

IN HONOR OF MARIA T. VULLO

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Maria T. Vullo, who is being honored by Eleanor's Legacy as part of its New York Women Making a Difference ceremony. Maria Vullo is an accomplished litigator who is passionate about women's rights. She oversaw research which has been instrumental in documenting the many reasons why the Equal Rights Amendment is still necessary. On January 21, 2016, in recognition of her extraordinary breadth of experience in financial litigation, Governor Cuomo nominated Ms. Vullo to be Superintendent of the New York State Department of Financial Services, a position she will assume on February 23rd.

Ms. Vullo is an experienced senior litigator and manager, who has more than 25 years of trial and appellate experience in a broad range of business litigation and investigations in state and federal courts across the country. Ms. Vullo's private practice has included matters involving fraud, real estate, health care, insurance, tax, consumer protection, bankruptcy, antitrust, constitutional and environmental law. Since 2010 she has been of counsel at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, where she had been a partner for 20 years before a brief stint in the Attorney General's office.

In 2010, Ms. Vullo oversaw the Economic Justice Division in the Office of the New York State Attorney General, with a staff of approximately 200. She was responsible for numerous investor protection, antitrust and consumer fraud matters, including Martin Act investigations and settlements, investigations and litigations regarding insurance company practices, allegations of price fixing, bid rigging and other antitrust violations, deceptive consumer marketing practices, and violations relating to cooperative and condominium offerings.

Ms. Vullo has always spent a considerable amount of her time on pro bono matters. She is a recognized leader in protecting women's rights. She represented women raped by soldiers during the 1992-1995 Bosnian War—a case in which she secured a \$745 million jury verdict for the plaintiffs. She also represented abortion providers whose lives had been threatened via an online "hit list," securing a \$100 million jury verdict for the plaintiffs.

I came to know Ms. Vullo when she became involved in providing research to explain why we continue to need an Equal Rights Amendment. Her brilliance, dedication and determination were evident as she provided invaluable information on the broad range of ways in which women continue to face discrimination, including pregnancy-related discrimination, violence against women, pay inequity and other areas. I am hopeful that Ms. Vullo's research will lead to the passage of an amendment that will finally ensure that women's equality is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Ms. Vullo is a member of the Boards of Directors of the National Organization of Italian-American Women, the Women's Equality Coalition and the ERA Coalition, Inc.; and is a member of the New York Women's Bar Association and the Women Trial Lawyers Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Maria T. Vullo, a New York woman who makes an extraordinary difference.

## TRIBUTE TO MS. SIDMEL ESTES

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman, who gave of herself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, Ms. Sidmel Estes' work is present in Atlanta, Georgia for all to see, as an unwavering advocate for the youth, an educator, a community leader who worked tirelessly for the rights of our citizens in our district and as a pioneer in journalism and television; and

Whereas, she was elected the first woman president of the National Association of Black Journalists; and

Whereas, Ms. Sidmel Estes led by working behind the scenes, as well as front and center as an executive producer at WAGA-TV/Fox 5 in Atlanta; as co-creator for the television show Good Day Atlanta; as adjunct professor at Emory University and Clark Atlanta University; and

Whereas, this virtuous Proverbs 31 woman was a mother, a sister, a daughter and a friend. She was a warrior, a matriarch, and a woman of great integrity; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional recognition on Ms. Sidmel Estes for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens in Georgia and throughout the Nation; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Ms. Sidmel Estes of DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor": Ms. Sidmel Estes, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 10th day of October, 2015.

## HONORING MOTHER MATTIE MAE AMOS-MARSHALL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mattie Mae Amos-Marshall, who was born in a small community in Florence, Mississippi called Steen Creek on October 15, 1915 to the late Mr. Ben and Salle White-Amos.

Mrs. Marshall married her childhood sweetheart, the late Mr. Jessie Marshall, at the age of 18 and moved to Flora, Mississippi where she began a family of her own.

