and have six children and eight grandchildren.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I am proud of Joe Leahy and all he has accomplished for Massachusetts and beyond. I wish him and Frances well in all their future endeavors, following his successful year as Chairman of the Big "I."

HONORING GARY GALLO

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Gary Gallo on the occasion of his retirement from the Garden City, Michigan Fire Department.

Gary Gallo has displayed true leadership, rising through the ranks of the Garden City Fire Department, before finally retiring as captain. After obtaining certification, Captain Gallo took on the role of Team Leader to the Western Wayne County Hazardous Incident Response Team in addition to his responsibilities. He has been a dependable and active member of the Fire Department. Captain Gallo's devotion is evident in his service to the community. Beyond his duties as a firefighter, he has served as a board member to of Garden City United Needy Family Fund as well as Union President and Treasurer of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1911.

Please join me in saluting Captain Gary Gallo for his twenty-five years of bravery and service to the public as we wish him well on his retirement.

SAFE DRINKING WATER IN PLAYGROUNDS AND PARKS ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a call to action regarding the right to clean drinking water. Every person has a right to drink water without fear of being poisoned.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Safe Drinking Water in Playgrounds and Parks Act. This bill would ensure states, municipalities, and schools have the financial resources to replace drinking water fountains. While we can test water fountains for lead poisoning, some municipalities and schools lack the resources to replace its water fountains; this is simply wrong. My bill will ensure such entities have the necessary financial resources.

Children who play at playgrounds may be exposed to lead if they drink from the water fountain. This is deeply worrisome and no parent should have to worry that their child may be exposed to this deadly contaminant.

Exposure to lead—even low levels—can have serious health and development consequences for infants, children under six, and pregnant women. For those exposed to this dangerous element, signs of poisoning may include cognitive impairment, behavioral problems, and other health related problems. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "there is no safe amount of lead exposure in children . . ." which is why it is critical that we advance efforts that prevents lead poisoning.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Safe Drinking Water in Playgrounds and Parks Act. It is undeniable that the fate of our children and future generations rests on the decisions we make today about fighting lead water pipes.

RECOGNIZING LISETTE MORTON AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Congressional career of Lisette Morton, my long time Legislative Director and the Director of Policy, Planning, and Member Services of the House Judiciary Committee.

Lisette began her career on Capitol Hill nearly 20 years ago working on environmental issues for the late Congressman Bruce Vento. She started working as my Legislative Assistant in the year 2000 and became my Legislative Director in 2004.

Lisette has an encyclopedic understanding of a huge range of issues and always ensured that I was well prepared for hearings, mark-ups, and floor debates. She is a constant source of reliable and informed advice on which I have relied for almost two decades.

Throughout her tenure in my office, Lisette worked tirelessly to meet New York's unique transportation and infrastructure needs. She helped achieve a major legislative accomplish-

ment by securing \$100 million under the Projects of National Significance Title of the Transportation bill for the cross harbor rail freight tunnel. Securing this much money in a highway bill for a rail project was unprecedented. She also consistently ensured that passenger rail legislation protected resources for the Northeast Corridor, while preventing massive cuts to Amtrak. She ensured I had a seat on the Conference Committee that negotiated the 2015 FAST Act, which allowed me to bring an additional \$1.5 billion in highway and transit formula funding to New York. In 2016, she worked on the FAA extension and ensured that my legislation, the Families Flying Together Act, was included in the final bill.

Lisette has faced down many national crises as a member of my team. She worked for me on September 11, 2001, and was tireless in her efforts to get a proper detoxification and cleanup after the attack in New York and to hold the EPA accountable. Without her fierce advocacy and dedication, there would be more 9/11 responders and survivors sick today. Her work laid the groundwork for everything that followed, including the establishment of a permanent World Trade Center Health Program and 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. During the BP oil spill in 2010, Lisette worked tirelessly to get language I authored to ban the use of dispersants included in the Gulf Spill legislation that passed the House of Representatives. Finally, during Superstorm Sandy, Lisette worked closely with me and my staff to drive resources quickly to those who needed it in the aftermath of the storm. She worked around the clock with federal, state, and local officials to solve problems as they arose and pass supplemental funding legislation to build back our critical New York infrastructure and make it more resilient.

Lisette has always been an advocate for the arts, especially music, and protecting the rights of artists. Lisette played a critical role in my work on copyright issues with the Judiciary Committee. Lisette worked tremendously hard to pass the Music Modernization Act out of the Judiciary Committee and ultimately out of the House by a remarkable vote of 415-0. Passage of this bill was a major legislative achievement that took years to complete and would not have happened without her hard work and dedication to the effort.

Lisette played a critical role in helping to elect me to the position of Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee in 2017. She quickly established herself as the Director of Member Services and worked to make sure Members concerns are heard and that committee staff and Members are kept informed of Judiciary Committee business.

