

missed by me and by everyone who works in my office. While we are going to miss her, we are comforted by the fact that she vows to remain in the Boise area and visit us often. We're going to lean on her frequently for the same advice, constructive criticism, and gentle nudges she always offered and hope to see her regularly on the trail, in the museum, or at a play.

In closing, I would simply like to thank Laurel for her hard work, her tenacity, her good counsel, and most of all, her friendship.

HONORING MARYE L. THOMAS,  
M.D.

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Dr. Marye L. Thomas as she retires from over 30 years of dedicated public service, including the last two decades as the Director of Behavioral Health Care Services for Alameda County. I join our community in celebrating the many ways in which her life's work has contributed to the success and well-being of countless people throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Marye L. Thomas, M.D. graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1965, and went on to earn her medical degree from Meharry Medical College in 1969. Upon completion of her residency at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center in 1973, Dr. Thomas accepted a position with John Hale Mental Health Services as a Senior Staff Psychiatrist. She directed a clinical team and was responsible for intake assessment, crisis intervention, individual therapy, and coordination of treatment for acute inpatients and chronically ill patients in day treatment and community care. She was promoted to the position of Assistant Director of Clinical Services in 1977. During this same year, Dr. Thomas was named in Who's Who Among Black Americans.

Her career with Alameda County began in 1978 when she accepted a position as Chief of Clinical Services for the East Oakland Community Mental Health Center. There, she was responsible for the clinical direction of the adult outpatient component of the NIMH Center with direct supervision of clinical teams, policy development and planning, and community relations. After rising through the ranks, Dr. Thomas was selected to be Director of Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) for Alameda County in 1994.

In this vital leadership role, Dr. Thomas led the department responsible for the delivery of all publicly funded mental health, alcohol, and other drug services in the County. She oversaw a budget of \$260 million, as well as more than 3000 employees in County and community based organizations who delivered services to nearly 30,000 people each year. During her tenure, the behavioral health service system evolved from a \$58 million county operated mental health service to a more comprehensive behavioral health care system comprising nearly \$300 million. The growth spearheaded by Dr. Thomas includes a vastly expanded resource base for children's serv-

ices, the increased capacity to offer alcohol and drug services, and the opening of numerous behavioral health facilities.

With more than 20 years' experience as the physician/administrator for BHCS, Dr. Thomas has ensured the provision of high-quality services and the administration of federal, state, and local programs. Among her many accolades and professional associations, Dr. Thomas is the recipient of the 1994 Alameda County Mental Health Association Achievement Award and holds leadership positions in many community organizations.

Furthermore, as a former psychiatric social worker and founder of a mental health clinic, I've known Marye for over 35 years. She has inspired me as a fellow social worker and, for that, I am deeply grateful.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Dr. Marye L. Thomas, I salute you for three decades of outstanding service creating a more integrated, culturally competent, and empowering system of behavioral health care in Alameda County. I congratulate and thank you for your unparalleled service to our community. You have touched many lives in profound ways throughout your career, and we wish you and your loved ones continued happiness and prosperity in this exciting new chapter of life.

CELEBRATING OLDER AMERICANS  
MONTH

**HON. VERN BUCHANAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Older Americans Month.

Every year since 1963, May has been a month to honor older Americans and highlight the value that senior citizens contribute to our communities.

Recent medical advancements are helping Americans live longer, healthier, happier lives. Those older Americans have a wealth of wisdom, energy and experience from which our communities can benefit.

The theme for Older Americans Month 2013 is "Unleash the Power of Age."

In my congressional district, the Jefferson Center, a Sarasota, Florida, non-profit that provides housing to senior citizens with low to moderate income, is celebrating Older Americans Month with a variety of special events to recognize the achievements of their residents and encourage them to continue to share their knowledge with their family, friends, and neighbors.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of older Americans in Florida's 16th District and applaud the Jefferson Center for their efforts to enhance the quality of life of their residents and encourage them to share their lifetime of experience with those around them.

RECOGNIZING FORMER SECOND  
GRADE TEACHER, MRS. NINFA  
TREVINO PIÑA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Second Grade Teacher, Mrs. Ninfa Treviño Peña, in honor of her contributions to the South Texas region. On May 8, 2013, Mrs. Peña celebrates her 100th birthday and a lifetime of achievements as an educator.

Mrs. Peña was born May 8, 1913, to father Manuel and mother Procora Izaguirre Treviño. The youngest of five sisters, Ninfa attended Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas where she earned her degree in Education. Upon receiving her degree she began her career as an educator. Throughout her career, Mrs. Peña became known for her work as a second grade teacher at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School and her dedication to assisting students with special needs.

In 1937, Ninfa married Ernesto Peña Flores of Mission, Texas; and in 1987, the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary alongside their friends and family. Though Mr. Peña Flores has passed, Mrs. Peña continues to be a great influence in promoting strong family values. Reaching three generations, the Peña family has been honored as one of the original pioneer families of Mission, Texas. She has witnessed the lives of her six children, twelve grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. Mrs. Peña continues to live in Mission and remains a passionate supporter of education.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the remarkable life of Mrs. Ninfa Treviño Peña and her 100th birthday celebration. Thank you.

A MASTER'S HANDS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Michelle and Jim Bartlett and their company, A Master's Hands, for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business award.

A Master's Hands adheres to high standards of business ethics and employs ethical behavior as a philosophy in daily business.

Co-founder Jim Bartlett is the principal source behind this philosophy and serves as a role model for the employee's at A Master's Hands. Leading by example from the top is demonstrated through commitment to hard work and excellence in everything they do.

Giving back to the community is something Michelle and Jim strive to achieve. Working with Jeffco Workforce Center and Jefferson County Human Services, A Master's Hands offers job skills trainings to help individuals find employment. The company has been known to do pro-bono work for families and provide discounts to others who needed their help, all of which has made a lasting impact in the neighborhoods in which they work.