Mrs. Marshall was baptized at a young age at Stokes Chapel MB Church and later moved her membership to Jones Chapel MB Church where she is a member of the Mother's Board. Mrs. Marshall moved to Canton, Mississippi as a child and was educated in the Madison County School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mother Mattie Mae Amos-Marshall.

## GEORGE VALUCK

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Valuck for receiving the Steve Burkholder Diamond Legacy award from The West Chamber of Jefferson County.

This award is given to an individual who is recognized as a "shining star" due to their leadership and contributions in making Jefferson County a better place to work and live.

A husband, father and grandfather, Mr. Valuck's story stretches from Alameda Avenue to serving as entertainment for the royal wedding of Lady Diana and Prince Charles.

George's recent focus has been centered on downtown Lakewood and its successful Belmar and City Commons districts. Downtown Lakewood is now home to more than 200 stores, eateries and attractions, as well as thousands of new residents and many employers, and has been cited as a world-wide example of smart new-urban living.

I extend my deepest congratulations to George Valuck for his honor by The West Chamber. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same commitment to the community in the future.

## HONORING AMANDA WEINSTEIN

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Amanda Weinstein, a young student from my district who was recently recognized for exemplary volunteer service. Amanda was named one of the top honorees in Florida by the 2016 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor given to the most impressive student volunteers throughout our Nation.

Currently a senior at North Broward Preparatory School, Amanda founded the "Family Central Teen Advisory Board" in 2013. Since then, she has encouraged fifty teens to share in her mission to assist the parent organization Family Central, a nonprofit that helps children and families in need. Amanda, who had been volunteering with Family Central for ten years, organizes toy, food, clothing and school supply drives, and has also created a tutoring and mentoring program.

Among thousands of volunteers who participated in this year's program, Amanda's dedication and strive for excellence stood out as exceptional. I applaud Amanda for her initiative in seeking to make our community a better place to live.

I happily congratulate Amanda and wish her the best of luck in her future academic and community pursuits. It is with great pleasure that I honor her, and I know that she will continue to inspire young South Floridians to live by her example.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

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 \$19,052,403,868,282.85. We've added \$8,425,526,819,369.77 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING LIEUTENANT DENNIS  
HOPSON**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable law enforcer, Lieutenant Dennis Hopson.

On September 25, 1977, Pink Lee Hopson and Walter Williams gave birth to Dennis Hopson. On December 17, 1980, Pink Hopson married Johnny Gibson, who at that time was a father in his life and raised Dennis. Lieutenant Hopson has resided in Tunica County for 38 years. He is a 1996 graduate of Rosa Fort High School in Tunica, Mississippi.

His first job was with Parker Tractor as a parts delivery person, where he learned how to sell parts. In March 1998, he joined the Tunica Volunteer Fire Department and attended the Mississippi Fire Academy for training. In October of 1999, Dennis began working for the Tunica County Sheriff's Department as a jailer for four years. In September of 2003, he attended the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer Training Academy and received certification in November of that same year. At that time, he became a Deputy Sheriff with the Tunica County Sheriff's Department. Since his employment with Tunica County Sheriff's Office, he has served in many capacities, such as: County Fire Arson Investigator; Warrant Officer; Sex Offenders Registry Officer; Emergency Vehicle Operator Instructor; Field Training Officer, Task Force Team—Homeland Security; Emergency Response Team (ERT); Patrol Supervisor and Crime Stoppers Program of Tunica County. He is a member of the Tunica County Color Guard Team. At the present time, Mr. Hopson still holds these positions. In September 2014, he was assigned to the United States Marshals Task Force in Oxford, Mississippi.

Mr. Hopson is married to Stacy L. Hopson, wife of 16½ years, who works as a teacher at the Institute of Community Services (ICS Head start) for the last year. He is a devoted father of three children. Mr. Hopson's goals are to continue to serve and protect the citizens of Tunica County for many more years to come, through God and determination and will continue to make a difference in his community. Mr. Hopson possesses sound judgment, a great sense of accountability to the citizens of Tunica County and an irreproachable profes-

sionalism. He is a God-fearing individual who seeks to serve the citizens of Tunica County with the utmost respect, dignity and honesty. His reputation as a Deputy Sheriff is very well trusted and dependable.

