

Carter Tabernacle CME Church for her civic and social involvement.

Mrs. Gordon received her bachelor's degree in library science from South Carolina State University, and her master's degree in guidance and counseling and certification in administration and supervision from UCF. Mrs. Gordon is currently pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy in Education with a Specialization in Organizational Leadership.

Mrs. Gordon is the widow of the late Reverend James D. Gordon, Jr., and the mother of three Jones High School graduates.

I am happy to honor Kat Gordon, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TIFFANY MOORE RUSSELL

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Commissioner Tiffany Moore Russell. A native of Orlando, Florida and a product of Orange County's public school system, Commissioner Moore Russell is an alumna of Dr. Phillips High School. She received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of South Florida and a J.D. from Florida State University College of Law.

In November of 2006, she made history by becoming the youngest County Commissioner ever elected to serve on the Orange County Commission. In her role as the Commissioner for District 6, she oversees a budget of over \$5 billion and more than 8000 employees. Commissioner Moore Russell is committed to remaining accountable and accessible to each and every constituent, increasing recreational and career opportunities for youth, creating stable and viable neighborhoods, and strengthening Orange County's economy by increasing the availability of jobs and minority business opportunities.

Commissioner Moore Russell has been a community advocate for many years, both as an elected official and a private citizen. Prior to her role as Commissioner, she served on the Orange County Community Action Board, where she was elected Chairman and Vice Chairman. She also accepted volunteer appointments to both the Orange County Board of Zoning and Adjustments and the Orange County Citizens Review Board. She has also served on numerous boards including Orange County's Commission on Aging, Value and Adjustment Board, Youth and Family Services Board, the Downtown Orlando CRA/DDB Board, African American Chamber of Commerce, 2008 Electoral Canvassing Board, International Drive Master Transit and Improvement District, METROPLAN, and the Florida Association of Counties.

Her love for the Central Florida community is evident through her desire to initiate local community programs. Family Hope Day is a program designed to promote community partnerships, neighborhood unity, and a safer, more caring community for the residents of the Washington Park neighborhood. The Annual Summer Safety Event was established to prepare students for a safe, positive, and productive summer vacation. The Pine Hills Clean Sweep is organized to remove debris and trash from the streets in an effort to make the Pine Hills neighborhood a better place to live. The Commissioner's W/MBE Townhall Meetings are citizen driven forums that allow local business owners to discuss topics related to doing business in Orange County. In addition,

Commissioner Moore Russell initiated the E-Zone Workshop, "School Days Are Here Again" Back to School Rally, "Holiday Senior Brunch," and "Holiday Extravaganza" programs.

Commissioner Moore Russell is a member of the local chapter of the NAACP, the Florida Bar, the Orange County Bar Association, the Virgil Hawkins Chapter of the National Bar Association, the Paul C. Perkins Bar Association, the Central Florida Women's Lawyer Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Life Center Church of Eatonville, Florida. In addition to serving on the commission she is an Associate Counsel with the Law Offices of John DiMasi. Commissioner Russell is married to Anthony K. Russell, Jr. and they are the proud parents of Anthony K. Russell, III.

I am happy to honor Commissioner Tiffany Moore Russell, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NANCY CAROLA PLATTE JACOBSON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Nancy Carola Platte Jacobson. Nancy was born at the end of World War II. Her father, William Neal Platte, a metallurgical research engineer, worked in the aircraft industry. She is a first-generation German-American, as her mother, Ursula Carola Brunhilt Bruck, was born in Germany. Her German grandparents were present in her life for many years. From them, Nancy acquired a deep appreciation for our democracy and America's place in history.

Growing up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Nancy received an excellent public education. She remains grateful to mentors like her world history teacher, Ronald Hoover, who recognized her capabilities and pushed her to achieve, and Frau Martha Rose, who taught Nancy her mother tongue, German, in high school.

Nancy went on to major in German, with minors in French and English, at the University of Pittsburgh, finishing Magna Cum Laude in 1966. It was her great good fortune and honor to be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Germany for the year following her graduation. World War II had ended barely 20 years earlier, and the Berlin Wall had been up for only a few years. During her time in Germany, Nancy spent a life-changing week in East Berlin.

