

I have worked with Mary Beth and the NVRTA on efforts to construct the Silver Line Metrorail extension and the establishment of the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail system. In fact, NVRTA was the first private sector organization to call for a dedicated funding source for Metro, which is a goal that I share.

Mary Beth's career with NVAR and her role as a Board Member for the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance are inextricably intertwined. At NVAR, she has been an experienced and expert advocate for the advancement of major legislation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She was instrumental in obtaining dedicated regional and statewide transportation funding and has a passion for protecting the real estate industry. Due to her strong relationships with elected leaders at all levels of government and her extensive historical knowledge of the region, she has been an effective voice in ensuring that Northern Virginia remains one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mary Beth Coya on the occasion of her 30th Anniversary with the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors and in commending her for her dedication to the betterment of our region. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to partner with her and NVAR on numerous issues and I look forward to continuing to work with her going forward.

TRIBUTE TO DEIDRE DEJEAR

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deidre DeJear on being named the Iowa Small Business Administration Minority Business Champion of the Year.

Each year, during National Small Business Week, the Iowa Small Business Administration announces winners of the Iowa Small Business Week Awards. Deidre is the president of the business marketing company Caleo Enterprises. She's also a passionate advocate for low- to moderate-income individuals and families, helping to strengthen their financial opportunities and knowledge. She led the United Way of Central Iowa's Financial Capability project, where since 2012 over 20,000 people have gained access to financial systems and improved their financial management skills. Deidre has created several programs to provide financial and business education in Central Iowa, among which three "boot camps" have seen 1,300 people come and learn about finances, business and non-profits.

Mr. Speaker, strong communities are built upon people like Deidre, who go above and beyond their own self-interests and devote their time and energy to helping others. It is an honor to represent leaders like her in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Deidre on this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING EILEEN CURTIS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who has had a tremendous impact on Northern Virginia. Eileen Curtis, President and CEO of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, is retiring after leading the Chamber since 1994.

During her tenure, the Dulles Chamber has established itself as one of the leading business advocacy groups in the region, adding to the quality of life for our residents in the Dulles Corridor and beyond. I have been proud to work with the Chamber on a host of issues, perhaps most significant being Rail to Dulles. The Chamber was instrumental in the foundation of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, which helped lobby for federal funding which was eventually secured to help construct the Silver Line. The 23-mile long Silver Line has spurred major economic development along the Dulles Corridor and has been singled out by Fairfax County executives as one of the main reasons behind Fairfax County's continued economic success.

In addition to Rail to Dulles, Eileen has worked with the Chamber to enhance the region in other ways including advocating for STEM education in our schools, forging partnerships with the business and education communities, creating greater opportunities for our immigrant community, and establishing new local festivals and events to bring the community together. These efforts are among the many reasons why Northern Virginia is routinely recognized as one of the best places in the United States in which to live, work, raise a family, and start a business.

Eileen's efforts have been drawn recognition from across the region. The Chamber's efforts in education have been honored by Fairfax County Public Schools on multiple occasions and the Washington Business Journal routinely lists the Dulles Chamber as being one of the largest in membership. Eileen herself has been recognized as Woman of the Year by the Herndon Business & Professional Women and as Executive of the Year by the Virginia Association of Chambers of Commerce Executives. These accolades speak to the strength of Eileen as a leader and the dedication that she has shown to our community. There can be no doubt of the positive impact that she has had on our community and our region is better for her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Eileen Curtis on her retirement and in thanking her for her outstanding service to Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. While she may be retiring, I am confident that she will remain engaged on the issues that are close to her heart. I wish her great success in all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FIRE-FIGHTER ROBERT "SKIPPY" TILEARCIO

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of longtime New York City Firefighter Robert "Skippy" Tilearcio, who passed away last Wednesday from a malignant tumor resulting from his months of recovery efforts at Ground Zero.

Skip was a tireless advocate for the Zadroga 9/11 Healthcare Act. He came to Washington about six times to fight for its extension in 2014 and 2015, even before he was diagnosed with a fatal tumor. I had the privilege of meeting Skip Tilearcio when he would make these painful trips to Congress. On his final visit Skip was confined to a wheelchair but his spirit was as strong as ever. Skip truly personified the courage of New York's Bravest.

Skip Tilearcio was the 15th firefighter to die this year alone from a 9/11 related illness. Many more are sick and suffering from these dreaded 9/11 illnesses. But because of Skip Tilearcio's heroic and successful effort to extend the Zadroga Act, these brave first responders will receive the very best medical care and treatment. My sincerest condolences go out to his wife Tina and his two children Tatiana and Robert. R.I.P. Firefighter Robert "Skip" Tilearcio.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL DUNCAN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend Daniel (Dan) Duncan as he steps down after serving for 10 years as President of the Northern Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO (NoVA Labor.) As President of NoVA Labor, Dan led the largest labor council in the Commonwealth of Virginia and which represents nearly 70 unions and locals. In this role, he has been responsible for consolidating the missions and concerns of the various unions and their members into one unified voice while ensuring that all opinions are heard and respected.

Dan has dedicated his life to improving the lives of working families. He is committed to the mission of NoVA Labor which is to bring economic justice to the workplace and social justice to our communities. He learned these values from an early age—his grandfather was a shop steward at a shipyard in Cleveland, Ohio and his father was a rank and file Machinist. Dan joined his first union, the Retail Clerks Union, in 1973 at the age of 17 while working for a grocery store in Tennessee.

After graduating from the University of Chattanooga in 1978, Dan worked as a newspaper reporter. He later became director of the Fort Lauderdale senior employment program with the National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSC) which was formed in 1961 and evolved from the Senior Citizens for Kennedy organization. Working with the administration