In 2010 and 2011, he lost both of his parents, but never gave up on life. He kept the faith and allowed God to lead him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lieutenant Dennis Hopson for his dedication in being a respected and outstanding Law Enforcer.

## FOOTHILLS CREDIT UNION

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Foothills Credit Union for receiving the Small Business of the Year award from The West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

The Small Business of the Year award is awarded to a business with 50 employees or less and is engaged in improving the business community in Jefferson County.

Offering its members a unique credit builder program, as well as bilingual services and tax refund anticipation loans, Foothills Credit Union has served the community for more than 68 years.

Foothills Credit Union has been the Donation Sponsor for The West Chamber's Celebrate Women event, donating more than \$9,000 to the honorees' non-profits.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Foothills Credit Union for their honor by The West Chamber. I have no doubt Foothills Credit Union will exhibit the same dedication and service to its community in the future.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MR.  
DAN NELSON**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my good friend Dan Nelson, who is retiring after 24 years as the original Executive Director of the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority. Since its inception the Water Authority has been well-served by Dan's brilliance, positive outlook, enormous knowledge and engaging personality.

Dan was educated at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and Fresno State after having grown up in Los Banos, California. Dan brought the experience to the fledgling Water Authority that he gained as General Manager of the San Luis Water District (1987–1991) and the Broadview Water District (1979–1987), as well as experience in the Operations Division of the San Luis Canal Company (1977–1979).

As Executive Director Dan promoted respect, integrity, fairness, creativity, drive and a deep appreciation of family among those that he worked with. To address the complex issues before the Water Authority Dan had the vision to create a three-legged strategy for

both short and long-term issues: administrative engagement, regulatory/legislative engagement, and litigation. This approach fostered a framework for thoughtful decision-making during challenging times.

Dan served the water community outside of his responsibilities with the Water Authority by participating in numerous water-related organizations such as the Land Preservation Association, California Irrigation Institute, Association of California Water Associations, California Water Education Foundation and many other boards, committees, and stakeholder groups.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me, as well as the entire San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority family, in recognizing Dan Nelson's 24 years of service.

IN MEMORIAL RECOGNITION OF  
THOMAS TIGUE FOR A LIFETIME  
OF SERVICE TO THE COMMON-  
WEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Tigue, who passed away Monday, February 1, 2016. As a war veteran, school board member, state representative, father, and grandfather, Tom's life was one dedicated to helping others. Tom will be honored posthumously by the Pittston Sunday Dispatch, receiving the paper's Joseph Saporito Sr. Lifetime of Service Award.

Born and raised in Hughestown, Thomas was a graduate of St. John the Evangelist High School in Pittston in 1964. He received his degree in Government from King's College in Wilkes-Barre while also serving as a reservist in the Marine Corps. Following graduation, Tom married and deployed to Vietnam. While serving as an Infantry Platoon Commander, Thomas earned a Silver Star for gallantry in combat. He remained with the Marine Corps Reserve for 27 years before returning to work as a counselor at Hickory Run State Park in White Haven and as a computer program analyst for Metropolitan Life Insurance, both while taking business classes at King's College. From 1977–1979, Tigue served on the Pittston Area School Board.

In 1980, Tom was elected as a Representative for the 118th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, serving the residents of Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Monroe counties. He remained in the State House for 26 years, retiring in 2006. During his tenure, Thomas served as the Democratic Chair of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, where he helped establish the Military Family Relief Assistance Program which provides assistance to eligible Pennsylvania service members and their family members financially impacted by military service. After his service in the legislature, Thomas worked as Managing Director of the Delaware River Maritime Enterprise Council until his retirement in 2010.

It is an honor to recognize an individual who led a truly outstanding life. I am grateful for all of the work Thomas did for his community and for the people of Pennsylvania. His passing,