

HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AS AN ENTITY OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, SHOULD ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP IN HONOR OF THE HOLIDAY OF DIWALI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the House Resolution Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, as an entity of the United States Postal Service, should issue a commemorative stamp in honor of the holiday of Diwali. I am proud to be joined in this effort by my colleagues Congresswoman TULSI GABBARD, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congresswoman GRACE MENG, and Congressman AMI BERA.

The five-day "festival of lights," Diwali celebrates the triumph of good over evil, light over dark, and knowledge over ignorance. This festive and important Indian holiday is celebrated by billions across the globe. Despite the significance of this holiday to many Americans, the United States Postal Service has not yet recognized Diwali with a commemorative stamp, as it has with other major religious and cultural holidays such as Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Eid.

As one of the world's oldest religious holidays, Diwali has survived political, economic and social changes throughout history, while always carrying the universal symbolism of the victory of light, goodness, knowledge and truth. It is long overdue that we honor this significant holiday with a postage stamp of its own.

HONORING CHIEF RICHARD
MELTON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Napa Police Department (NPD) Chief Richard Melton upon his retirement. Capping off a long and impressive career in law enforcement, Chief Melton devoted the last ten years to serving and protecting our community as Chief of Police.

Before coming to Napa, Chief Melton was the Chief of Police for both Farmington and Los Alamos, New Mexico Police Departments. Upon assuming the position of Chief of Police in Napa in 2004, Chief Melton immediately began improving the NPD's relationship with the community as well as both the level of professionalism and education within the NPD.

Chief Melton made it a priority for the NPD to forge a better working relationship with members of the homeless population in our community. As a result, the number of calls involving homeless persons decreased by 50 percent and the number of homeless persons arrested dropped by 50 percent. Chief Melton

also worked to improve the NPD's interactions with those in our community who suffer from mental health issues by bringing a part-time Napa County Mental Health Worker to the NPD. As Chief, Richard Melton recognized the importance of compassion, efficiency and professionalism when working with all members of our community.

Chief Melton made significant progress in raising the level of education within the NPD. He always encouraged and supported his employees to take advantage of training and educational opportunities. He also raised the level of formal education for employees at the supervisorial and managerial levels. Chief Melton made a concerted effort to increase the level of professionalism within the NPD during his tenure, while still remaining approachable and receptive to his employees.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Melton's career is nothing short of impressive. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

IN HONOR OF TASSOS
EFSTRATIADES, ESQ.

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tassos Efstratiades, Esq. of Cherry Hill, New Jersey for his achievements, contributions, and service to the people of New Jersey and its Hellenic community.

Born in Athens, Greece, Mr. Efstratiades' life has been an inspiration to the citizens of South Jersey. After coming to the United States, he graduated from Villanova University with a law degree and a Master's degree in International Relations. Over his more than three decades practicing law, Mr. Efstratiades has published numerous law articles and now serves as the co-chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Banking Committee.

Mr. Efstratiades also served the people of New Jersey in a number of civic posts. He was a close advisor to Governor James Florio, served as a board member of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and as chairman of the Governor's Commission on International Trade among several other positions. Currently, he is serving as a member of the New Jersey Health Care Administration Board.

Mr. Efstratiades is a pillar of New Jersey's Hellenic community. He was one of the founders of the Greek American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, and served not only as the first chairman of its board, but later as its president as well. He was instrumental in the the creation of the Hellenic Federation of New Jersey and, after being elected its first president, he worked tirelessly to promote the interests of the Greek Orthodox Church and the Hellenic community in New Jersey. In recognition of his efforts, Mr. Efstratiades was made an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I.

Mr. Speaker, Tassos Efstratiades, Esq. is a great man who exemplifies the American spirit. I join the Hellenic Federation and all of New Jersey in honoring the achievements of this exceptional man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 17 on Monday, January 12th, 2015, my son underwent emergency surgery for appendicitis. For that reason, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC, in time for floor votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea."

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF MATT
SHOBERT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose commitment and contributions to the City of Murrieta, California are exceptional. Murrieta has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Murrieta Fire Chief, Matt Shobert, is one of these individuals. On Tuesday, January 20, 2015, Matt Shobert will be honored for his devoted and valiant service to the people of Murrieta.

Matt began his firefighting career in Tucson, Arizona, actively working his way to leading the fire department in Sedona, Arizona. He then brought his talent and leadership to the Hemet Fire Department, in which he served as Fire Chief for three years. Matt was then appointed as Murrieta's Fire Chief in March of 2011 in which he enthusiastically served the community for nearly four years.

Chief Shobert holds a Master Degree in Organizational Management, a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and an Associate's Degree in Fire Science. In addition, Matt also graduated from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officers' Program, has been accredited three times as a Chief Fire Officer Designee by the Center for Public Safety Excellence and has also been awarded membership into the Institution of Fire Engineers.

Chief Matt Shobert is retiring after incurring a devastating injury while doing what he enjoyed most, keeping the people of Murrieta safe. Throughout his tenure, Fire Chief Matt Shobert continued the distinguished history of the Murrieta Fire Department, working daily to improve the partnership held with the community and by enhancing the strong sense of camaraderie amongst the firefighters in his department.

Fire Chief Matt Shobert has been an excellent public servant who has consistently provided for the safety and well-being of the community of Murrieta. His legacy will serve as a shining example and constant reminder of what it means to be a public servant and I am proud to call Matt a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many are grateful for his service and salute him in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 12, 2015 I missed recorded votes #17–19 due to travel delays.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were present for these votes.

