

be the first in Florida to embrace and recognize LGBT businesses in their procurement processes.

Kellie serves on the Orlando Mayor's Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and volunteers with the Central Florida Freethought Community, a non-profit dedicated to the separation of state and church. In the wake of the Pulse Tragedy, she served on the taskforce to formally establish the One Orlando Alliance, a coalition of non-profits unifying Central Florida's LGBTQ+ community.

She believes every moment counts, and that together we can create positive change if we show up, speak out, and act with love, which she strives to do daily for the community at large, and for her family, where she is a proud and fierce mama bear.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LOUISE ENDEL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Louise Endel, a pillar of the New Haven community and a dear friend. Though she lived a long and fulfilling life, it still feels as though she was taken from us much too soon. Hers is a legacy of compassion, philanthropy and generosity that will surely continue to serve as an inspiration to all those who know her—and likely many that did not.

Louise and her husband, Charlie, moved to North Haven with their three daughters in 1952 and soon became actively involved in the community and with a myriad of community organizations, including the League of Women Voters, the Girl Scouts, and Ridge Road School's Parent Teacher Association. Louise and Charlie were also founding members of the Ridge Top Club, the first swimming club in the area to "eschew racial and religious discrimination." Over the course of her life, Louise served on fifty-two local, state and national boards and was passionately devoted to supporting many New Haven non-profits including the International Festival of Arts and Ideas, the Long Wharf Theatre, the Elm Shakespeare Theater, St. Raphael's Hospital Foundation, and L.E.A.P.

Louise was the epitome of a "people-person." She intrinsically understood the soul of a person—where their passions lay and how best they could make a difference. Louise herself was one of the most giving people I have ever had the good fortune to know. She was affectionately known as the "matchmaker"—not because she matched people for love, but because she could match people to the best ways in which they could contribute to the community. Louise connected people with complimenting talents, ensuring the success of countless organizations and events. In a word, she was remarkable.

I myself benefitted from her unique talents. Louise was one of the first people to approach and encourage me to run for Congress. I remember her coming to me and asking if I would ever consider running, and when I replied that I was, she said, "let me introduce you to . . ." and the rest, as they say, is history. I, like so many others, consider myself fortunate to have called her my friend.

Louise was an extraordinary woman whose kind heart and generosity touched the lives of many. A devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Louise is survived by her three daughters, Susan, Barbara, and Patricia; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. To them, I extend my deepest sympathies and hope that they know what an enormous impact Louise had on all those who knew her. Hers is a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

HONORING ASHLEY FIGUEROA AS
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE
MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Ashley Figueroa is an award winning leader in social services and a proud Trans Latina American Woman. Among her chosen advocacy roles, Ashley is the Founder and Executive Director of the Gender Advancement Project (GAP) which focuses on the progression and inclusion of Transgender and Gender Non Binary individuals in Central Florida.

Ashley also works with several local and national community based organizations to make a positive impact in today's society. Some of the boards she currently serves on are: Trans-Action Florida Advisory Council, The Contigo Fund Community Board, the National Network Latin Plus, and the Orlando Trans Collective. In 2019, Ashley was appointed by Mayor Buddy Dyer as the Secretary for the City of Orlando Census Complete Count Committee. That same year, Ashley was honored with the Voice of Equality award by Equality Florida and she was also named one of Watermark's Most Remarkable People of 2019 for her advocacy and leadership with the transgender community of Orlando.

Ashley's work has also earned her national recognition. Earlier this year, she was chosen as an honoree of the 41 List for being a Latinx LGBTQ+ role model.

HONORING THE FAMILY LEGACY
OF McCLARD'S BAR-B-Q

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the near-century-old legacy of McClard's Bar-B-Q in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Founded by Gladys and Alex McClard in 1928, the fourth generation of the McClard family, represented by owners Scott and Shannon McClard, keeps its doors open today.

In the last century, McClard's has been a cultural icon of the Hot Springs area, gathering long lines of customers outside its doors on Albert Pike Road. Known for barbecue pork, ribs, tamales, and infamous barbecue sauce, the barbecue joint is a local favorite, even noted to be a favorite of President Bill Clinton's during his upbringing in Hot Springs.

The restaurant's leadership recently made the decision to sell the family-owned spot following a brief closing during the COVID-19 pandemic. While it has reopened this week under new ownership, the McClard family is still actively involved in the restaurant's progress in the community.

Not only does McClard's Bar-B-Q boast of some of the best cooking in the Southwest Arkansas area, but the restaurant holds 92 years of Arkansas culture, history, and memories. Theirs is a story of the American dream, and I look forward to seeing this place continue to be a place of joy for Fourth District residents, just as it has for nearly a century. I take this time to thank all generations of the McClard family for their years of hard work and their diligence in creating the most loved of Hot Springs traditions.

HONORING SUPERINTENDENT
MARTHA MARTINEZ

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salinas City Elementary School District Superintendent, Martha Martinez, on her retirement after serving the state of California as a public educator since 1975. An outstanding citizen and educator, Superintendent Martinez has made an unparalleled impact in the educational community of the central coast of California and our entire state through 45 years of service.

Superintendent Martinez's began her career as a paraprofessional in California's Bay Area before later becoming an elementary teacher. After 20 years as an educator, she put her expertise towards work as a school administrator with the Santa Clara County Office of Education and Gilroy Unified School District.

In 2015, she became Superintendent of the Salinas City Elementary School District. In this role, she has distinguished herself as a passionate advocate for providing all students, regardless of background, with a quality education that provides equitable opportunities for all learners. As a visionary leader, Superintendent Martinez not only holds students and educators to high expectations, but also provides her own endless support so that all goals can be attainable.

Superintendent Martinez has also built strong support for her district in the local community. She has launched a citywide literacy campaign in Salinas to provide over 160,000 residents with a free Early Literacy App and mobilized leaders across Monterey County to work to end bullying. With her robust background in building local and regional partnerships, Superintendent Martinez was selected to organize Salinas Founder's Day, to celebrate the city's 150th birthday, and the Salinas City Elementary School District's Sesquicentennial Commemoration. With these two events, Superintendent Martinez brought individuals from all backgrounds in our community together to celebrate the City of Salinas and its outstanding students. Recognizing the support of the community around her, Superintendent Martinez is well-known to distinguish the stellar efforts of those she works with at every possible opportunity.