

COMMEMORATING ENFIELD POLICE EXPLORERS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Enfield Police Explorers. The Enfield Police Explorer program was founded in 1967 by the late Chief Walter J. Skower to serve as a lifeline for troubled youth and as an opportunity for those interested in law enforcement. At its inception, the program was the first in the state of Connecticut and the second in the nation.

The Enfield Police Department provides its Explorers with a firsthand view of what it's like to be a Law Enforcement Officer. They receive CPR and first aid training, physical fitness instruction, and traditional classroom education designed to prepare them for a career in Law Enforcement, military or community service, and related careers. The Explorers use their training to support the police department and community by providing traffic control and security at various events, volunteering their time and efforts to support many local and national charities, and even aiding in emergency situations including storm response and locating missing persons. Each year Explorers attend various competitions and a week-long academy, where they consistently earn accolades and awards. While many members have indeed gone on to become Law Enforcement professionals and members of the Armed Forces, most importantly, Explorers become responsible citizens and contributors to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Enfield Police Explorers program. In its fifty years, the program has become a bridge between the law enforcement and youth, fostering public safety as a career opportunity, while working to make the community a better place.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY OF DOROTHY SHELTON

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time resident of my district, Doro-

thy Shelton, as she celebrates 100 years of love, life and dedicated service to her community.

On Thursday, October 5th, 2017, Pomona resident Dorothy Shelton will celebrate her 100th birthday. Ms Shelton has resided in my home district for the last 13 years where she lives with her daughter Sonya Muhammad We are lucky to have someone like Ms. Shelton in California's 35th district.

Ms. Shelton was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, where in 1942 she began what would begin a lifelong career in public service by working for the Internal Revenue Service. During her time there, she worked in the Special Procedures section of the Collection Department. Ms. Shelton oversaw liens, levies, and the acquisition of personal property.

After 24 years of dedicated service in the IRS, Ms. Shelton went on to perform the same level of service for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in 1966. Once there, she worked with a team of investigators who confiscated illegal firearms and enforced federal laws regarding the illegal possession and sales of alcohol and tobacco.

Mr. Speaker, Dorothy's dedication extends far beyond her government service. Ms Shelton has always been a community advocate and has belonged to numerous community organizations and social service agencies. She once supervised a housing program funded by the City of Chicago, where she helped secure housing for low-income families in the region. Ms. Shelton was also the first African American president for the National Treasury Employees Union, Chapter 94, from 1966 to her retirement in 1981.

She retired with 38 years of service to the government. She is loved by her daughter, two grandsons and their wives, and six great-grandchildren. Dorothy Shelton is indeed Pomona's national treasure.

For her endless dedication to her family and her community, and for being an example of love and kindness, I would like to recognize Ms. Shelton for such a monumental feat, and wish her a very Happy Birthday on the House floor today.

IN HONOR OF HOUSING CHOICES COALITION FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO and

Congressman JIMMY PANETTA, I rise today to acknowledge Housing Choices Coalition for persons with Developmental Disabilities (Housing Choices). This organization was founded in 1997 with the goal of creating quality, affordable housing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito Counties.

Because of the lack of affordable and inclusive housing choices for people with developmental disabilities, Housing Choices was launched with the mission of enhancing the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities. Their hope was to relieve the segregation sometimes experienced by adults in restrictive residential facilities.

Housing Choices partnership model of permanent supportive housing for people with developmental disabilities seeks to work with local jurisdictions and housing developers to secure long-term commitments of rental units in new affordable housing properties for people with developmental disabilities. Residents are then assisted in maintaining their housing with an onsite Resident Coordinator. This housing model promotes integration of people with developmental disabilities in typical affordable housing communities.

Since 2002, Housing Choices has provided housing advice to 3,000 people with developmental disabilities. They further support housing stability for residents by providing on-site resident support services for hundreds of people. Housing Choices' approach has helped over 1,000 people with developmental disabilities annually navigate entry points into the community's supply of affordable rental housing properties.

Housing Choices helps residents with developmental disabilities understand and comply with lease terms and property rules to prevent evictions. They accomplish this by helping to resolve problems with neighbors, roommates, and property managers. Housing Choices sponsors regular workshops and social events for residents. This helps foster leadership among tenants. By fostering understanding and respect they also help create supportive communities of friends and neighbors to further integrate residents into their community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring HCC for twenty years of extraordinary leadership and advocacy in the community of San Jose and for persons with disabilities globally.