Nancy lived and worked in the Washington, D.C. area in 1968, a tumultuous time in American history. After moving to Florida in 1969, she became a certified paralegal and managed a law office. In mid-life, Nancy returned to school and obtained her law degree from the University of Florida in 1984.

Although Nancy acknowledges the fortunate circumstances of her birth, she has often said she was less fortunate to be born female at a time when women's choices were restricted by law and social convention. Nancy believes that we as a country lose when society stereotypes and restricts any segment of our population based on race, gender, ethnicity, orientation, or other labels.

Now retired, Nancy has devoted the past decade of her life to civic activism and citizen lobbying to achieve social and economic justice for all and to restore and strengthen our democracy. Galvanized by the contentious election of 2000, Nancy worked with many others on election integrity and protection

issues in Florida. She later worked to pass the "Fair Districts" amendment to Florida's state constitution in order to reduce the disenfranchisement of Florida's citizens through gerrymandering.

Nancy is also an elected member of the Democratic National Committee, representing Florida since 2008. Nancy has always been grateful to her husband, James R. Lussier, for his support of her civic and political activism. Without his support, Nancy would not have been able to accomplish a fraction of what she has achieved and what she hopes to achieve going forward.

I am happy to honor Nancy Carola Platte Jacobson, during Women's History Month, for her civic activism and efforts toward social and economic justice.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,555,984,029,917.02. We've added \$6,929,106,981,003.94 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DIRECT THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY TO ACCEPT A STATUE DEPICTING PIERRE L'ENFANT FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PERMANENT DISPLAY OF THE STATUE IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, in this month in which Pierre L'Enfant was hired to design the plan for the District for Columbia in 1791, I introduce a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Pierre L'Enfant from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in the United States Capitol.

Pierre L'Enfant was born in France in 1754. He was an engineer and an architect, and he traveled to the United States to serve with the United States in the Revolutionary War. In March 1791, L'Enfant was hired to develop the design for the District of Columbia. L'Enfant's design for the city was so remarkable that it remains and is cherished today in the nation's capital and throughout this country. L'Enfant's design envisioned a federal and residential city with diagonal streets propelling from Congress and the President's home, beautiful boulevards on local streets and neighborhoods, and open spaces for monuments, memorials and historical structures, all of which largely

remain intact, protected as a historical treasure.

In 2006, the residents of the District of Columbia chose L'Enfant as one of the top ten people that have given distinguishable service to the District of Columbia and the selection committee created by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities chose L'Enfant as the second statute from D.C. to be placed in the United States Capitol. The District's first choice for a statute was Frederick Douglass, and I am pleased that the Douglass statue now sits in Emancipation Hall. Because the United States Capitol does not currently appropriately recognize the contributions of Pierre L'Enfant and because D.C. residents and stakeholders chose L'Enfant as a distinguishable Washingtonian, this bill would require the Joint Committee on the Library to place the Pierre L'Enfant statue in the United States Capitol.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MS. NORMA WRIGHT

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2014*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN and Congressman SAM FARR to honor the life and contributions of our dear friend, Ms. Norma Wright, who recently passed away after a lifetime of serving her community.

Norma Wright dedicated her life to improving education and was respected by all who knew her. She initially became involved in the education system while raising her three children: Bill, Beth, and Nancy. Her passion for educating the children in her life inspired her to return to college to gain a teaching credential. Upon earning her credential, she served as a special education teacher in Gilroy, CA, and then became a Social Studies teacher. Not long after, her innovative and effective teaching style made her the Community Schools Director for the district.

After she married Mr. Kenneth D. Wright, she became more active in local politics and educational policy. For many years, both Norma and Kenneth were deeply involved in both the California Teachers Association and the National Education Association.

Eventually, Ms. Wright returned to school to obtain her Master's Degree in Public Education. With her degree, she became the Social Studies Coordinator at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. During her tenure, she established the Youth at Risk Program, a program that was recognized and replicated statewide. Soon after, she was asked to become the Assistant Director of the Community Juvenile Justice Program.

A few years later, Ms. Wright met two individuals who shaped the future of her career in education and politics. With Mr. Roy Erickson, she helped establish the Constitutional Rights Foundation's training programs. And with Mr. Chuck Quigley, she launched her career-long work with the Constitutional Rights Foundation, the Center for Civic Justice Education, and the Youth for Justice Network.

