

investment decisions and remaining loyal to their business model, they were able to advance their institution. Dressel and her team did not rely heavily on real estate loans and only raised capital when the market improved.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Melanie Dressel and her admirable leadership as President and CEO of Columbia Bank and Columbia Banking System, Inc. She is a prime example of sound banking company management.

COMMEMORATING VICTOR M. FORTUNO'S DISTINGUISHED CAREER

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Victor M. Fortuno's distinguished career in public interest law and his thirty years of exceptional service to the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

Vic Fortuno is a true American success story. Like me, Vic is a proud "nuyorican," that is, someone of Puerto Rican heritage hailing from New York City. He was born and raised in Hell's Kitchen in Manhattan, where he lived with his brother and grandparents in a small shotgun-style apartment. Vic thrived both in and out of school and was offered a full scholarship to Columbia University. He earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate degrees from Columbia, and spent his first year after law school providing legal services to the poor as a staff attorney with Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Vic subsequently served for five years as an Assistant District Attorney for the City and County of Philadelphia. His work under then-District Attorney Ed Rendell included assignments to the Trial and Appellate Divisions, as well as the Organized Crime Unit.

Vic came to LSC in 1983 as an attorney in the Office of Compliance and Review. Subsequently, he served as Acting Director of Compliance and Review, Assistant General Counsel, Senior Litigation Counsel, and Deputy General Counsel before being appointed General Counsel of the Corporation in 1991. He has served honorably in that capacity for twenty-two years. Vic also holds the offices of Corporate Secretary and Vice President for Legal Affairs. As a key member of the management team, Vic has provided exceptional legal advice and counsel to eight LSC presidents and four boards of directors. He brought the highest levels of professionalism, ethics, and leadership to LSC's legal department. He achieved a record of success while providing sound advice, compassionate mentoring, and unwavering friendship to countless individuals during his tenure at LSC. Vic served as a stabilizing force in times of crisis, as the keeper of institutional knowledge in times of transition, and as a trusted and knowledgeable advisor throughout.

Vic also served as LSC's first Latino president from 2010–2011. Always prepared and unflappable, with a ready smile, a hearty laugh, and a great sense of humor, Vic brought a wealth of experience and confidence to the Corporation's highest office. His patient, thoughtful, and collaborative leader-

ship style empowered staff and enhanced LSC's commitment to providing access to justice for low-income Americans. I met Vic during this time period, and he struck me as just the type of person we should have in public service—caring, committed, and devoted to helping others.

Throughout his career at LSC, Vic has selflessly dedicated himself to promoting the public interest and making the dream of "equal justice for all" a reality for all Americans. He is a model public servant, and I commend him for his life-long commitment to providing high-quality civil legal services to the nation's poor.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking Victor M. Fortuno for his truly remarkable service to the Legal Services Corporation and his immeasurable contributions to both the legal aid community and our nation. I wish Victor all the best as he enters this new phase in his life.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MARY E. WALTON

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Ms. Mary E. Walton, a World War II veteran and the first African American nurse from Dallas to enlist in the U.S. Army. Ms. Walton lived to be 93, and left behind a legacy working as a nurse for more than 70 years.

Ms. Walton had a long and rich history living in Dallas, and remained in Dallas for most of her life. Ms. Walton left Dallas to pursue her degree in nursing at the Brewster Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Florida—one of the few schools available for black nurses at the time—and later enlisted in the Army in 1944.

Ms. Walton believed that being a nurse was her purpose in life. She recalled that working to serve others was the driving force behind her dedication as a nurse, and her chief motivation was to pursue a career serving others, even in the face of overwhelming adversity and discrimination.

After serving in World War II, Ms. Walton returned to Dallas to become a public health nurse at Parkland Hospital, only the second African American nurse to be hired there. Ms. Walton would later come to work at the Dallas VA Medical Center in the service of other veterans—but not until after first being turned away during the late 1950s, when African Americans were not hired.

Mr. Speaker, as the first nurse to be elected to the U.S. Congress, I am honored to recognize such an influential and historic figure from Dallas. Ms. Walton was a selfless caregiver whose faith helped her to overcome the challenges of discrimination. We are grateful for Ms. Walton's service to our country and courage in the face of adversity, and our thoughts are with the friends and family she left behind.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW JERSEY MANUFACTURERS INSURANCE COMPANY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company (NJM) of West Trenton, New Jersey on its 100th Anniversary. Since its founding, NJM has provided quality, affordable insurance to its customers. Its commitment to the service and benefit of its policyholders is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Incorporated on June 7, 1913, New Jersey Manufacturers Casualty Insurance Company (currently NJM) was founded as a workman's compensation insurance agency to serve the well-being of the many workers employed in the manufacturing industry throughout New Jersey. It has expanded over the years to now also include personal and commercial automobile, homeowners, flood and umbrella insurance. In its 100-year history, NJM has insured over one million New Jersey households and businesses. Additionally, it has provided nearly \$5 billion in dividends to its policyholders since instituting them in 1918. NJM's expansions have had a positive impact on the economic growth of New Jersey and have provided for thousands of employment opportunities to New Jersey residents.

NJM has received various recognitions and accolades over the years. In 2006 and 2010 the carrier had zero valid complaints and was ranked as the #1 automobile insurance company for overall customer satisfaction in the U.S. by Consumer Reports. It has also been recognized as a J.D. Power Customer Service Champion, a Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Corporation of the Year and a Ewing Township Economic Development Advisory Commission Large Business of the Year. NJM also continues to maintain its ranking as one of the best carriers by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company. The company continues to provide outstanding service to its customers.

HONORING THE GARDEN CLUB OF MORRISTOWN

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Garden Club of Morristown, located in Morristown, New Jersey, which is celebrating its Centennial Anniversary.

In 1913, Mrs. Gustav Kissel, granddaughter of the Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, gathered together a few women and established the Garden Club of Morristown. This club reflected a new type of organization where women "sowed their own seeds" not only for providing floral beauty, but also for civic action. They composed a constitution stating that the club's purpose was to "promote garden