

my constituents was a great example of collaboration between local, state and federal leadership. While the Northland Regional Chamber is losing an incredible leader, I am excited for Sheila to begin the next chapter of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in thanking Sheila Tracy for her years of service to the people of the Northland and Missouri's Sixth Congressional District. I know Sheila's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking her for her commitment to others and wishing her the best of luck in all her endeavors and many years of success to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOCAL JUROR NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2021

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Local Juror Non-Discrimination Act of 2021. This bill would clarify that D.C. residents may not be excluded or disqualified from jury service in the D.C. Superior Court based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Specifically, my bill would clarify that "sex," which is a protected class under the non-discrimination law that applies to jurors in the D.C. Superior Court, includes sexual orientation and gender identity. Under the Home Rule Act, Congress has exclusive jurisdiction over title 11 of the D.C. Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the local D.C. courts).

The District has one of the strongest non-discrimination laws in the country, including protecting individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity. However, under the Home Rule Act, the District does not have the authority to make this non-discrimination law applicable to jurors in the D.C. Superior Court. Therefore, until the District is given complete control over the organization and jurisdiction of its local courts, an act of Congress is required to make this important change to protect the rights of all D.C. residents. This bill is necessary to protect jurors in the D.C. Superior Court from discrimination.

My bill is similar to the Juror Non-Discrimination Act of 2021 (H.R. 1140), which would provide the same protections for jurors in federal court. I am a proud cosponsor of that bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF THE DOWNRIVER FAMILY YMCA

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of the Downriver Family YMCA located in Southgate, Michigan. Their 80 years of service to our community and its families is worthy of commendation.

In Metro Detroit, the YMCA has been serving families for over 168 years. The YMCA is an organization of men, women, and children with a shared commitment to nurturing the potential of kids, promoting healthy living, and fostering a sense of social responsibility.

With simple beginnings as an organization established in 1941 by W.F. Newell at a house on Biddle Avenue in Wyandotte, Michigan, the Downriver Family YMCA has grown to be an exceptional center of wellness, community, and education. In 1943, The YMCA outgrew their small house and moved to a property at Chestnut and Biddle. This new Downriver YMCA represented the first "family" YMCA branch including boys and girls as well as men and women. Sixteen years later, they made the big move to their new home in Southgate at Fort Street and Eureka, partnering with the YWCA. Together they built two new pools and improved their offerings constantly to continue to serve the bustling area of Downriver. On May 11, 2003, to meet the growing needs of the community the YMCA and the City of Southgate held the grand opening for their brand-new building, The Southgate Fun and Fitness Center.

Serving over 15,000 members, the Downriver Family YMCA is the largest branch in Metro Detroit. This organization has supported generations of Downriver families from childhood well into their senior years. Providing after-school programs, summer camps, food drives, active living classes, and activities for seniors, the Downriver Family YMCA's commitment to the promotion of health and wellness has impacted the lives of thousands of Michiganders of all ages as they enter their eighth decade of service to the people of Downriver.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Downriver Family YMCA's 80 years of service to our community. The Downriver Family YMCA has been a constant in the lives of the Downriver area's children and families for decades. I extend my gratitude to the entire Downriver Family YMCA team and wish them continued success in service and healthy living for years to come.

HONORING MICHAEL T. PTASIENSKI, 5TH INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN CELEBRATION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the career of a true public servant, House Inspector General Michael Ptasienski, who has dedicated nearly 15 years of his professional career to ensuring the People's House operates with integrity and accountability. Appointed as Inspector General in February of 2018, Mike is only the fifth individual to hold this position and as House IG, exemplified the excellence, attention to detail, determination and character necessary for success.

But of course, the role of the Inspector General was not a surprise to Mike. Prior to being appointed, he had served as Deputy Inspector General of Advisory and Administrative Serv-

ices, and as Director of Management Advisory Services. This month, his tenure in the House IG shop came to its end when he entered retirement on June 4, 2021. Mike will be missed—not only for his dedication and commitment to the IG mission, but for his positive attitude and approachable nature.

Part of the mission of the House IG is to "serve as a constructive critic, helpful advisor, and positive change agent." In fulfilling this mission, Mike has gone above and beyond, and the House is a more accountable, efficient, and safe institution due to the many recommendations and advisories his team produced under his leadership.

I wish to once again express my and my team's gratitude for Mike's partnership, collaboration, and kindness throughout the years, and wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING REVEREND DR. JOHN E. ROBERTS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Reverend Dr. John Roberts, Pastor of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church in Toledo, for his 56 years of service in Jesus Christ. Our community joined his congregation in celebration of this heralded event on June 6, 2021.

I chronicled Pastor Roberts' life in an Extension of Remarks in April 2005 upon the very special occasion of his fortieth anniversary. This 56th year, Pastor Roberts will be elevated to the honorable status of Pastor Emeritus.

Born in Bryant, Mississippi in 1927 to George and Melvina Roberts, John E. Roberts came to Toledo, Ohio in 1944. A founding member of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, he has been part of the church since it was organized in 1946. As noted in his biography, "He has served and walked in the footsteps of most positions in the church, from custodian to Pastor" and was called to pastor the church on the 3rd Sunday of January 1965. Even while Pastor, he pursued his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Religious Education degrees in 1975, his Master of Theology in 1984, and his Doctorate in Biblical Theology in 1985.

His biography highlights his many roles in his capacity as pastor: teacher, preacher, counselor, and builder. The biography notes he is "Christ-like in devotion: strong in faith and mighty in prayer. His life, with its results, is a never-failing inspiration and challenges people of all ages and races, creating strong men around him."

Though Pastor Roberts has been the guiding light of his congregation and family for decades, standing beside him always has been his wife, First Lady Mother Bernice Roberts. Pastor and First Lady Mother Roberts are partners in all ways and "jointly through the Grace of God they have mastered certain techniques that involve the ability to compromise, understand, cooperate, give and take, adjusting for better, not worse, knowing that all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord." Pastor and Mother Roberts were blessed to celebrate their 71st anniversary this year, on April 6. Together