

where they choose to live and should not be ignored by virtue of residence.

Our constituents living and working abroad have consistently voiced concerns about the impact federal policymaking has on the issues directly affecting them like voting, immigration, access to financial institutions, and taxation. The time has come to take a look at the importance of federal policies for our overseas community rather than continuing to ignore the calls from our abroad constituents. That is why today I am introducing the Commission on Americans Living Abroad Act, which creates an Executive Commission with the main purpose of examining those concerns. The Commission creates a 15 member panel to examine the impact of federal policymaking on U.S. citizens abroad. The resulting study would then be used by Congress and the Executive Branch when considering the best steps we can take to engage the abroad community and ensure their voices are heard. This process will ensure clearer awareness of the federal issues impacting Americans abroad and will open a path for coordination with those communities towards more robust representation.

We must take a real and comprehensive look at how we, as Members of Congress, respond to U.S. citizens living abroad. Each of our constituents has a right to have their interests represented and to have a role in the political process. The Commission on Americans Living Abroad would establish a foundation from which we can work to better serve the needs of our global constituents. I welcome and urge my colleagues to lend their support to this bill.

HONORING HAZEL WEISS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Hazel Weiss as she retires from 29 years of service to the people of Alameda County, including her tireless efforts to provide permanent supportive housing and services for those in need. I join our community in celebrating the many ways in which her life's work has contributed to the success and wellbeing of countless people throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Holding a bachelor's degree in American Social Organization, a Master of Arts in Health Services Administration, and a Master of Science in Assistance Dog Education, Ms. Weiss has shaped a multi-faceted career, which has never ceased to offer creative solutions for vulnerable populations.

Over the course of nearly three decades working with Alameda County, Ms. Weiss served as Senior Program Specialist for the Health Care Services Agency's Alcohol and Drug Programs Department; she was instrumental in creating sober living environments as Program Director for the Alameda County Shelter Plus Care Program; and was the Com-

munity Development Agency's Housing and Community Development Manager.

Moreover, as Director of the National Shelter Plus Care Coalition, which she initiated in 1999, Ms. Weiss oversaw 300 national members advocating to secure full federal renewal funding to permanently house and support homeless people with disabilities. Among her myriad commitments, she administered funding for Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) and served as a member of the Ryan White Care Act Community Care Planning Council.

For many years, Ms. Weiss also served on the Planning Committee of Alameda County's annual Disability Employment conference, as well as on a variety of committees, commissions, and nonprofit boards of directors to promote disability awareness and the equal treatment of persons with disabilities. Ms. Weiss exercised the rare talent of fulfilling local needs while also promoting advocacy on a national scale. Her nationally recognized work in Supportive Housing for homeless people made her a familiar face at the Federal level, calling for increased funding and support.

On a personal note, I was always impressed by Hazel's passion and vitality during her many visits to my Washington, DC office accompanied by her service dogs, first Hams, and later, Virgil. She is truly a remarkable woman who has gone above and beyond in working to make universal access to care and housing a reality for all.

Her dedication to improving others' lives is evident from her countless community affiliations and activities, including her personal commitment to the City of Berkeley Commission on Disability, the Disability Constituency Committee for the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and the Board of Directors of Community Resources for Independent Living. In addition to being a published author, an adjunct faculty member and lecturer, and a volunteer for dog-related therapeutic programs, Ms. Weiss has spent her career leading bold initiatives for the common good. She has truly created pathways out of poverty while being a champion for equal opportunity and human dignity each day.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Ms. Hazel Weiss, I salute you for 29 years of outstanding service to Alameda County and people across this great nation. I congratulate and thank you for your unparalleled service to our community. You have touched many lives in profound ways throughout your career, and we wish you and your loved ones continued prosperity and happiness as you transition to this exciting new chapter of life.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
DONALD A. MILES

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, the theme of Black History Month 2013 is "At the Cross-

roads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington." In the 100 years between their emancipation and the success of the civil rights movement, African-Americans were subjected to the abuse of slavery and the exclusion from benefits attributed to American prosperity. In spite of the civil and political barriers facing them, African-Americans worked diligently to achieve full equality with other Americans.

Therefore it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise to honor an outstanding public servant who has served the Bronx community for over 25 years. Judge Donald A. Miles, a child of North and South Carolina parents, and the eldest of two children, is presently a Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York in Bronx County.

Before beginning his life in the courtroom, the New York City Public Schools-educated Miles received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, with a minor in Sociology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and earned a Master of Science Degree in Social Work from Columbia University. His background in social sciences led him to Lincoln Hospital where he worked as a Certified Psychiatric Social Worker.

I imagine it was this experience at Lincoln Hospital, serving and supporting many of the underserved and under-resourced in the South Bronx that led Judge Miles to pursue his Juris Doctorate, from the Antioch School of Law in Washington, DC. Though there is much to extol in Judge Miles' rise from a private practice attorney to Principal Law Clerk at the Bronx Supreme Court and on to his current position as Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York in Bronx County, today it is important to focus on Judge Miles' commitment to improving the position of the African-American community.

He is currently a member of the Bronx County Bar Association, Black United Leadership in the Bronx, Scholarship Committee of the Black Bar of Association of Bronx County, and when he finds the time he volunteers as a judge for the Thurgood Marshall Mock trial competition. I also take personal pride in having Judge Miles serve as a member of my military academy recommendation committee. His participation in these committees and groups helps empower African-Americans in Bronx County.

Mr. Speaker, the Bronx is proud to be the home of many African-American leaders. Individuals like Judge Donald A. Miles continue to open doors and set high standards for generations of African-Americans. During Black History Month, we pay tribute to and thank him for his work on behalf of the people of the Bronx, and I ask you and my colleagues to join me.