Arlene Schler
Jessica Scoratow, Georgetown Against Gun Violence
Rabbi Susan Shankman, Washington Hebrew Congregation
Katie Simon, Policy Organizing Manager, Brady Campaign
Dianne Snyder
The Honorable Liane Sorenson, Board Chair, Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence
Winnie Stachelberg, Executive Vice President, External Affairs, Center for American Progress
Kiersten Stewart, Policy Director, Futures Without Violence
Susan Stoltenberg, Executive Director, YWCA of Greater Portland
Diane Tattersall, Last Chance Animal Rescue
Sarah Trumble, Senior Policy Counsel, Third Way
The Honorable Nancy Tyra-Lukens, Mayor, City of Eden Prairie, Minnesota
Roberta Valente, Chief Officer for Government Affairs, The National Domestic Violence Hotline
Kristin Wald, Start Out Fresh Intervention Advocates
Lori Weinstein, CEO, Jewish Women International (JWI)
Melissa Youssef, Legal Aid, Institute of Policy Research
*Advisory Committee Members

HONORING WILLIAM BYRON RUMFORD

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of an outstanding member of the East Bay community the Honorable William Byron Rumford.

He was born in Courtland, Arizona in 1915. As a child, he shined shoes, sold newspapers, and graduated from George Washington Carver High School in Phoenix in 1926. After finishing his studies at Sacramento Junior College in 1931, he earned his pharmacy degree at the University of California, San Francisco. After he graduated, he took a number of exams for employment and was discriminated against at every turn. He fought his way through by appealing his oral examination, ultimately becoming a member of the California Board of Pharmacy.

Mr. Rumford worked in the Bay Area as an assistant pharmacist and as a venereal disease investigator for the state. In 1942, he co-invested in a pharmacy on Sacramento Street in Berkeley, which he later purchased and renamed Rumford's Pharmacy (now known as the Rumford Clinic). Later, served as the director of the Oakland chapter of the Red Cross, president of the East Bay Health Association, and was on the region's Democratic Central Committee.

Mr. Rumford went on to lead an impactful and significant political career, and ultimately became the first African American legislator from Northern California. Inspired by the disparities he witnessed in his pharmaceutical career, he joined the Berkeley Emergency Housing Committee in 1942 and the Berkeley Rent Board in 1944. In addition, he worked with the unofficial Berkeley Interracial Committee which was intended to ease tensions between the Black community of Berkeley and White southerners who were moving in. He was also a member of the Appomattox Club, which was one of the first African American political organizations in the country; there was little hope for an African American candidate at that time, so the organization supported White candidates who they believed were right on political issues affecting the African American community.

Mr. Rumford did not seek to become a professional politician; instead, he was a neighborhood pharmacist who was passionate about addressing the biggest issues impacting his community. Eventually, Mr. Rumford ran for election in the California Assembly and won in 1949. At first he represented mostly African American areas of Oakland and a portion of South Berkeley. In 1960, however, the district was enlarged to include more of Berkeley and Albany. As an Assembly member, Mr. Rumford produced several effective pieces of legislation. In 1949, he worked tirelessly to pass The Bill to End Discrimination in the National Guard, which lessoned racial discrimination in the National Guard. He also introduced legislation early in his Assembly tenure pertaining to fair trade, small businesses, child polio immunizations, atomic energy conversion, and environmental pollution.

Today, Mr. Rumford is best remembered for three pieces of legislation: the California Fair Employment Practices Act of 1959, which lessoned the impact of race on hiring decisions; the Good Samaritan Act of 1959, which garnered national attention as the first law in the country to protect professionals in emergency situations; and the law that bore his name: the Rumford Fair Housing Act of 1963, which failed to survive a referendum challenge, but was upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. This act served as California's main enforcement authority against race-based housing discrimination, by way of housing covenants, until the passage of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1968.

His tremendous legacy paved the way for civil rights legislation nationally, and has been beautifully honored by the William Byron Rumford Memorial Project. This project is led by a diverse group of community members who see the rapid changing of South Berkeley's demographics as a ripe time to honor his leadership, activism, and community, while preserving the neighborhood's history.

On a personal note, William was a trailblazer. Had it not been for him, I never would have been elected to the CA legislature. I owe him a debt of gratitude and I will be forever grateful.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes the legacy of the Honorable William Byron Rumford. His contributions have truly impacted countless lives through the East Bay area and the country. I join all of Mr. Rumford's loved ones and the community members involved in the William Byron Rumford Memorial Project in celebrating his incredible life and legacy.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization that has served our veteran community with great distinction for 40 years, the National Association of Black Military Women.