On Roll Call #17, I would have voted YEA (Passage of H.R. 203).

On Roll Call #18, I would have voted YEA (Passage of H.R. 33).

On Roll Call #19, I would have voted YEA (Approval of the Journal).

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
LAREDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a momentous occasion: the 100th anniversary of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce. For one century, this organization has been an instrumental and encouraging part of our community that wishes to see our city continue to grow and move forward.

The Laredo Chamber of Commerce was founded in April of 1915 in Laredo, Texas. It is the largest and oldest business organization in Laredo, representing over 650 members from numerous industries, including financial institutions, retailers, and service providers. It is a voluntary, not-for-profit association that inspires development in business and tourism, and is a voice for the local business community. The Chamber is also a member of other associations such as the American Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

It is in the Laredo Chamber of Commerce's mission statement that it is their duty to be proactive in order to further the success of the Laredo area while also strengthening the advancement of development in areas such as infrastructure and resources. In addition, the Chamber provides various workshops for community members, such as seminars, trainings, and informative customer service sessions.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Laredo Chamber of Commerce for their hard work and endless effort in improving our community these past 100 years. I thank you for this time.

HONORING DEBORAH MAYER

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, as the Chairman of the Committee on Ethics, and along with my colleague, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, the Ranking Member, I rise today to congratulate our departing Director of Investigations, Deborah Mayer, on her new position as staff director for the Sen-

ate Ethics Committee, and to thank her for her service to the House. Her new position continues a career dedicated to public service, which includes not only her work for the House, but also her prior work as a prosecutor with the Justice Department, and her 16-years of service in the JAG Corps of the United States Navy and Naval Reserves. Her dedication to public service, as well as her keen legal mind, will serve the Senate well, as they have served this body for the last several years. Their gain is our loss, and we thank her deeply for her service to this House.

HONORING DEBORAH MAYER

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Deborah Mayer for her service to the Committee on Ethics as its Director of Investigations. Since 2011, Ms. Mayer has lent her experience as a skilled lawyer and manager to the Committee's important work of enforcing the House ethics rules. She managed a team of attorneys and investigators that successfully handled a busy docket of investigations.

During that time, she provided wise counsel to the Committee Members, guiding us through complicated issues and difficult choices. She instilled in her team a strong sense of the value of public service and a dedication to finding the truth, with fairness and impartiality. Deb's entire career has been dedicated to public service—as a paramedic, in uniform, and as an attorney.

Although she is leaving the House, she will continue her impressive record of public service as staff director for the Senate Ethics Committee. As she begins her new role, we pause to note that we will miss her leadership and her talents, but we know she will remain our friend. Congratulations, Deb, and good luck.

SHARON MENDOZA DOUGHTY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Sharon Mendoza Doughty, who passed away on November 19, 2014 following a long battle with cancer. A pioneering rancher, conservationist, teacher, winemaker and a natural leader, Ms. Doughty was a positive force within the local community.

Sharon Doughty grew up on her parents' historic B Ranch on the Point Reyes Peninsula. After the passing of her second husband, Bill Bianchini Jr., in the early 1980s, she took over the daily operations of their 800-acre dairy. Transitioning from a career as an accountant and teacher, Sharon Doughty became a full-time rancher with the help of her close family and friends.

Through her comprehensive knowledge of the dairy trade, Ms. Doughty became a natural leader within the North Bay dairy community and leaves behind a long legacy of positive

impacts. The depth of her commitment to Marin County agriculture united fellow ranchers and helped to propel their products into national markets. A dedicated advocate for the preservation of local agricultural lands, Ms. Doughty served two terms as the president of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust and one term as a member of the California Coastal Commission. She selflessly devoted her time and expertise to the Marconi Conference Center in Marshall and 4-H. Among her many honors, in 2007, Ms. Doughty was named the "Woman of the Year" for California's 6th Assembly District for her exceptional community leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon Doughty's life teaches us that one woman can make a substantial difference. Her efforts will not soon be forgotten as much of her legacy lives on all around us in Marin County and beyond. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today and express our deepest condolences to her husband Steve; daughters Kathleen von Raesfeld and Karen Taylor; brothers Joseph Mendoza Jr. and James Mendoza; grandchildren Audrey and Nina von Raesfeld, Camilla, William Joseph, and Eva Taylor; and nephew Will Clark.

STOPPING OBAMA'S AMNESTY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, America is a nation of immigrants. Since the earliest days of our nation, countless generations have come from around the world to build a better life here for themselves, their children and their families.

But we are also a nation built on the rule of law, and those who enter our country illegally disregard those laws.

Illegal immigration is an injustice to every single person who followed the proper procedure when they came to the United States, and in an age of international terrorism and global pandemics, it presents a serious national security risk.

What we don't need right now is amnesty. Instead, we need strict border security and the proper enforcement of the laws we already have on the books.

Unfortunately, our president does not feel the same way.

Upon discovering he could not get support from Congress, he decided to circumvent the legislative branch through executive action and grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants.

He disregarded both the will of the American people and the separation of powers that our founding fathers laid out for our government.

By ignoring the core parts of our democracy, President Obama has shamefully overstepped his Constitutional authority.

A nation is nothing without total control over the sovereignty of its borders, and this executive action has only made the situation worse by offering a powerful incentive for more people to enter illegally.

Make no mistake: I am and always will be 100 percent opposed to blanket amnesty for illegal immigrants.