

City Commissioner (1983–1987). She also served as the Ward Leader for the renowned 50th Ward, where she was unanimously elected by the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee to represent Pennsylvania on the Democratic National Committee.

In 1988, Marian Tasco was elected as a Councilwoman for the Ninth District of the City of Philadelphia, a position she held until 2016. As a Councilwoman, she served as both City Council Majority Leader and Majority Whip. Her leadership was greatly valued by her council colleagues and the administrations she served alongside.

As a veteran legislator, she understood the importance of holding elected officials accountable for their productivity and was exceedingly effective in her commitment to obtain services that preserve and enhance the quality of life for her constituency. Impressively, she introduced and secured the passage of a multitude of bills and resolutions that directly relate to improving general city services, protecting and enhancing the health and welfare of women, children, and families, and making Philadelphia neighborhoods and commercial corridors safe havens for all citizens.

In addition to using her political influence to accomplish all of the above-outlined deeds, Marian Tasco chaired the City Council Public Health and Human Services Committee and the Council Committee on Finance. While Marian Tasco's board appointments are many, she is held in high esteem and recognized for her commitment as the chair of the Philadelphia Gas Commission, a lifetime appointment on the Board of Directors for the Board of City Trusts, the Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority Board.

With more than 50 years of combined service, Marian Tasco has received countless awards and honors from numerous community, civic and religious organizations. Those recognitions include: an Honorary Doctorate of Law degree from Lincoln University; the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition Dwight Evans Living Legacy Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Women's Campaign Fund; a Good Housekeeping Magazine Award for Women in Government, and a Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women's Elected Women of the Year Award. Most recently, she was ranked in the top 20 by Philadelphia Magazine for Most Influential people, was honored by WES Health System through the renaming of Lindley Court Apartments as the Marian B. Tasco Arms, and bestowed "Best Kingmaker" through the 2016 Best of Philly Awards for her support in electing James Kenney as mayor.

The 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to Marian Tasco for her dedicated support and service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 607, 608, and 609 on Monday, November 6, 2017. Had I been present, I

would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 607 and 608, and Nay on Roll Call vote 609.

HONORING LONNIE RICHARDSON

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lonnie Richardson of Mountain View, Arkansas, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday on September 12th.

Lonnie was born in 1917, in the Signal Hill community of Mountain View. In 1942, he answered the call of duty and was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served for four years during and after World War II, rising to the rank of corporal. After the war, Lonnie returned home to the Ozarks. He settled down, raised a family, and tended to the family farm.

Lonnie is truly a member of the greatest generation. We are all measured relative to people like Lonnie, who preserved global freedom, built our communities, and continue to shape America today. I hope you and Congress will join me in wishing Lonnie Richardson a happy 100th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUPER-INTENDENT JOHN J. DONAHUE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Superintendent John J. Donahue. After a 38-year tenure with the National Park Service, Mr. Donahue has announced he will retire on December 3, 2017.

Long before he advanced to his current position at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in 2003, Mr. Donahue began his federal career as a gardener at Cape Cod National Seashore. From there he advanced through the ranks, serving in a variety of roles that took him across the continental U.S. After many years, a man who had started his career as a gardener became the Superintendent of some of our country's most beautiful sites in Florida, Virginia, and Maryland.

As a dedicated leader, Mr. Donahue oversaw critical projects and built relationships with elected officials, business partners, and local Native American tribes. Due to a recent stewardship land acquisition program, there are now hundreds of acres of connected open space stretching across Pennsylvania and New Jersey. However, this is just a singular testament to his commitment and drive. During his tenure, Mr. Donahue has written legislation, regulations, policies, an numerous articles.

The impact of Mr. Donahue's work extends beyond our country's borders. Recently, he led an American and international delegation to China on behalf of the National Park Service. He also attended the World Parks Conference in Australia and served on a 1999 delegation to Haitian national parks in order to spur tourism and economic development.

Mr. Donahue's dedication to his country leaves behind a legacy which will inspire future leaders and public servants. I ask my fellow Members to join me in recognizing Superintendent John Donahue and his 38 years of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 6, 2017, I was unable to be in Washington and missed Roll Call votes No. 607, To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes; and No. 608, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report regarding the organizational structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on both bills.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER—SHEILA ALLEN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheila Allen, a proven leader in the Davis, California community who embodies the qualities of a true public servant. Sheila is currently the Executive Director of the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance. She has been instrumental in building an organization that serves as a vital voice for older adults in Yolo County and elected officials and community leaders consider her the expert in addressing senior issues. Sheila is credited with organizing the 2010 Aging Summit that recognized the need for sustained attention of older adults. Her leadership has enhanced the lives of countless older adults in Yolo County through educational programs, collaboration with over 80 providers of older adult services and is a faithful advocate for needed programs and services at every level of government.

Working alongside County Supervisor Provenza, Sheila was instrumental in helping to advocate for a new Adult Day Health Care Center in Woodland as well as a Memory Center in Davis. Sheila also advocated for legislation to protect seniors from abuse and provide greater access to services in the community. She is currently working on a similar project in Winters, California.

Sheila's community involvement includes, Trustee, Davis Unified School District, Board Member, First Five Yolo, Board of Director, Explorit Science Center, Board of Governors, Agency on Aging, Board of Directors, American Nurses Association, Board of Director, Golden State Nursing Foundation, Advisory Committee, Yolo County Home Supportive Services, Member, Yolo County Health Council, Member, City of Davis Human Relations