

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 bryakfast 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.