

family was doing, and asking for stories and updates to make sure everything was alright. She felt like a family member because she cared so much about everyone.

While she had many jobs and significant responsibilities, the roles that Julie cherished more than any others were that of loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt. Julie loved her family with all of her heart—and it was one of the biggest hearts I've ever known. She spoke frequently and proudly about her family members' latest accomplishments. Nothing brought Julie more joy than spending time with her husband Don—her one and only true love and high school sweetheart to whom she was married for 47 years—and the rest of their family, including their children, Laurie and Michael, along with their spouses, Perry and Kori; and their grandchildren Elizabeth Julianne, Caden and Taylor. Despite all of the many great accomplishments throughout her life, there was no greater achievement in Julie's life than building this beautiful family.

Mr. Speaker, I add my voice to those honoring the life of Julianne Elizabeth Marks Allen. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family and many friends. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have known and worked closely with Julie. The world is an emptier place without Julianne Elizabeth Marks Allen, but her legacy and impact on the lives of others will live on forever.

NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the month of September being National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, I would like to express my deep support for the women and families who are affected by ovarian cancer. In 2012, over 22,000 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in the United States, and we will lose more than 15,000 mothers, daughters, wives, sisters, and friends to this disease.

While great strides have been made in cancer research, education, and awareness, there is still much work to be done, especially on ovarian cancer. Though many other cancers have seen significant reductions in mortality rates due to improved prevention methods, screenings, and treatments, the mortality rate for ovarian cancer has remained nearly the same for the past 40 years.

I commend the many programs and organizations dedicated to ovarian cancer research, education, and awareness, including the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Ovarian Cancer Control Initiative, the Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Research Program, and the many advocacy, education, and awareness organizations.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, remembering the women who have lost the battle with this disease, and supporting research, education, and awareness efforts so that eventually, future generations will no longer feel the effects of ovarian cancer.

IN HONOR OF MRS. ALINA
CZERNEC

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor Mrs. Alina Czernek who is being honored by the Polonia Foundation on October 7, 2012.

Alina was born in pre-World War II Poland. During the war she was forced to spend five years of her life living in Polish refugee camps in Iran, India and Pakistan. Following the War, her family reunited in England in 1947 and immigrated to Cleveland, Ohio's Tremont neighborhood in 1952. After graduating from St. John Cantius High School, Alina was attending Fenn College and working for the Polish daily newspaper, *Wiadomosci Dodzienne*. In 1959, Alina married Steve Czernek and together they had three children, Lisa, Richard and Chris. Alina spent much of her time volunteering at local schools and nursing homes and eventually became the director of admissions at Broadview Nursing Home. She worked at Heights Drapery Company, which she and her daughter own, until her retirement in 2004.

Alina has been involved in the Polish-American community since she settled in the U.S. She has belonged to a number of organizations including Gmina 6, PNA and the Alliance of Poles. She is also an active member of the Polish American Cultural Center and has spent countless hours volunteering at St. John Cantius Church.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Alina Czernek and congratulating her as she is recognized by the Polonia Foundation.

A TRIBUTE TO HIS HONOR JUDGE
MICHAEL T. MCSPADDEN—TEXAS
JUDGE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are thousands of individuals who make it their life's work to make communities safer while holding criminals accountable for their actions. One of the best is Judge Michael T. McSpadden. I have known Judge McSpadden for what seems like forever. We served in the district attorney's office as prosecutors together. Judge McSpadden prosecuted criminals for 8 years in the Harris County district attorney's office under the leadership of District Attorney Carol Vance.

In 1982, Judge McSpadden became a Criminal District Court Judge in Harris County, Texas. He tried felony cases. Judges in Texas are elected on a partisan ballot and Judge McSpadden has been elected 8 consecutive times to the bench of the 209th Criminal District Court. We served as judges together and I witnessed his remarkable dedication to the law and justice. As a community, we are truly privileged to have such an extraordinary man answer the call to public service and as an individual, I am grateful to call Judge McSpadden a friend.

Judge McSpadden has served the citizens of Harris County, Texas for over 35 years. A graduate from the University of Oklahoma (though we don't hold it against him), he has worked diligently to rise through the ranks in Texas courts. He started his legal career in the Harris County District Attorney's office as an Assistant District Attorney, and then he became the Chief Prosecutor of the 209th District Court.

In 1982, Judge McSpadden was elected as a judge for the same court and, for the last 30 years, he has continued to preside over the 209th. His extensive knowledge of the justice system and his incredible work ethic have gained the respect of many in the law profession. Over his career, he has earned the respect and admiration among lawyers and judges within the legal community: he is always among the highest rated judges by members of the Houston Bar Association and was the highest rated judge in Harris County in the 2011 Houston Bar Association Judicial Qualification Poll. Our community has benefited greatly from the many, many years of service that he has dedicated. In addition, Judge McSpadden has been recognized by the Houston Police Officer's Association and Harris County Deputy Sheriffs Association. He has also been honored and named Champion of Crime Stoppers by the Bay Area Crime Stoppers. These organizations recognized that he has not only dedicated his professional time to helping others, but he has dedicated his personal time to helping the next generation as well. In 1994, Child Advocates honored him for his efforts to help children. He has been also honored by the Samaritan Center and the Assistance League of Houston for his work with inner city youth. Judge McSpadden is a positive mentor to young males at risk. In 2002, he was the first recipient of the Chuck Norris Team Spirit Award for his work with Kick Drugs Out of America. He continues to serve on the advisory boards of many non-profit organizations. By giving his time and lending his hands, Judge McSpadden has changed many lives, and I want you to know that our Nation is a better place because of his commitment to helping our communities become safer.

Prior to his three decades of public service in the courtroom, Judge McSpadden also served his country as a United States Marine. While enlisted, he even found time to win the Marine Corps Tennis Champion title. He is a 3-time Big 8 Conference Tennis Singles Champion and still enjoys playing at River Oaks Country Club.

The impact of Judge McSpadden's work is far reaching. He truly is an unsung hero whose efforts are felt in communities, neighborhoods and homes across Texas each and every day.

Judge McSpadden's achievements at the 209th and in the community far surpass these recognitions. His innovation, determination and compassion for serving others make him one of the best judges in the Nation. Judge McSpadden is a close personal friend, excellent lawyer, tremendous judge, and amazing public servant for Texas.

And that's just the way it is.