

HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AS AN ENTITY OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, SHOULD ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP IN HONOR OF THE HOLIDAY OF DIWALI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the House Resolution Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, as an entity of the United States Postal Service, should issue a commemorative stamp in honor of the holiday of Diwali. I am proud to be joined in this effort by my colleagues Congresswoman TULSI GABBARD, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congresswoman GRACE MENG, and Congressman AMI BERA.

The five-day "festival of lights," Diwali celebrates the triumph of good over evil, light over dark, and knowledge over ignorance. This festive and important Indian holiday is celebrated by billions across the globe. Despite the significance of this holiday to many Americans, the United States Postal Service has not yet recognized Diwali with a commemorative stamp, as it has with other major religious and cultural holidays such as Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Eid.

As one of the world's oldest religious holidays, Diwali has survived political, economic and social changes throughout history, while always carrying the universal symbolism of the victory of light, goodness, knowledge and truth. It is long overdue that we honor this significant holiday with a postage stamp of its own.

HONORING CHIEF RICHARD
MELTON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Napa Police Department (NPD) Chief Richard Melton upon his retirement. Capping off a long and impressive career in law enforcement, Chief Melton devoted the last ten years to serving and protecting our community as Chief of Police.

Before coming to Napa, Chief Melton was the Chief of Police for both Farmington and Los Alamos, New Mexico Police Departments. Upon assuming the position of Chief of Police in Napa in 2004, Chief Melton immediately began improving the NPD's relationship with the community as well as both the level of professionalism and education within the NPD.

Chief Melton made it a priority for the NPD to forge a better working relationship with members of the homeless population in our community. As a result, the number of calls involving homeless persons decreased by 50 percent and the number of homeless persons arrested dropped by 50 percent. Chief Melton

also worked to improve the NPD's interactions with those in our community who suffer from mental health issues by bringing a part-time Napa County Mental Health Worker to the NPD. As Chief, Richard Melton recognized the importance of compassion, efficiency and professionalism when working with all members of our community.

Chief Melton made significant progress in raising the level of education within the NPD. He always encouraged and supported his employees to take advantage of training and educational opportunities. He also raised the level of formal education for employees at the supervisorial and managerial levels. Chief Melton made a concerted effort to increase the level of professionalism within the NPD during his tenure, while still remaining approachable and receptive to his employees.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Melton's career is nothing short of impressive. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

IN HONOR OF TASSOS
EFSTRATIADES, ESQ.

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tassos Efstratiades, Esq. of Cherry Hill, New Jersey for his achievements, contributions, and service to the people of New Jersey and its Hellenic community.

Born in Athens, Greece, Mr. Efstratiades' life has been an inspiration to the citizens of South Jersey. After coming to the United States, he graduated from Villanova University with a law degree and a Master's degree in International Relations. Over his more than three decades practicing law, Mr. Efstratiades has published numerous law articles and now serves as the co-chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Banking Committee.

Mr. Efstratiades also served the people of New Jersey in a number of civic posts. He was a close advisor to Governor James Florio, served as a board member of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and as chairman of the Governor's Commission on International Trade among several other positions. Currently, he is serving as a member of the New Jersey Health Care Administration Board.

Mr. Efstratiades is a pillar of New Jersey's Hellenic community. He was one of the founders of the Greek American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, and served not only as the first chairman of its board, but later as its president as well. He was instrumental in the the creation of the Hellenic Federation of New Jersey and, after being elected its first president, he worked tirelessly to promote the interests of the Greek Orthodox Church and the Hellenic community in New Jersey. In recognition of his efforts, Mr. Efstratiades was made an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I.

Mr. Speaker, Tassos Efstratiades, Esq. is a great man who exemplifies the American spirit. I join the Hellenic Federation and all of New Jersey in honoring the achievements of this exceptional man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 17 on Monday, January 12th, 2015, my son underwent emergency surgery for appendicitis. For that reason, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC, in time for floor votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea."

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF MATT
SHOBERT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose commitment and contributions to the City of Murrieta, California are exceptional. Murrieta has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Murrieta Fire Chief, Matt Shobert, is one of these individuals. On Tuesday, January 20, 2015, Matt Shobert will be honored for his devoted and valiant service to the people of Murrieta.

Matt began his firefighting career in Tucson, Arizona, actively working his way to leading the fire department in Sedona, Arizona. He then brought his talent and leadership to the Hemet Fire Department, in which he served as Fire Chief for three years. Matt was then appointed as Murrieta's Fire Chief in March of 2011 in which he enthusiastically served the community for nearly four years.

Chief Shobert holds a Master Degree in Organizational Management, a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and an Associate's Degree in Fire Science. In addition, Matt also graduated from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officers' Program, has been accredited three times as a Chief Fire Officer Designee by the Center for Public Safety Excellence and has also been awarded membership into the Institution of Fire Engineers.

Chief Matt Shobert is retiring after incurring a devastating injury while doing what he enjoyed most, keeping the people of Murrieta safe. Throughout his tenure, Fire Chief Matt Shobert continued the distinguished history of the Murrieta Fire Department, working daily to improve the partnership held with the community and by enhancing the strong sense of camaraderie amongst the firefighters in his department.

Fire Chief Matt Shobert has been an excellent public servant who has consistently provided for the safety and well-being of the community of Murrieta. His legacy will serve as a shining example and constant reminder of what it means to be a public servant and I am proud to call Matt a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many are grateful for his service and salute him in his retirement.