

IN MEMORY OF CATHY THOMAS

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe and mourn the passing of one of the pillars of civic life in the Northeastern Corner of the state of Connecticut, Cathy Thomas. Sadly, Cathy passed away on November 26, 2019 surrounded by family and friends at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, Cathy served for 40 years as the Chair of the Thompson Democratic Town Committee—a record that I am confident will never be broken. In that role, Cathy supported hundreds and hundreds of candidates for town, state and federal office, generously volunteering her time to the nuts and bolts of campaigns—organizing conventions, lining up delegates, filing the critical paperwork to ensure ballot access and most of all, giving wise, common sense counsel to public officials about what the important issues were and how to talk about them, and address them. Forty years ago, Cathy was a pioneer political leader paving the way for women to occupy positions of power. Over time, the respect she garnered with her quiet, steely manner became an inspiration for other women to succeed in public office. It was truly fitting that she was awarded the 2019 Ella Grasso Women's Leadership Award this year. This is a special honor reserved to an elite group of Women in Connecticut named after the first woman in America to be elected the governor of a state in her own right. I personally experienced and benefitted from Cathy's dedicated work during all my campaigns for Congress. I will be forever grateful to her for her unstinting, unselfish help.

Her life was not solely defined by politics and government. Cathy grew up in Thompson and attended Annhurst College and Nichols College where she received her degree in accounting. She worked as an accountant for many years at Davis publications in Worcester, Massachusetts. She was close to her brother Paul LaRoche of North Grosvenordale and had many friends in town with whom she enjoyed going to concerts, the beach, and Kittery, Maine. She was also an avid New York Yankees fan, living in an area that leans in favor of the Red Sox. Nonetheless, she reveled in the rivalry.

Cathy's passing is a big loss for Northeastern Connecticut and was felt far and wide by all who knew her and will miss her. Madam Speaker, I ask the House to please join me in expressing our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

HONORING MR. FELIPE 'TRES' BARRERA

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Felipe 'Tres' Barrera, a member of the Washington Nationals 2019 World Series Champions and a Rio Grande Valley Native.

Tres Barrera is an incredibly talented professional baseball catcher for the Washington Nationals. He was born in Eagle Pass, Texas, and moved to the Rio Grande Valley when he was 10 years old. Tres played on the baseball team for Hidalgo High School his freshman year, winning the District 32–3A Most Valuable Player award, before transferring to Sharyland High School. At Sharyland High School, Tres played football and baseball, and quickly became a standout athlete and student. He was selected to two all-state teams, and won the 30–5A Most Valuable Player and the All-Valley Player of the Year as a senior. His batting average was an astonishing .452, hitting 22 home runs during his time at Sharyland High School.

Tres' incredible work ethic, determination, and sheer talent earned him a spot on the renowned baseball team for the University of Texas at Austin. As a freshman, Tres was the team's starting catcher, won the 2014 College Home Run Derby, and led Texas to the College World Series. His achievements continued on.

During his sophomore year, Tres was a vital part of the University of Texas' Big 12 championship team, while adding his name to the All-Big 12 second team. In his junior year campaign, Tres earned the 2016 Academic All-Big 12 baseball honors and was named an All-Big 12 honorable mention. He left Texas after his junior year to join the minor leagues, but only after walking away with 20 home runs and 106 runs batted in (RBIs) for the University of Texas at Austin.

Tres Barrera's hard work and dedication continued for the next three years as he played for a number of minor league teams before being called up to the Major League Baseball, MLB, on September 8, 2019, for the Washington Nationals. Being a member of the Nationals, Tres participated in one of the most unlikely runs in the history of professional baseball.

The Nationals' record through 50 games was a poor 19 wins and 31 losses before they won 74 of their next 122 games. This secured the Nationals a wild-card spot in the postseason. The Nationals continued their unlikely playoff run until the very end, where they beat the Houston Astros in seven games, winning the World Series on October 30, 2019. On that day, Tres earned himself the coveted World Series ring.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Tres Barrera worked tirelessly to prove that with determination, will power, and commitment, we can accomplish anything we set ourselves to do in life. Tres made history, gave young people across our country the hope to achieve anything they set their mind to and for that I stand here today to recognize him. He is a proud son of South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, and we appreciate him for his work and dedication to the Washington Nationals.

