

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.

REMEMBRANCE OF HOPE  
“JACKIE” MURPHY WHITTAKER

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.

HONORING MS. VIRGINIA “PIXIE”  
FLYNN BELL

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.

INDIGENOUS STEM PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT ACT

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

workforce by expanding opportunities for indigent students to succeed as STEM professionals.

HONORING VERDINE DAY, DETROIT'S FIRST BLACK WOMAN FIRE ENGINE OPERATOR

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 30, 2019*

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Ms. Verdine Day for her many years of service to the City of Detroit's Fire Department, on the occasion of her retirement.

Ms. Day has served the Detroit Fire Department for more than thirty-three years. She has risen through the ranks to become the department's first Black woman Fire Engine Operator. Ms. Day possesses a strong work ethic and has always remained generous and willing to mentor or help out a colleague in need. Her dedication to fair and just treatment was also instrumental in adopting a pregnancy policy for women of the Detroit Fire Department with the assistance of the late City Councilmember, Mary Ann Mahaffey. Ms. Day has been recognized for her achievements by being awarded the Spirit of Detroit Award and being named 2019 Woman of the Year by the City of Detroit, at the Annual Women in Blue ceremony. Her heroism in the line of duty has earned her two citations for the rescue of civilians.

During her tenure, Ms. Day has represented fire fighters on several fronts with proven results. She served as an elected union official with the Detroit Fire Fighters Association for fourteen years. In that capacity she has served as 8th Battalion Director, Secretary, Vice President, and currently holds the position of Treasurer of the Association. During those terms she also chaired various committees to include the Political Action Committee, the Joint Health and Safety Committee, Public Relations, Human Relations and Grievance committees.

Beyond her service to the public, Ms. Day has been an active community volunteer. For the last nineteen years, she has orchestrated the "Engine 40 Back to School Backpack project", securing thousands of backpacks loaded with school supplies for youth. For the last fourteen years, she has led the "Fill the Boot Campaign", raising money for children for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Ms. Day has also coordinated with Gleaners to provide breakfast for children in the summer, served as a camp coach in Burn Camps and the Junior Fire Cadet Program.

Outside of her many commitments, Ms. Day still finds time to enjoy traveling, riding motorcycles, and playing softball. Her stellar softball skills landed her in the Michigan United States Specialty Sports Association Hall of Fame. Ms. Day shares her life with her loving family, spouse Ronald Day and her four children.

Please join me in saluting Senior Fire Engine Operator Verdine Day for her thirty-three years of bravery and service to the public as we wish her well on her retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SAN MATEO

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 30, 2019*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the City of San Mateo upon the occasion of the 125th anniversary of its incorporation. An election was held on September 1, 1894 and voters overwhelmingly supported becoming a city. With 125 votes supporting incorporation to 25 opposed, the election was certified on September 3rd and the first council—known as a Board of Trustees—was convened the following day.

One hundred twenty-five years later, San Mateo has about 110,000 residents and a place in our global economy. Every time you use Survey Monkey, you are relying upon a business in San Mateo. At one point in recent years, first Solar City and then Tesla were either founded or had major facilities in this community. GoPro is next door. These offices were originally occupied by Visa International, since relocated in a nearby community. If you have a Franklin Templeton fund in your 401(k), it was created and managed by the diligent financial experts at their headquarters in San Mateo.

I love San Mateo because on its broad, leafy, streets you can find people and hear languages from around the globe. One third of the city's population was born outside the United States. About 94 percent of all households have a computer. About 90 percent have a broadband internet connection, and 51 percent of all residents have a bachelor's degree or higher. Gone are the days when horses galloped around the Bay Meadows race track. That area is now the site of high technology. Women and men are making modern bets in this part of the city, but this time on the emerging global economy rather than on successors to Secretariat.

The history of San Mateo did not begin with the arrival of Spanish explorer Gaspar de Portolá in the 1700's. The Ohlone Native Americans lived in the area and the available evidence indicates that they largely lived in harmony with the land and water around them. There is also evidence of healthy trade between villages that were once on the San Mateo Coast and the edge of San Francisco Bay, including in San Mateo. The forested land and grasslands of the foothills were seen by the Spanish as a rich opportunity. First Spain, and then Mexico, granted extensive land holdings to early settlers. Farming and ranching were the norm.

However, the admittance of California as a state in 1850 was soon followed by the arrival of extensive development. The railroad sparked the land rush, starting in 1863. Suddenly, what had been a weekend retreat for a handful became a suburban home for wealthy refugees from San Francisco. By the turn of the century, the early founder of Bank of America—A.P. Giannini—was making daily commutes from his San Mateo home to his bank in San Francisco.

San Mateo is enormously patriotic. During the darkest days of the Vietnam War, and alone amongst cities in the Bay Area, the residents of San Mateo adopted a unit of the

101st Airborne, 1st Brigade, 327th Infantry Regiment Company A, and they have provided continuous support to the company ever since. Last year during the weekend of March 24th and 25th, the city celebrated yet another weekend in which the troops were hosted and they paraded through downtown.

From its founding as a village in 1894 to its emergence as a 21st century powerhouse, residents of San Mateo have led spirited civic lives. Elections are rarely without significant discourse. Initiatives are sometimes sparked. Many, many smart and engaged people participate. Democracy is the better for it.

San Mateo is a microcosm of the best of our nation. Rare is a day when a hawk does not soar overhead or a child exclaim in joy in Central Park. At the county hospital, a physician will save a life or counsel the despondent not to give up hope. Up the hill, students attend to their coursework at the College of San Mateo.

Residents know that the best pie on the planet is to be had at Heidi Pies. If the otters at CuriOdyssey science museum don't bring a smile to your face and joy to your heart, you have no soul. One hundred twenty-five years after the city's founding, the kite surfers off the city's levee have it right. Go with the wind and find your way across the choppy waves. Excitement is in San Mateo, California, along with joy, genius, generosity, and tremendous pride in the United States of America.

HONORING DAVE ADKISSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 30, 2019*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dave Adkisson, for his years of dedicated service in expanding business and enhancing opportunity throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A true champion for business-community outreach and development, Dave's retirement in October 2019 marks an impactful 15-year career dedicated to advancing businesses and promoting workers' priorities with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

Dave was raised in Owensboro, Kentucky, where he first sowed the seeds of his passion for business and community development. After starting his career at the local chamber of commerce, his success and community leadership were further evidenced when he was twice elected mayor of Owensboro.

After serving as president of the Birmingham, Alabama Chamber, Dave returned home to the Commonwealth to serve as head of the state chamber in 2005. Due to his leadership and selfless discipline, the Kentucky Chamber became the state's largest business association. Dave expanded the Chamber's Frankfort headquarters to focus on Kentucky-first policy and local community development. Due to the economic growth and business advancements under Dave's efforts, the state chamber doubled in size and became a prominent voice, advocating for Kentucky on the national scale. With Dave as president and CEO, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce was named the State Chamber of the Year by the Council of State Chambers.