This year, when I became Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Lisette took on the new role of Director of Policy, Planning, and Member Services. She worked with our entire Judiciary team to create a bold legislative agenda, to ensure hearings were held on critical issues facing the country, and to pass meaningful legislation out of Committee and onto the floor of the House. With her help, the Judiciary Committee passed H.R. 1, the For the People Act; H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act; H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act; H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act; H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization; H.R. 5, the Equality Act; and H.R. 1327, the Permanent Reauthorization of the September

11th Victim Compensation Fund Act. Our Committee would not be as active or successful without her incredible work.

None of these accomplishments happen by chance. They are the result of hard work and years of building relationships on the Hill, in the administration, and in New York. She understands how this institution works—and how it should work—and she knows how to do the necessary work to turn a simple bill into an organizing tool for a movement. She has a unique ability to build relationships and work with others to get a job done. That is what makes her so effective in creating lasting change.

And I am not the only one to hold that view. Judiciary Committee Ranking Member DOUG COLLINS has said, Lisette “has given a great deal of service to this House and to me and to my staff personally. She will be missed, on both sides of this aisle, because she understands completely what this House should be about and that is actually service and actually getting legislation done.”

But Lisette is more than just a staffer to me. To me, she is like family. She has given our office more than her hard work, she has given us her great sense of humor and ready laugh, her kind support, and her willingness to share her life with us. She tells stories with great passion about her beloved Nationals and Caps, her trips to Spring Training or to the Minnesota State Fair, her love of all things Star Wars, Star Trek, and Disney, and her love of Bravo TV and good books. She has brought all that joy and life with her to work each day in addition to being an incredibly hard working, capable, and brilliant staffer.

I know I will miss Lisette greatly, but I am happy she has found a new position working on issues she is passionate about. And I am pleased she will continue to pursue those passions both in and out of the office every day. I wish her luck and joy in all her future endeavors.

And so, it is only fitting to say as a final farewell, “Lisette, may the Force be with you.”

RETIREMENT OF POLK COUNTY
MANAGER JIM FREEMAN

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Jim Freeman, who has served as the County Manager of Polk County, Florida since 2010 will retire on July 31.

Jim is a true public servant who began his career with Polk County in 1989 as Director of Information Technology. From 1997 to 2003, he served as Administrative Services Director, becoming Deputy County Manager in November 2003.

His previous experience includes eight years with the Gwinnett County, Georgia, Board of Commissioners and four years with the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Commission in Gainesville, Georgia.

A native of the Atlanta, Georgia metropolitan area, he holds an AS in Business Data Processing from Gainesville College, in Georgia, and a BA in Business Administration from Saint Leo University in Florida.

Jim is a Certified Public Manager and a member of the Florida City and County Man-

agement Association, the International City and County Management Association, and a graduate of Leadership Polk, Class II, and has served on the Board of Directors of Polk Vision and the Advisory Board of Polk County Career Academies.

Jim has lived in Winter Haven since 1989 and is married to Gena Freeman. Between the two of them, they have seven children and 11 grandchildren; and are members of the Calvary Baptist Church in Winter Haven.

We worked together to bring critical funding back to Polk County for Hurricane Irma relief, to combat citrus greening, to bring higher paying jobs, and to protect our environment.

I have truly appreciated the time I have spent working with him. I congratulate Jim on a tremendous career and wish him much happiness in his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, law, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Madam Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,” and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to 17 extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are:

Hadeel Abdallah, University of Oxford;
Lakeisha Barnes, Indiana University;
Mia Arrington, Villanova University;
Dalia Batuuka, Pennsylvania State University;
Julia Chun, Clark University;
Katherine Holder, Texas Tech University;
Lillian Keller, Swarthmore College;

Elizabeth Lé, Howard University;
Keva Luke, Georgetown University;
Michael Pender, United States Naval Academy;

Nia Prince, Rice University;
Hargun Sodhi, University of Houston;
Rafael Martinez, Texas Tech University;
Lily Rathbun, The Madeira School;
Keenan Parker, The Madeira School;
Jacky Lee, The Madeira School; and
Kayla Rothstein, The Madeira School.

Madam Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright, and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

SUPPORTING H.R. 736

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters from Chairman CUMMINGS and Chairperson LOFGREN in support of H.R. 736.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM,
Washington, DC, July 17, 2019.

Hon. ZOE LOFGREN,
Chairperson, Committee on House Administration, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 736, the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act. As you know, the bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, with an additional referral to the Committee on House Administration.

I thank you for allowing the Committee on the House Administration to be discharged from further consideration of the bill to expedite floor consideration. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on House Administration represented on the conference committee.

I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Oversight and Reform, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Sincerely,

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS,
Chairman.