TRIBUTE TO THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF FAIRPLAY, PARK COUNTY, COLORADO

**HON. JOE NEGUSE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, each and every day, across America our fellow commu-

nity members find opportunities to be of service to one another. These small acts of heroism, pinnacles of our values and ideals as Americans, are far too frequently lost in the rapidity of our society.

I would like to take a moment to draw attention to one of those small acts of heroism in the town of Fairplay in Park County, Colorado.

In a small mountain town of just 762 people, nearly 750 people were stranded last Friday and Saturday after snow, wind, and low visibility made travel impossible. At the height of the post-Thanksgiving travel rush, with their town's limited shelter resources strained to breaking, the people of Fairplay jumped to action to ensure safety and comfort for all those who could not continue their travels. Hotel operators housed people in every space possible; churches opened their stores of food to ensure no one went hungry; neighbors went door-to-door to gather blankets and supplies; transportation authorities brought vehicles abandoned on the highways to the town and reconnected drivers to their cars. In the end, everyone remained safe and sheltered. This is the type of hospitality and generosity that makes Park County and Colorado such an incredible place.

This year I am grateful for citizens like these in Park County, and throughout our nation, who remind us during this holiday season of the essential goodness of people.

THANKING LC "BUCKSHOT" SMITH FOR HIS 56 YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and extend my gratitude to Mr. LC "Buckshot" Smith of Camden, Arkansas.

Officer Smith has spent a lifetime in law enforcement. His career spans over five decades in the Fourth District of Arkansas. Having spent 46 of those years with the Ouachita County Sheriff's Department, he officially retired in September 2010. However, after only a few short months in retirement, he decided to return to the Camden Police Department. At the age of 90 years old, he is still serving the community after 56 years of service.

President George H.W. Bush said, "Public service is a noble calling." Officer Smith has answered this call to service everyday as a police officer, church deacon, and community member for decades. The Ouachita County and Camden communities can attest to the exemplary character and dedication to service found in Officer Smith.

I'm proud to know of the lifelong commitment to service men like Officer "Buckshot Smith" have. His life serves as a powerful reminder of what an impact a lifetime of service can have on our communities. I take this time to thank him for the decades he has given to the Fourth District of Arkansas and for the example he has provided for generations of Americans to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY ZATINA  
FOR HER DISTINGUISHED CAREER

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Zatina and recognize her years of distinguished service with Beaumont Health.

Mary Zatina was the Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Community Affairs at Beaumont Health. In this role, Zatina advanced Beaumont and Oakwood Healthcare's relationship with government leaders, significantly improving the well-being of patients community-wide. Zatina joined Oakwood from the Office of the Governor, where she served as an advisor to Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and chief of staff to First Gentleman Daniel Granholm Mulhern. Prior to her career in the state government, Zatina was the Senior Vice President and Director of Corporate Communications and Strategy at Campbell-Ewald and Director of Corporate Communications for the MichCon/MCN Energy Group.

Throughout all her professional endeavors, Mary Zatina has been recognized as a dynamic, accomplished, and effective leader who strives to effect meaningful and lasting change. She has used all her experiences to enhance Beaumont's partnerships with local, state, and national officials, chambers of commerce, and community leaders at all levels, enabling Beaumont to strengthen its outreach and expand its services. Beyond this, Zatina has also been an active member of her local Michigan community. She is a member of the American Arab Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan Fitness Foundation Board of Directors, the Southwest Solutions Board and Development Committee of the Greening of the Detroit, and serves on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the University of Michigan-Dearborn. In addition, she was a founding member of the Arab-American Women's Business Council and the Chicago Boulevard East Block Club. Zatina's work has earned her widespread acclaim, evident in her designation as a Fall 2017 Arab American Business Woman of the Year and a Crain's Detroit Business "40 Under 40" Honoree.

