

TRIBUTE TO HELEN LEUNG—28TH  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Helen Leung, of Elysian Valley, a unique neighborhood in Los Angeles, California.

Helen grew up in Elysian Valley and attended local public schools. After high school, she moved east to attend the University of Pennsylvania, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Communications, after which she attended Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and obtained a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Urban Planning.

With a passion for redefining the connection of social equity and community development, Helen worked at Living Cities in Washington, D.C., a national funders collaborative focused on systemic impact in low-income communities. She then served as a White House Intern in 2010, a Fellow at the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2012, and gained extensive community-based experience working for former Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti, in policy, planning and neighborhood development. Currently she is Co-Executive Director of LA-Más, a non-profit community design organization headquartered in Elysian Valley. In this role, Ms. Leung ensures that all LA-Más projects, such as the Futuro de Frogtown and Elysian Valley Knowledge Hub projects, are grounded in community need and policy potential.

Helen's past volunteer involvement includes serving on the boards of the Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council and the Wildwood Foundation. Currently she serves on the Los Angeles Police Commission's Police Permit Review Panel, the Community Advisory Board of Genesis LA and the board of the Elysian Valley Arts Collective.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Helen Leung, for her extraordinary service to the community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF LOUISIANA STATE REP. RONNIE  
EDWARDS

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Louisiana State Representative Ronnie Edwards, a dear friend and model public servant. Rep. Edwards passed away on February 24, 2016, at the age of 63 after a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Rep. Edwards was born in Woodville, Mississippi on July 20, 1952, and was a long time

resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. An administrator with over 40 years of experience in government and industry, Rep. Edwards formed lasting relationships and partnerships with education institutions, nonprofits, faith leaders and elected officials to effect change through her community development work.

In 1992, Rep. Edwards founded the Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation (UREC) as a trusted and credible community development organization. With the assistance of many community leaders and supporters, her tenacity resulted in: safe and affordable housing for families; the establishment of Louisiana's first home for grandparents raising grandchildren in Baton Rouge; innovative youth enrichment initiatives; small business training and development; and the development of the Security Dads initiative to combat violence.

Rep. Edwards was elected to represent District 5 on the Baton Rouge Metro Council in 2009. She served on the Council for six years before being elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in November 2015.

In December 2013, Rep. Edwards was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. But for the first year and a half, she did not stop her work at the local level and maintained perfect attendance at Metro Council meetings, where she was a strong advocate of health living initiatives, cancer screenings and affordable housing. Rep. Edwards' diagnosis and experience in the health care system was motivation for her to run for State Representative because she wanted to be an advocate for ways to bring health care access to more citizens.

Ronnie was a talented and compassionate legislator, but more importantly she was a friend. The news of her passing is not only devastating to me, it is a tremendous loss for the entire state. She committed her life to serving her constituents and fighting for those who needed it the most.

As we mourn her loss we must honor her legacy by renewing our commitment to the work she fought so hard to complete. Louisiana has lost a lion, but her memory will live on forever.

Mr. Speaker, my deepest condolences are with her family as they go through this difficult time.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VET-  
ERAN & CIVIL ENGINEER HELIAS  
DOUNDOULAKIS

**HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life of Helias Doundoulakis, who passed away on February 29th, 2016 at the age of 92. A long-time resident of New York's fourth congressional district, Mr. Doundoulakis was a decorated veteran of World War II and an accomplished civil engineer who played a critical role in developing some of the greatest aeronautic achievements of the 20th century.

Born in Ohio and raised in Crete, Greece, Mr. Doundoulakis was still in high school when Axis forces invaded Crete in 1941. Nevertheless, he joined the Cretan resistance and worked alongside the British Special Oper-

ations Executive, collecting vital intelligence for allied forces and sabotaging Axis military operations across the Mediterranean. When it became too dangerous for Mr. Doundoulakis to remain in Crete, he and his brother fled to Egypt, where they immediately rejoined the fight and enlisted in the United States Office of Strategic Services. Despite overwhelming danger, Mr. Doundoulakis' commitment to liberating Crete and defeating the Axis powers never wavered.

After the war, Doundoulakis returned to the United States and settled in New York, where as a civil engineer for Grumman Aerospace Corporation, he helped develop several groundbreaking aeronautic innovations, including the Apollo Lunar Module, the Space Shuttle and the F-14 Tomcat fighter jet. One of Mr. Doundoulakis' most notable achievements was his patent for a radio telescope, used in the design for the largest of its kind at the NAIC Arecibo Observatory, in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, which is the world's largest single-aperture telescope and has played a crucial role in atmospheric and astronomical research. Mr. Doundoulakis served his country both as a courageous soldier and a bold innovator who helped propel the United States to the forefront of aviation and space exploration.

While those who knew Mr. Doundoulakis mourn his passing, we also celebrate his incredible life and all that he achieved. It was truly an honor to serve as Mr. Doundoulakis' representative in Congress and I extend my sincere condolences to his wife Rita Doundoulakis, his children, grandchildren and to all those whose lives he touched.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY ERICKSON—  
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Kelly Erickson, of Echo Park, a unique neighborhood in Los Angeles, California.

Born in Oakhurst, California, Kelly attended Oakhurst Elementary School, Oak Creek Intermediate School and Yosemite High School. She moved to Southern California to attend Pitzer College, where she obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Political Journalism. Because of the college's environment of social and community activism, Kelly credits Pitzer College for guiding her into volunteering and community activism.

Ms. Erickson's involvement in Echo Park community organizations is extensive. She served on the Outreach Committee of the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council, is Chair of the Echo Park Community Parade Committee, a member of the Echo Park Chamber of Commerce, and is active in the Echo Park Improvement Association, where she serves as Secretary and on the Neighborhood Issues Committee. In addition,