

community was also an important aspect to Eric's character where he served the City of Carlsbad as a Parks & Recreation Commissioner, Planning Commissioner and twice being elected to the City Council.

For over 100 years, the SDCFB has successfully championed our local agriculture industry and Eric came to the Bureau in 1996 immediately continuing this legacy of leadership. During Eric's tenure as Executive Director, the SDCFB was honored as the California Farm Bureau "County of the Year" three times, successfully relocated and acquired income property, launched San Diego Grown magazine, established the San Diego Farm & Nursery Expo, kept members informed on all important issues, defeated two countywide ballot measures opposed by farmers, shielded farmers from the State of California's drought water use restrictions, created the San Diego Regional Irrigated Lands Group, initiated strategic planning to better serve members, and elevated the standing of local farmers and the Farm Bureau in the eyes of elected officials, regulatory agencies and the public as a whole.

Eric's strong reputation of mastering complex issues and helping create successful strategies toward achieving goals is well-earned. On many occasions, my office has used Eric as a resource to not only ensure we had a full understanding of matters affecting our agriculture community, but to also help us effectively communicate on a broad range of policy issues. Eric's retirement is well-deserved and, while he will definitely be missed, I am confident Eric's leadership and advocacy will continue in new and exciting ways.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 2019*

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 11, 2019 during roll call no. 520, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Gosar of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 3, as Modified, to H.R. 205, Protecting and Serving Florida's Coastline Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 521, On Passage of H.R. 205, Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act of 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 522, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Gosar of Arizona Part F Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 1941, Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 523, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Gosar of Arizona Part F Amendment No. 7 to H.R. 1941, Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted, "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 524, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 1941, Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 525, On Passage of H.R. 1941, Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF EDDIE AGUERO

#### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 2019*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the service Eddie Aguero has provided to the residents of the State of California and to our nation. Today, Mr. Aguero is being recognized for his twenty-five years of service to California Volunteers. I ask my colleagues to stand with me in celebration of his commitment to our community.

Made at Sacramento State and a U.S. Air Force veteran, Mr. Aguero has dedicated his life to service. Prior to his last twenty-five years with California Volunteers, he worked at the Sacramento Job Corps as Recreation Supervisor and Counselor to the young people attending for academic and technical training. He later served as the CalSERVE Program Manager for the California Conservation Corps. In this capacity, he implemented and managed grants. He also served in other capacities where he oversaw projects from start to finish for 150 corps members.

In 1994, Mr. Aguero began his career at California Volunteers, which was known as the California Commission at the time. During his time with the organization, he served as an Assistant Director of Programs, Training and Technical Assistance Director, Disability Coordinator, and Manager of Program Operations. Mr. Aguero has also been at the forefront of disaster release efforts. In response to Hurricane Katrina, he oversaw the deployment of AmeriCorps members and most recently for the Camp Fire in Paradise. Over the years, he has partnered closely with AmeriCorps programs, providing them with essential training and technical assistance, focused on developing the capacity of program associates to oversee programs, and much more. Mr. Aguero's efforts have not gone unnoticed. The legacy of his work garnered him the honor as one of twenty AmeriCorps Trailblazers in 2014.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Eddie Aguero for his successful career and his tireless advocacy for service programming and engaging Californians in service. Mr. Aguero is a true California treasure and a leader in our community. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing him congratulations for the past three decades of service and best wishes for his continued service.

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. JUANITA ABERNATHY

#### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 2019*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Mrs. Juanita Abernathy, a selfless and determined leader in the struggle for civil rights, whose direction and tireless engagement were integral to the progress of the movement. From the Montgomery bus boycott to the marches from Selma to Montgomery

and on Washington, D.C., and beyond, Mrs. Abernathy played a key role in our nation's proudest instances of citizen activism. She fought boldly alongside her husband, the Reverend Dr. Ralph Abernathy, and their dear friends and fellow architects of the movement, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King, to enact necessary and meaningful change, whose effects reverberated throughout our country. While many male leaders of the civil rights movement have rightfully become household names, the women whose struggles and sacrifice were equal and whose participation was necessary, have not enjoyed the same recognition. Mrs. Juanita Abernathy was a brilliant, courageous leader in her own right, and today we recognize her remarkable and distinct contributions.

Mrs. Abernathy was born on December 1, 1931 in Uniontown, Alabama, the youngest of Alexander and Ella Gilmore Jones' eight children. Mr. and Mrs. Jones, who made their living as dairy, beef and cotton farmers, did well for themselves, and were named the most successful farmers in the Black Belt by Tuskegee Institute in the 1940s. At an early age, Mrs. Abernathy was sent to live with her older sister to attend an African American boarding school, Selma University Prep School, from kindergarten through graduation. In the ninth grade, she met her future husband, the Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy, who wrote in his memoir that he was impressed by her audacious spirit and inherent dignity. Both were on display at the local grocery store when a white clerk refused to carry Mrs. Abernathy's groceries to her car. She replied that if he was unable to carry her groceries to the car, he should instead go ahead and return the groceries to the shelves. In 1952, after Mrs. Abernathy completed her B.S. in business education at Tennessee State University in Nashville, she and Dr. Abernathy were married.

Mrs. and Dr. Abernathy moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where she became a secretary for the Alabama chapter of the NAACP and taught high school courses on business education, while Dr. Abernathy served as pastor of the First Baptist Church on Ripley St. In 1954, the couple hosted a new pastor, who had been brought in to lead the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his wife, Coretta Scott King. In 1955, around the family dining room table, Mrs. Abernathy wrote the business plan for the Montgomery bus boycott, a plan which later served as a blueprint for the Civil Rights Movement. Meant to last only one day, the boycott went on for 381 days, eventually leading to the courts desegregating public transit and the country. In retaliation to the success of the Montgomery bus boycott, the Abernathy house was bombed while Dr. Abernathy was in Atlanta with Dr. King, establishing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Thankfully, Mrs. Abernathy, who was home with her oldest daughter Juandalynn, and pregnant with her youngest, Donzaleigh, was safe, though firefighters said that if the bomb had landed only a foot away, it would have exploded the house's main gas line. That same night Dr. Abernathy's church was bombed. Over the years, Mrs. Abernathy endured terror, harassment and unbridled hatred from white supremacists in her community and beyond; and yet, in the face of unimaginable threats, Mrs. Abernathy maintained her innate dignity and bravery.