Still, Mary Zatina's accomplishments and accolades only scratch the surface. Put simply, Zatina is a good person with a kind heart. Despite her busy life, she is dedicated to uplifting everyone she encounters and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Zatina is known amongst her friends, family, and colleagues as an accomplished chef, master gardener, and friend who will always do the right thing. Moreover, she is a creative hostess who is welcoming of all, whether it be at spontaneous gathering or one of her famous annual parties.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mary Zatina for her accomplished career at Beaumont Health. We deeply appreciate her dedication to improving the lives of others and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

PARTISAN IMPEACHMENT  
PROCEEDINGS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, even before President Donald Trump was elected, Democrats have been scraping for any excuse, threatening impeachment to overturn the election results. It is shameful that House Democrats are wasting time and money, over \$30 million dollars, on this Impeachment Hoax instead of fixing trade deals, funding our military, and addressing issues that create jobs.

House Speaker NANCY PELOSI continues to move forward with these warrantless attacks which undermine the results of the last election, nullifying 63 million votes. House Democrats should stop misleading the American public and work for those who put them in office. This partisan witch hunt diverts attention from the President's successes.

The lives of Americans have truly changed for the better under President Trump. The unemployment rate has its record lows, wages have continued to increase, and there is record job creation, showing that President Trump keeps his promises.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DIVERSIFYING BY INVESTING IN EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH ACT

**HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Diversifying by Investing in Educators and Students to Improve Outcomes For Youth (DIVERSIFY) Act.

It should be a guarantee that all students in our country are taught by expert teachers and attend schools where the teacher workforce reflects our nation's rich diversity.

However, research tells us that while people of color comprise 40 percent of our nations' population and majority of our public school students, only 20 percent of all teachers are people of color.

One of the barriers to a well-prepared and diverse teacher workforce is the high cost of college and student loan debt.

High quality teacher preparation is also more likely to be financially out of reach for students of color, while the high cost of college and increasing student loan debt burdens hits students of color especially hard as they are more likely to come from families that are unable to contribute financially to their higher education.

These facts come at a time when college affordability has reached crisis levels.

Today, more than two-thirds of individuals entering the field of education borrow money to pay for their higher education, resulting in an average debt of about \$20,000 for those with a bachelor's degree and \$50,000 for those with a master's degree.

Our nation's service scholarship for teachers—The TEACH Grant Program—has not increased to keep up with the rising cost of college.

While college cost have increased, the TEACH Grant has been cut each year for most of its existence.

Failing to protect and increase the TEACH Grant limits the program's potential to support high needs schools in ensuring that all students are taught by a well-prepared and diverse educator workforce.

I urge this body to pass this bill.

CONGRATULATING REV. JESSE TURNER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rev. Jesse Turner of Pine Bluff on his recent selection to receive the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the 400 Years of African American History Commission.

This award is given to those who have made a lasting commitment to community service and work to commemorate the contributions of African Americans to our nation's history. Rev. Turner easily fits this description and is well deserving of this honor by the commission due to the profound impact he has had in his community.

As the pastor of the historic Elm Grove Baptist Church, Rev. Turner's commitment to service has touched the lives of individuals across the country. The City of Pine Bluff issued a proclamation in his honor, highlighting his decades of work promoting African American history in the State of Arkansas and the impacts it has had on the people in his community.

I'm proud to know of men like Rev. Jesse Turner and the commitment he has demonstrated to public service over his lifetime. His is a life well lived and truly is part of "The Distinguished 400."

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIE GREENWOOD

**HON. JOE NEGUSE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, each and every day we must honor the legacy of those who came before us; those who dedicated their lives to promoting freedom and forging the path on which all future generations walk.

Today, I wish to honor the life and work of Ms. Marie Greenwood whose long and full life was devoted to creating a more equitable and just society for countless Coloradans. Marie passed away on November 18th at 106 years old.

As one of the first Black teachers to be hired by Denver Public Schools in Colorado, Marie spent her entire teaching career fighting segregation and uplifting students through one simple creed: every child can learn.

A first-grade teacher for 30 years, Marie guided educators throughout her long and illustrious career in the importance of early literacy programs. "Teaching first grade was the