

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 THORBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. THORBERRY. 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

Commission, and Advisory Committee, Unitrans. Sheila holds a B.S. in Nursing from University of Wisconsin, Masters and a PhD in Nursing from University of San Francisco.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF CONVAL

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Conval, Inc., located in Somers, CT.

In 1962, WWII Navy veteran, Chester "Chet" Siver designed a line of high-pressure, forged steel valves in his basement in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. After a brief period overseeing Hamilton Standard's use of his design, Mr. Siver eventually regained the rights to his product and set up shop. Conval, or "Connecticut Valve", was founded on November 7, 1967.

Today Conval is the premier manufacturer of high quality, high temperature, and high pressure forged steel valves in the world. Conval valves are used in a variety of industries, including fossil power, nuclear power, pulp and paper, and water treatment.

As the town's largest private employer, Conval has become an institution in Somers. This family-owned and operated small business, now overseen by Chet's son, Frank Siver, is an American success story that has stayed true to Siver's commitment to making Conval "a nice place to work." For example, when it came time to expand, Conval elected to stay close to home to accommodate its employees and their families. Their new facility, located in nearby Enfield, CT, is set to open in February 2018.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Conval for their fifty-year commitment to great American manufacturing and community. May they enjoy continued success for years to come.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—TRANINE CHISOM

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Tranine Chisom of Fairfield, California, who has dedicated her career to community service and improving support for people with mental health disabilities and those who experience housing challenges and homelessness. As the Director of Supported Housing of Caminar in Solano County, Tranine has tirelessly worked with property owners, and city and county officials to increase and leverage affordable housing resources for our most vulnerable citizens. Annually, Tranine and her team provide supportive housing services to over 100 residents who might not otherwise be able to obtain or maintain affordable housing on their own.

Ms. Chisom also serves as the Board Chairwoman for Housing First Solano, a coalition of service providers in Solano County working to-

gether to end homelessness. She has been instrumental in the development and now the implementation of Solano County's Neighbors Helping Neighbor-Forward Together 5-Year Strategic Plan to address homelessness.

Tranine is also active in the Solano Napa Habitat for Humanity program where she actively participates as a crew member on community building days, as well as serves on the Family Selection Committee to identify families most in need of a Habitat Home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED POLIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on November 6, 2017. Had I been present for the following Roll Call votes:

H.R. 3562—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, I would have voted Yea as this legislation would make it easier for the VA to assist veterans who are in need of adaptations made to their homes to receive care.

On H.R. 1066—VA Management Alignment Act of 2017—Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2936, I would have voted Yea as this legislation would require the VA to submit a report on the individual roles and accountability mechanisms of the VA.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—RONDA DAROSA

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ronda DaRosa of Woodland, California, who has dedicated her 33-year career to Education. Her broad educational experience includes 12 years of private and public classroom instruction at the intermediate to adult education levels, 21 years in an administrative role at schools and county office levels implementing programs focused on alternative and special education, developing curriculum for college preparatory and career technical programs, designing and implementing professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers and administrators, and facilitating school reform at the secondary and middle school levels.

Dr. DaRosa currently serves as the Deputy Superintendent for the Yolo County Office of Education; a position that is well deserved. In her capacity as an administrator, she is committed to providing quality education and delivers a wide range of services to the children, parents and K-12 school districts in Yolo County.

Dr. DaRosa holds credentials in the areas of Life Sciences, Introductory Mathematics, Language Development Specialist and Educational Administration. She received her mas-

ter's degree in educational administration from Sonoma State University and her doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of Southern California.

HONORING RICHARD COOVER FOR  
HIS LEGACY AND COURAGEOUS  
SERVICE

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and honor the memory of Richard Coover, a loving father and husband. Richard, who valiantly served our nation during World War II in the U.S. Marine Corps, passed away on October 27, 2017 at the age of 92.

In February 1945, three U.S. Marine divisions landed on Iwo Jima, Japan; Richard was one of them. He not only survived the war, but he also endured and bravely defended our country facing many challenges. He fought right at the bottom of Mount Suribachi while bearing the sound of explosions that lasted all night long.

Richard is indeed a hero. He was just a young man, thousands of miles away from his home, his friends, and his family when he bravely served our country in Japan. His actions embody the true meaning of valor.

When I met Richard, I was deeply touched by his humility and spirit of service. He passionately expressed his love for our nation and was proud to have witnessed the U.S. flag being raised in Iwo Jima. His courage and strength is truly an inspiration.

Richard's courage was displayed not only overseas, but also when fighting against cancer. My office had the honor to help him obtain medical assistance. I even had the humbling opportunity to present him with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of his service. Throughout the process, Richard maintained an admirable and graceful presence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and honor an outstanding constituent, Richard Coover. On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I extend my deepest respects and condolences to his family. His years of committed service to our nation are an example of excellence and dedication, all should seek to emulate.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—ROBIN DEWEY

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Robin Dewey, a dedicated advocate for individuals living with disabilities in Davis, California, who is committed to serving her community. As President of Team Davis, a nonprofit organization established to help enrich the lives of children and adults with developmental, cognitive, and physical disabilities, Ms. Dewey has demonstrated her devotion to an underserved community.