

RECOGNIZING LINDA RENÉ  
MATTHEWS ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a constituent, employee and friend, Linda René Matthews, as she retires from the U.S. House of Representatives, where she has served in the District Office of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio since January of 2009.

In fact, she served me so well while I was Mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, that I knew she would be invaluable as a congressional staffer. I was right.

Linda has been a strong, stable force, who has always understood the needs of constituents and worked hard to be of service to them and me. Her loyalty is unfaltering, her advice always candid, and her care for the integrity of my offices unquestionable.

After more than 20 years with me, Linda has decided to retire effective February 29, 2020. She leaves a legacy that set a standard in so many ways. She is more than the title of Scheduler/Office Manager implies, serving so many years as a member of my team of advisors. So, I say:

Whereas, Linda René Matthews has spent most of her professional life as a public servant; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews has served the people of Northeast Ohio for over twenty years, first in the Office of the Mayor of Warrensville Heights and now in the District Office of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews is a life-long resident of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews has served the constituents of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio with distinction for more than eleven (11) years; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews is retiring as Scheduler and Office Manager in the District Office of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio;

*Resolved*, that the 11th Congressional District of Ohio acknowledges, salutes and celebrates its resident and servant leader, Linda René Matthews, this 12th day of February 2020, for her record of excellence in service, and unqualified loyalty to the District's constituents.

CONGRATULATING DR. CHARLENE  
M. DUKES ON HER RETIREMENT  
AS PRESIDENT OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate an outstanding and trailblazing leader in higher education in Maryland's Fifth District. Dr. Charlene M. Dukes will be retiring as President of Prince George's Community College this June after thirteen years at the helm.

She is the first woman to lead the College in its sixty-two-year history.

Dr. Dukes's time as President has been characterized by growth and a deepening of the College's mission. She oversaw a partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools to create the first middle college in our state as well as a new Teacher Academy, Academy for Health Sciences, and two P-Tech Schools. The College joined with the University of Maryland Global Campus to launch a 3D Scholars Program and to expand programs in information technology and math. Under President Dukes's leadership, the College built new buildings at its Largo campus, including Lanham and Bladen Halls, the Culinary Arts Center, the Center for Performing Arts, and the Center for Health Studies. She led the effort to begin a major renovation this year of Marlboro Hall, the College's largest classroom facility.

A proponent of streamlining operations to enhance the quality of its services, Dr. Dukes oversaw a process of realigning the College's organizational structure under the 2019–2021 Strategic Plan. That plan focuses on increasing student success, growing the College's regional impact, and ensuring that the College's organization excels in helping it serve the 40,000 students who benefit annually from its courses and programs.

Before becoming the eighth President of Prince George's Community College, Dr. Dukes served on the Prince George's County Board of Education and as adjunct faculty at the Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh. She also taught at Prince George's Community College and at Morgan State University. Former Governor Martin O'Malley appointed her to serve on the State Board of Education from 2007 to 2015, and she was the Board's President for the last three years of that period. Recognized by Washington Magazine as one of the 100 most powerful women in the metro area in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017, Dr. Dukes was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 2013. She continues to serve on the boards of Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, the Biden Institute, the Business Roundtable, the Greater Washington Community Foundation, the Institute for Higher Education Policy, and Campus Compact, among other nonprofits.

When Dr. Dukes retires at the end of June, she will leave a powerful and lasting legacy for the College and for the county and state she has so faithfully served in the cause of higher education. Because of her leadership, thousands of Maryland students have access to quality, affordable community college that can serve as a pathway to opportunity and success. I join in thanking her for her service, and I congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION OF THE KIWANIS  
CLUB AND THE ZONTA CLUB OF  
JOLIET

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centennial Celebration of the Kiwanis Club of Joliet and Zonta International.

Since its formation in 1920, The Kiwanis Club of Joliet has had a strong commitment to our community. They have supported cherished programs like Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Center for Disability Services, the Guardian Angel Community Services, and many more. Currently, they sponsor several high school and middle school community clubs, inspiring our youth to give back as well.

The Zonta Club of Joliet is a service-based organization committed to promoting women both locally and globally. Through fundraisers, they finance scholarships, grants, international projects, and charities. They are also the sponsors of the Joliet Central High School Fearless Females, a club dedicated to empowering young women.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Joliet and Joliet International for 100 years of dedication to our community, and I wish them the best in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DECREASE  
NOISE LEVEL ACT

**HON. GRACE MENG**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Decrease Noise Level Act.

For millions of Americans, noise from aircraft is a constant source of torment, whether they live right near an airport or under a regular flight path. Chronic exposure to excessive noise can lead to sleep deprivation, task interruptions, among other negative consequences, which result in untold costs on society in diminished work productivity.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) currently uses a Day-Night average noise level to assess the level at which noise exposure becomes "significant" in residential communities. However, the level that the FAA has currently deemed acceptable is 65, a full 10 decibels higher than what Europe allows.

FAA's use of 65 DNL as "significant" is based on severe and immediate health impacts, at which point damage has already been done. It is essential that the FAA considers quality of life, long-term health impacts, home values, and overall economic impact. I believe reasonable noise congestion levels should be based on a standard that falls well before the point at which long-term health is impacted.

That is why I am introducing the Decrease Noise Level (DNL) Act—a bill that would require the FAA to immediately lower the level of noise that is considered "significant" to 60, and create a plan to lower it to 55 within 10 years. It would also require community outreach from the FAA to promote its recent study that considers alternatives to the DNL as a metric to measure noise.

I urge my colleagues to join me to pass this important legislation.