

Recently, Dave has announced that he will continue his work for strong consumer protections by becoming Special Counsel to Attorney General Pam Bondi. As a special counsel, Dave will oversee the effort to eliminate pain clinics and “pill mills” in Florida.

I would like to congratulate Dave on his appointment in the Attorney General’s office and wish him luck as he continues his dedication to public service and consumer advocacy. It has been a privilege working with him as an attorney, in the State legislature, and as a Congressman. I look forward to many years of continued service for South Florida alongside Dave.

IN HONOR OF NEW YORK CITY
COUNCILMAN DANIEL DROMM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm, a pioneering figure in the political history of Queens, the most diverse county in the nation. An educator, community organizer, union leader, and political activist, Daniel Dromm’s experience and dedication led voters in New York City’s 25th City Council District to elect him by an overwhelming margin last year to serve as their new Council Member. Last month, Councilman Dromm was honored by the Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee at its annual Winterpride celebration in Astoria.

A graduate of St. Mary’s Elementary and Boys’ High School in Manhasset, NY and Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, Daniel Dromm went on to earn a Master’s Degree from City College of the City University of New York. Prior to his career as an award-winning New York City public school teacher, he served as Educational Director of the Grant Day Care Center in Harlem, where he developed his legendary organizing skills fighting for the rights of the poor to affordable childcare, social services and quality education. He instructed and inspired thousands of students at PS 199Q in Queens. In 2006, Dromm was named “Outstanding Teacher of the Year” by his school’s principal and in 2009, he was chosen as “Educator of the Year” by the Sunnyside Kiwanis Club. In 1992, Danny courageously came out as an openly gay teacher, becoming a role model for equality—and front-page news in daily newspapers in our nation’s greatest city.

Deeply committed to civil rights and social justice, Dromm has established himself a fighter against prejudice, discrimination and violence as the founder and former co-chairperson of the Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee. Fifteen years ago, he organized the first Queens LGBT Pride Parade and Festival, that takes place every year on the first Sunday in June in the vibrant Jackson Heights neighborhood. Dromm co-founded the Queens Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), helped establish the Queens Pride House, and co-founded the Generation Q Youth Services Program in Astoria. His dedication to the communities he serves is broad and deep, inspiring his efforts on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Jackson Heights, his tenure on the Board of Directors

of the Corona-based Community Conciliation Network, his active membership in the 115th Precinct Community Council, and his volunteer duty with the Jackson Heights Beautification Group. He has been honored by the Sociedad Puertorriquena de Queens for his commitment to the Latino community, and serves as a member of the NAACP Corona/East Elmhurst chapter. He has been honored by the Korean-American Association of Central Queens, by the Times/Ledger newspapers with its Community Leadership Award, and by the United Federation of Teachers with its Marsh-Raimo Award, a fitting tribute to a dedicated labor activist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in honoring the extraordinary contributions to the political and civic life of our nation’s greatest city made by the pioneering political activist and elected official, New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 5, the House Republican rules proposal for the 112th Congress. As some of my Democratic colleagues have argued before me, this rules package is fiscally irresponsible, will balloon the national debt, and threatens the stability of government services that are critically important to millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican proposed rules package sets our country down a path of unaffordable tax cuts and threatens to suppress long-term economic growth and job creation. While many of my new Republican colleagues were elected on the platform of reducing the deficit, the new rules introduced by the Republican leadership will significantly increase the national debt by changing the House pay-as-you-go rules, “PAYGO”.

The Republican proposed House rules package adds to the deficit by exempting tax cuts and the deficit increasing effects of selectively repealing the health care reform law from the PAYGO rules. On the other hand, the Republican rules package prohibits the House from raising revenue or closing tax loopholes to help pay for new spending entitlements for low and middle income Americans.

Unlike the deficit neutral PAYGO rules that the 111th Congress operated under, the proposed rules package will allow for taxes to be cut without having to pay for them. But as the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform has pointed out, “tax expenditures are simply spending by another name and should not be exempt from scrutiny.”

Substituting cut-as-you-go, “CUTGO”, for PAYGO is bad economics and worse policy. As the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget has noted, “Replacing the two-sided PAYGO rules with a one-sided CUTGO rule will not only make it harder to offset legislation, but also exempt potentially budget-busting tax cuts from any discipline.” CUTGO is unwise, irresponsible, will result in economic stagnation, and substantially increase the debt burden on our children and grandchildren.

In addition to its fiscal irresponsibility, the proposed House rules package fails to address homeland security jurisdiction despite repeated calls for reform from the 9/11 Commission and every Secretary of Homeland Security. Failing to consolidate legislative jurisdiction over homeland security in the House Committee on Homeland Security will continue to complicate oversight and review of critical homeland security issues.

I also oppose the proposed rules package for the 112th Congress because it severs the user-financed basis of the Highway Trust Fund, and subjects necessary federal highway and transit investments to the vagaries of the annual appropriations process. This proposal will exacerbate the instability already being experienced by the U.S. transportation construction marketplace. Transportation projects are long-term in nature and require stable and predictable sources of funding. Subjecting them to the appropriations process creates a precarious and unaccommodating market for investments in infrastructure projects.

