

As the congregation gathers to celebrate the 200th anniversary, I appreciate the historical significance of their building, but more importantly recognize the impact that this congregation has made on the Flemingsburg community over the years.

I congratulate Reverend Rick Hurst and all the members of First Presbyterian Church in Flemingsburg on their 200th anniversary and wish them many more years of successful ministry, serving God and reaching out to the community.

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REMEMBRANCE OF HOPE  
“JACKIE” MURPHY WHITTAKER

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**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 30, 2019*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hope “Jackie” Murphy Whittaker, who passed away on 20 August 2019.

She was born 20 January 1935, the only child of Frank Marvin Murphy of Ayrfield and Hope Alice Dadmun of Petersburg and Norfolk. Jackie lived a long and varied life, raising her children, managing the farm, Ayrfield, where her family has lived since 1769, working on the Virginia Tech Extension Farm at Liberty Hall in Mount Holly, and spending 18 years as a customer service representative at Dominion Power before retiring in 1997.

Jackie was a Red Cross water safety instructor in her youth, and was an avid hunter and fisherman, inviting others into the outdoors with her enthusiasm. She inherited her mother's love of music and singing; she particularly enjoyed classical music and opera. She directed the choir at Yeocomico Church for several years. Jackie participated in various other nearby choral groups over the years as well, such as the Essex Community Chorus, and concerts at Andrew Chapel and St. James in Montross. When her children approached school age, she added her forceful support to the other local parents who sought to establish a small private school to provide their children the best possible education. Their efforts resulted in the creation of Woodland Academy in Neenah, VA, a place of quality primary education for nearly 50 years. She was as active in the Boy Scouts as her son, serving on the District Committee and participating in many district Camporees and training events. She was a patriot who held an undying belief in the greatness and wonder of this country. Jackie graduated from St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock and then went to Westhampton College in Richmond for a year before attending and graduating from Women's College of Greensboro in 1957.

She was predeceased in 1997 by her husband of 35 years, Arthur Davis Whittaker. She is survived by a son, Cmdr. A. Davis Whittaker, Jr. (Lynn); a daughter, Sarah Leigh Whittaker Montuori (David); a grandson, Anthony Francis Arthur Montuori; a step-daughter, Anne Marie Whittaker, and a lot of extended family and dear friends in the Northern Neck she loved so much.

HONORING THE VANNIE E. COOK,  
JR. CHILDREN'S CANCER AND  
HEMATOLOGY CLINIC

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 30, 2019*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vannie E. Cook, Jr. Children's Cancer and Hematology Clinic by recognizing the month of September 2019 as National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Childhood Cancer remains the number one cause of non-accidental death in children. Every year, approximately 1,700 Texas families will hear the words, “Your child has cancer” and about 105 of those brave children are from the Rio Grande Valley.

For the last 18 years, the Vannie E. Cook, Jr. Children's Cancer and Hematology Clinic, the first comprehensive pediatric cancer and hematology clinic in the Rio Grande Valley, has provided quality care and treatment to over 10,000 South Texas children battling cancer and blood disorders, regardless of their family's financial capacity.

On September 5, 2019, the Vannie Cook Children's Cancer Clinic and community members committed to fighting pediatric cancer will join together to host the Celebration of Life Carnival in McAllen, Texas. This community event will raise awareness of pediatric cancer, remember the young children we have lost, and honor the survivors as well as the courageous children and families fighting this disease every single day. It will be a day dedicated to children fighting cancer and I find it fitting to enter this important date in history into the record of the U.S. House of Representatives. I also plan to continue to do all I can, through my work in the Congress, to end all forms of cancer that afflict people all over the world.

Madam Speaker, I commend all associated with the Vannie E. Cook, Jr. Children's Cancer and Hematology Clinic on the occasion of National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. It is an honor to represent these courageous young people currently fighting cancer as well as those at the clinic for their invaluable work on behalf of children and families from the Rio Grande Valley.

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HONORING MS. VIRGINIA “PIXIE”  
FLYNN BELL

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**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 30, 2019*

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the exemplary life of Ms. Virginia “Pixie” Flynn Bell. Ms. Bell passed away on August 2, 2019 at the age of 85 and is survived by ten of her thirteen children and three granddaughters.

Ms. Bell was born in 1934 in Boston, Massachusetts and grew up in Maine, where she graduated from Edward Little High School in 1952. Ms. Bell valued education, and in December 1997 at the age of 63 she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia.

Ms. Bell spent her life in dedicated service to her country and local community. She served in the Air Force and worked as a senior advisor to elected officials in Virginia, including governors, U.S. Senators, U.S. Congressmen, state Senators, state Delegates, and Fairfax County Supervisors and Chairmen. As a longtime member of the Virginia Democratic Party, Ms. Bell was passionate about political organizing. She was a hard worker and strategic thinker, committed to bringing greater diversity to the Democratic party. Her colleagues and friends remember her for her welcoming spirit and mentorship.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life of Ms. Virginia “Pixie” Flynn Bell.

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INDIGENOUS STEM PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT ACT

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**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 30, 2019*

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Indigenous STEM Professional Development Act, which would expand opportunities for Native American students to earn degrees in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through partnerships between schools from the elementary to postsecondary level and the private sector.

Native Americans, including American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and the indigenous peoples of the Pacific U.S. territories, are among the most underrepresented groups in the STEM professions. Efforts to increase Native students entering the STEM workforce have seen success with programs like the University of Alaska's Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP). Based on a model incorporating indigenous language and culture in STEM instruction, intensive academic support and hands-on learning from middle school through graduate school, ANSEP has produced over 800 STEM graduates whose job placement rates exceed the national average. According to a 2015 Urban Institute evaluation, ANSEP participants have a 95 percent course completion rate with 84 percent reported being employed within one year of graduation. The evaluation also found the majority of ANSEP students earn a median annual salary over \$60,000 with 17 percent earning over \$100,000.

In 2008, Congress recognized the benefits of the ANSEP model in authorizing grants under the Higher Education Act to support similar programs focused on Native Hawaiians as well as Alaska Natives. However, we must do more to encourage all indigenous students to enter STEM careers, including Chamorro, Refaluwasch, and American Indians. The Indigenous STEM Professional Development Act reauthorizes and expands the grant program to include all indigenous peoples of the United States. Under the bill, schools can continue to use the grant to develop programs to help Native students succeed in completing STEM coursework, transitioning into college, gaining practical experience through internships, and working in their career fields after graduation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to help strengthen our nation's STEM