

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize a distinguished law enforcement officer who has dedicated his life to supporting California families. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing a true public servant who embodies the spirit and values of a committed law enforcement officer, and to congratulate him on a well-deserved and well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 15TH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today to commemorate the 15th International Festival of Language and Culture (IFLC).

For the past 14 years, the IFLC has been showcasing both the diversity of our world and the talent of our youth. The IFLC draws participants from over 160 countries, with over 1,000 student performers each year at numerous regional events across the globe. This year the IFLC will be hosting 100 students and their teachers from 20 different countries in our nation's capital.

In its 15th year, Washington, D.C. will be one of many world capitals co-hosting this international event. In honor of this year's theme, "Universal Compassion," students will exhibit their culture and traditions through poetry, songs, and dances as an expression of friendship, optimism, and hope. In a world of conflict and despair, this special event shows that celebrating diversity and peaceful coexistence is possible, and that we can come together around our shared humanity.

I want to congratulate the students, parents, teachers, and volunteers of IFLC for their efforts. This event will continue to show the world that we can live and work together for a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the 15th IFLC.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. DYAN HAMILTON FRENCH COLE

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Dyan Hamilton French Cole, a New Orleans native and well known community and civil rights activist. Ms. Cole, affectionately known as "Mama D," passed away on May 20, 2017, at the age of 72.

Ms. Cole was a lifelong New Orleanian, and graduated from Joseph S. Clark High School. She was a relentless community activist, who would frequently attend city council meetings or other places where elected leaders were gathered to advocate for quality housing, recreation, and justice. Nearly every day, she headed to Orleans Parish Criminal District Court to advocate for young black men who were appearing in court that day.

Ms. Cole is best known for her support of the Stalling Gentilly Playground and serving as

the first female President of the New Orleans Chapter of the NAACP in January 1975.

After Hurricane Katrina, when Ms. Cole refused to evacuate, she organized crews she called the "Soul Patrol," to go through her native 7th Ward and other neighborhoods, saving people, feeding them and finding them clothes, assistance and other relief. Ms. Cole housed numerous people at her home on North Dorgenois Street that some people referred to it as Recovery Camp Dorgenois.

On December 6, 2005, Ms. Cole was one of the representatives from New Orleans invited to testify before the House Select Committee on Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Cole spoke passionately of the disgraceful lack of assistance in the aftermath of the storm and the racial discrimination that flowed in the city.

Ms. Cole loved the city and the people of New Orleans. Her legacy will forever be a part of the city and her dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans. Ms. Cole's survivors include a son, Byron Cole; a sister, Audrey Jackson; six grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Ms. Dyan Hamilton French Cole, a beloved mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, and example to aspiring community activists everywhere.

HONORING JOHN REED FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE DAVENPORT HOTEL

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John Reed of Spokane, WA for his 75 years of service to the historic Davenport Hotel.

John has been putting smiles on faces of those who come in and out of the Davenport Hotel for generations. He started working at the Davenport Hotel in 1943, at the age of 13, as a busboy in the Italian Gardens. Louis Davenport, the owner, taught him how to set up a table. His hard work and commitment provided him with an opportunity to become the doorman for the hotel, a position which he still holds at the age of 87. When asked if he plans to retire his response is "not any time soon."

Both local residents and guests of the Davenport can't help but smile when they are greeted by John, who wears a three piece suit, complete with a long red coat and black top hat to work. He has greeted John F. Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy, and George H.W. Bush in his time with the hotel and has said, "I enjoy being a doorman here and meeting and greeting people, and I'm proud to be a part of the Davenport."

Today, the Davenport will honor John with a board room in his name. His legacy and commitment to service will live on through this naming and his smile will always be remembered.

IN RECOGNITION OF CORLISS UDOEMA

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Corliss Udoema, who is a successful entrepreneur and holds the unique distinction of being selected as the 2017 Virginia Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Corliss began her career in the federal government, where she worked with the U.S. Marine Corps, Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Army. Then after a successful 32-year career with the federal government, Corliss started Contract Solutions, Inc. (CSI) in 2006. CSI is a small business whose mission is to assist federal, state and local governments, private for-profit and non-profit clients, by offering professional staffing and management support services. Since its inception, CSI has thrived, as it has evolved from a one-person company to a multi-million-dollar business. CSI has proven to be a model for other businesses to emulate, which is why in 2013 it was chosen to participate in the U.S. Small Business Administration's esteemed Mentor-Protégé Program, designed to enable successful companies to develop strong protégé firms by providing newer firms still in their nascent with various forms of business development assistance.

I am impressed by Corliss's dedication and how in just a mere decade she has transformed CSI from a small startup business into a tremendous success and engine of economic growth. Starting and operating any small business, let alone one as successful as CSI, is an incredibly arduous process, as small business owners face many challenges and obstacles. The success of CSI is a testimony to Corliss's hard work, commitment, and innovative ideas. In addition to her extensive and distinguished career in the federal government and private sector, Corliss has always found time to serve her community. She is the founder and president of Agape Love in Action, a nonprofit organization which provides support for those in need, and serves as a minister at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Centreville, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Corliss Udoema for her extraordinary achievement. I look forward to her ongoing contributions to Prince William County's diverse and innovative small business community and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING TANNER COOK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tanner Cook. Tanner is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.