In 1990, Ms. Wright left her position as the Social Studies Coordinator at the Santa Clara County Office of Education and became the

Director of Justice Programs at the Center for Civic Education. In this capacity, Norma worked to influence education programs across the country to include civic education and high quality social studies programs. She also traveled internationally to share her ideas about democracy, justice, fairness, and equality. The California Council for the Social Studies honored her with the Roy Erickson Award for her work.

Through her law-related education programs and work with the Constitutional Rights Foundation, Norma helped establish the Youth for Justice Network, a coordinated law-related education program that helped promote professional development through a consortium of the Constitutional Rights Foundation, the Public Education Division of the American Bar Association, Street Law, the Center for Civic Education, and the Constitutional Rights Foundation-Chicago.

Her political activism and work to improve social studies programs in the Bay Area made her an asset to many of California's elected officials, including ourselves, Representatives Don Edwards and Lynn Woolsey, U.S. Senators DIANNE FEINSTEIN and BARBARA BOXER, and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. Through her dedication to the promotion of civic education, she also forged relationships with several federal judges and state legislators.

It is in thanks for, and in admiration of, Ms. Norma Wright's commitment to civic education that we offer these words today. We hope her commitment of public service continues to be an inspiration to the young people of generations to come. Thank you Norma, we will miss you.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE  
KATHLEEN C. PASSIDOMO

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2014*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Representative Kathleen Passidomo, an outstanding individual and someone who has been an inspiration in the South Florida community, specifically in Naples.

Representative Passidomo grew up in New Jersey and received her law degree from Stetson University College of Law in 1978. She has been a member of the Florida Bar since 1979, and is a Florida Bar Board Certified Real Estate Lawyer. Rep. Passidomo has had a distinguished career in law, receiving multiple Attorney of the Year Awards and the 2010 Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for providing free legal services to the disadvantaged. She is also a past President of the Board of Directors of the Collier County Bar Association and of the Collier County Women's Bar Association.

Rep. Passidomo has served in the Florida House of Representatives since November 2010, representing District 106. She is currently the Chairman of the Ethics and Elections Subcommittee of the State Affairs Committee, and also serves on the Judiciary Committee as well as the Select Committee on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. She is also a partner in the firm of Kelly,

Passidomo & Alba LLP, and serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Collier County Foreclosure Task Force.

Rep. Passidomo has served in more than 60 leadership and membership roles in professional and community organizations and has been recognized with countless awards for her service within Collier County. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of Hodges University, and is a founding director of the Collier County Senior Resource Center, Inc. Rep. Passidomo has lived in Naples with her family for 34 years and in 2000 she, along with her husband were co-recipients of the Naples Daily News Collier County Citizen of the Year award.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Representative Kathleen Passidomo for her continued service to the Naples community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

CELEBRATING 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER MORRISTOWN YMCA

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2014*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Greater Morristown YMCA, located in Hanover Township, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 140th Anniversary.

The Greater Morristown YMCA was founded by Dr. Frederick Owen and Reverend Thomas Souper on Friday, January 2, 1874. The two founding fathers held their first meeting in the Baptist Church located on The Green of Morristown, lasting until midnight and resulting in the Morristown YMCA.

The original location for the YMCA was a rented second floor walkup. The organization moved in 1881 to provide better facilities. After the purchase of their new building, a night school was created for boys and men. The purpose of this school was to teach reading, spelling, and arithmetic. During this time, the YMCA was only open to males.

In 1883, Mrs. Jacob Sutplen began the Ladies Auxiliary to help raise funds for the facility. The group became an instrumental branch of the organization, both administrative and social, yet women were still not allowed membership. However, this changed around the time of World War I, when the organization decided to open its doors to women part time, offering classes and exclusive time in the gymnasium.

During this period, the gymnasium was described as one of the most complete gymnasiums in the country. Not only was the gym well ventilated and electrically illuminated, but it also offered adjoining bathrooms with hot and cold water for showers. At this time, the building also included classrooms, game rooms, and a bowling alley.

By 1888, the Board of Directors purchased a new lot and building due to the demands of growth. In 1909, the YMCA moved to its third home. Its fourth and current location opened in 1981, located in Cedar Knolls. This facility offers four locker rooms, four racquetball courts, a full gymnasium, an indoor track, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and much