

TRIBUTE TO DIANA DEIBLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Diana Deibler for being named a 2017 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

For 18 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic and philanthropic endeavours throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

Diana has spent her life utilizing the work ethic instilled upon her at an early age after growing up on her family's farm in Donnellson, Iowa. She dreamed of being a television anchor but found herself going down a different path as a broadcast reporter and producer. Later, she used the skills and experience she gained in the news business to have a successful career in marketing and consulting. Her success allowed her to also dedicate her time and talents to the Des Moines community, serving nine years on the board of Mercy Medical Center, and nine years on the Mercy College of Health Sciences board.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Diana in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community, and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Diana on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing Diana nothing but continued success.

VA MANAGEMENT ALIGNMENT
ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1066, the VA Management Alignment Act.

The men and women who have bravely served our country in uniform deserve the peace of mind that the VA will work for them—not against them.

Over the past few years, our nation's veterans have too often experienced outrageous wait times, long lines, and mismanagement at VA facilities across the country. In the wake of these scandals, the members of this body have passed multiple bills aimed to right these wrongs and improve VA functions. Unfortunately, we hear far too often of problems continuing to plague the halls of VA medical facilities.

The VA Management Alignment Act directs the Secretary of the VA to report to Congress the steps the Department will take to ensure that the organizational structure of the VA is both efficient and effective.

Supported by groups including the American Legion and the American Federation of Gov-

ernment Employees, this bill seeks to chart a meaningful path forward to better serve those who put their lives on the line to serve us. It is integral that the VA make clear the steps it will take to ensure that our nation's veterans have access to the quality, timely care that they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank veterans across the country for their service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following votes because I chose to remain in my congressional district in Miami for safety reasons due to serious threats I received.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: YEA on Roll Call No. 569; YEA on Roll Call No. 570; YEA on Roll Call No. 571; NAY on Roll Call No. 572; NAY on Roll Call No. 573; YEA on Roll Call No. 574; YEA on Roll Call No. 575; YEA on Roll Call No. 576; YEA on Roll Call No. 577; YEA on Roll Call No. 578; YEA on Roll Call No. 579; NAY on Roll Call No. 580; YEA on Roll Call No. 581; NAY on Roll Call No. 582; NAY on Roll Call No. 583; NAY on Roll Call No. 584; YEA on Roll Call No. 585; YEA on Roll Call No. 586; YEA on Roll Call No. 587; NAY on Roll Call No. 588; NAY on Roll Call No. 589; and YEA on Roll Call No. 590.

STAND FOR SOMETHING

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poem, on behalf of Albert Carey Caswell, to honor the men and women and families of The Armed Forces, for their selfless service to our Nation on this upcoming Veteran's Day.

And over the many years
All in our Nation clear,
Has been one constant here
The men and women of The Armed Forces
who hold our Nation dear
Whose valor, honor, courage, faith, selfless-
ness, and sacrifice perseveres
While, in the darkest of days of night they
all stood without fear
Who at a moment's notice into the face of
hell would so appear,
All so we can all be here
This Veteran's Day stand for something, be-
cause they stood for you
The ones who fought and bled for all that's
true
And stand for that old Red, White, and Blue
All in what they would do
Ready to die for their brothers and sisters in
arms to their left and right so true
And remember what all of their families
must go through
On this Veteran's Day, please remember our
Nation's real who's who
Stand for something because they stand for
you
When, in the darkness of war comes into
view

Teaching us all how men and women of
honor behave so true
Who came home without arms, legs, and
scars upon their face
But, for the greater good they gave
Stand,
Stand for something noble,
Because they all stood so you can live the
American Dream
While, over the generations so rose to the
top America's Dream
Honor all those who fight the fight,
Who today still stand at the ready on this
very night,
Who turn the dark into the light
Stand, for those on the battlefields of honor
who watched their Brothers and Sisters
die,
And had to bury them all with tears in their
eyes,
Stand, on this Veteran's Day and every day,
For The Armed Forces, their families, and
the ones who gave
Stand, because where would we all be?
If it were but not for the likes of all of these
who stood for you and me
Stand, because freedom is not free
But, only bought and paid for by all of the de-
fenders of the free
Stand, because they live and they die for
you,
They bleed and they cry for you
All so you can turn your back on them,
And they don't ask you how you caught your
disease
Stand for our Veteran's on this Veteran's
Day and everyday
For what they give and gave
Because, it's all they ask.

JAN PLATT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Jan Platt and to honor her legacy for the Tampa Bay community. She will always be remembered as an environmental pioneer, champion for "ethics in government" and inspiration for her selfless service.

Born in St. Petersburg, Jan lived in Tampa for most of her life and grew up with a love for Tampa Bay and its natural environment. She graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1954 and earned a degree in political science from Florida State University, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa, in 1958. During college, she was President of the Student Senate, Student Body Vice President, and even recognized amongst her peers as the "Most Outstanding Senior Woman" in her graduating class. After graduating she began her career as a schoolteacher and taught at both Hillsborough and Plant High Schools before finally being elected to serve on the City of Tampa's City Council in 1974. Four years later, she was elected to Hillsborough County's Board of County Commission, where she proudly served for 24 years.

Jan served her community in countless ways. She established the Agency on Bay Management, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program. She led as the President of the Suncoast Girl Scout Council and the Hillsborough County Head Start Community Foundation INC. Jan endowed a scholarship in honor of her sister, Bobbie Lou, at the