The NABMW is an association of women located throughout the country who are veterans or current members of the United States Armed Forces. The group was founded in July of 1976, when a group of 21 women who served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and Women's Army Corps (WAC) during World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars got together at Lucille Brown's house in Hampton, Virginia. At this chartered meeting, the group decided to locate and invite other former service women to a first reunion that was held in 1978 in Dallas, Texas.

Ever since, Biennial Reunions have continued to be held all through the country, where members discuss many of the issues facing the veteran community of black military women. The NABMW mission, ''To seek out, record, maintain and tell the history and heritage of African-American Military Women who served and are serving in the United States Armed Forces'' is as strong and power today on the organization's 40th anniversary as it was on the very first.

This year, NABMW is holding their biennial conference from August 10–14. I want to congratulate the entire organization on the occasion and thank them for their service.

IN RECOGNITION OF TYLER WEGMEYER BEING NAMED VIRGINIA'S 2016 FARMER OF THE YEAR

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tyler Wegmeyer of Wegmeyer Farms in Loudoun County for being named the 2016 Farmer of the Year by the Virginia Cooperative Extension. This important milestone highlights the diversity and success of the agriculture industry in both Loudoun County and the Commonwealth as a whole.

Mr. Wegmeyer has lived in Loudoun with his wife, Harriet, for nearly 17 years. Their farm spans over 250 acres at four separate locations and employs over 80 people. Mr. Wegmeyer has a long career in agriculture both firsthand as a farmer and additionally as a policymaker.

The Wegmeyer family strongly believes in being good stewards of the land and caring for the environment. Their involvement in the community has been important to the growth of agro tourism and educating more people about how food is grown. It is the leaders like Mr. and Mrs. Wegmeyer who through their active engagement will continue to shape the agricultural sector of the United States as well as

the economy of our Commonwealth and our country. The success of Mr. Wegmeyer is a tremendous accomplishment that should make him and his family proud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Wegmeyer for earning this sought-after award and for serving the community with such dedication. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING DON JELINEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of an outstanding member of the Bay Area community, Mr. Don Jelinek. With his passing on March 23, 2016, we honor his commitment and service to our community.

Mr. Don Jelinek was born Feb. 17, 1934 in Bronx, New York, the proud son of two Jewish immigrants. His heritage, culture, education, and experience played key roles in the man he became.

He attended the Bronx High School of Science and later New York University where he received both his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate. In 1955, he moved to a tenement in Greenwich Village where he worked as a janitor in exchange for rent. He was often seen returning the building's garbage cans before walking to his law classes. In the Village, Mr. Jelinek was exposed to the beauty of diversity. He met people from different races, classes, creeds, cultures, religions, and sexual orientations. Their stories, experiences, and life lessons fueled his passion for politics, reading, and theatre until the day he died.

After receiving his J.D., Mr. Jelinek took a job as an attorney on Wall Street. In 1965, he traveled to Mississippi to work with the American Civil Liberties Union for a three-week stint. At the end of that visit, he decided to stay behind and work with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Mr. Jelinek remained in the South for three years and focused on ending the overtly racist practices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the process he shined a light on the shameful realities of rural malnutrition and starvation in America. Over the years he provided legal representation for individuals and organizations involved in civil rights including Martin Luther King, Jr., Stokely Carmichael, H. ''Rap'' Brown, black sharecroppers, SNCC, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the NAACP. He later defended 61 inmates who had been indicted for 1,400 felonies in connection with the Attica Prison uprising.

Mr. Jelinek moved to Berkeley in 1969 and continued his civil rights efforts throughout the Bay Area. When a group of Native Americans seized Alcatraz in 1969 and lived there for 19 months, claiming the land under a 100-year-old treaty, Jelinek moved to the island to assist them. He later defended hundreds of flea market vendors, free of charge, after they were ousted from the Ashby BART parking lot. The vendors were later reinstated.

Soon after his successful advocacy, Mr. Jelinek decided to run for Berkeley City Council where he proudly served from 1984 to 1990. After his tenure, he became a trusted advisor to the council.

In addition to his legal and political career, Mr. Jelinek authored three books, ''Survivor of the Alamo,'' ''Attica Justice,'' and ''White Lawyer, Black Power.'' Both his life and legacy are testaments to what our country stands for and our continued fight for true and lasting equality.

Mr. Jelinek is survived by his brother Roger, his wife Jane Scherr, his children Dove and Apollinaire, and his grandchildren Hanelle and Pascal.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes the legacy of Mr. Don Jelinek. His contributions have truly impacted countless lives. I join all of Mr. Don Jelinek's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life and offer my most sincere condolences.