Finally, the Republican rules package disenfranchises residents of the District of Columbia and U.S. territories by ending the ability of delegates and the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico to vote in, and preside over, the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union. This would deliver a terrible blow not only to the symbolic vote of the delegates, but also to the voices of the five million residents of these areas who deserve to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, this ill-considered and fiscally irresponsible rules package was crafted by the new Republican majority in secret without meaningful involvement or input from members on this side of the aisle. Had such an opportunity been afforded to the minority, this rules package would be far superior and fiscally sounder.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H. Res. 5.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA FIFE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of the Honorable Barbara Fife, Director of External Affairs at the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College of the City University of New York, Co-Director of its Center for Innovation and Leadership in Government, and a distinguished public servant who served as a Deputy Mayor of the City of New York. Last month, Ms. Fife’s sixteen years of devoted service to Baruch College were celebrated by her colleagues and friends.

An accomplished and respected public servant in her earlier career, Ms. Fife served as New York City’s Deputy Mayor for Planning and Development during the administration of former Mayor David Dinkins. As Deputy Mayor, she oversaw and was responsible for the operations of several major agencies of the nation’s largest municipal government, including the Departments of City Planning, Housing Preservation & Development, Environmental Protection, Parks & Recreation, and Cultural Affairs and Libraries, as well as the

Landmarks Preservation Commission. In this capacity, Ms. Fife helped manage and implement one of the Dinkins' administration's signature achievements: she oversaw and helped manage the New York Public Library system's move to extend access to its facilities by keeping libraries open six days a week—for the first time since 1947. She held a seat on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and chaired its Real Estate Committee and served as a member of the New York City Water Board and as Vice Chair of the Hudson River Park Conservancy. She also represented Mayor Dinkins on the Boards of the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Museum and the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Barbara Fife previously served as the Senior Special Assistant and acting Chief of Staff to then-Manhattan Borough President Dinkins. From 1982 to 1984, she directed the Internship Programs in the Department of Urban Planning at Hunter College of the City University of New York. She was a Democratic National Committeewoman from 1980 to 1990 and was elected and re-elected to the New York State Democratic Committee ten times.

Ms. Fife has served on the boards of many non-profit organizations, including the Museum of the City of New York, the Public Art Fund, Regional Plan Association, Project FIND, the Community Service Society, the Settlement Housing Fund, the New York League of Conservation Voters, and the Manhattan Theatre Club. She is a former President of the Parks Council and a former Vice President of the Clinton Housing Association. She graduated cum laude from Bryn Mawr College and holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Hunter College.

Throughout her distinguished career, Barbara Fife has remained devoted to her family. She and her beloved late husband Martin raised four sons, Stephen, Richard, Howard, and Andrew, and she is devoted to their beloved grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in saluting the extraordinary contributions of the Honorable Barbara Fife to the political and civic life of our nation's greatest city.

PRESIDENT RICK BENDER AND
SECRETARY-TREASURER ALAN
LINK RETIRING FROM THE
WASHINGTON STATE LABOR
COUNCIL (WSLC)

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the powerful contributions made by Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) President Rick S. Bender and Secretary-Treasurer Alan O. Link to policies that benefit working families. Throughout their lengthy and distinguished service, they have done much to advance the cause of organized labor in Washington State and, thereby, to improve significantly the lives of our residents. Thanks to steadfast support of its labor movement by Rick Bender and Al Link, Washington State today is the fourth most unionized state in the nation, with the state's 574,000 union members accounting for 20.2% of its overall workforce.

Rick Bender became President of the Washington State Labor Council in 1993, after serving as WSLC Vice President (1988–1993); Executive Secretary of the King County Labor Council (1991–1993); and Executive Secretary of the Seattle Building and Construction Trades Council (1987–1991). He is a member of Laborers Local 242 and Elevator Constructors Local 19, and he began his career with organized labor as an apprentice with Cement Masons Local 528 in 1966. In addition to his exceptional service to organized labor, Rick also served the citizens of the State of Washington for many years as an elected member of the State Legislature; I was fortunate to serve with Rick in the Washington State Senate, where he was much respected for his expertise, his hard work, and his commitment to fairness.

Al Link also is a giant in the Washington State labor community. He served in numerous leadership positions in that community prior to his 1994 election as WSLC Secretary-Treasurer, including President of the Spokane County Central Labor Council (1989–94) and President of Steelworkers Local 329 (1991–94), when he represented workers at the Kaiser Aluminum plant in Spokane. Al has been a member of the United Steelworkers of America since 1961.

Together, Rick Bender and Al Link provided bold leadership to the Washington State Labor Council as it achieved many proud accomplishments: they crafted a far-sighted and effective legislative platform to promote pro-working family laws and policies in Washington state government; these included passage of long-sought collective bargaining rights for state employees, protection and strengthening of Washington's model unemployment insurance and workers' compensation systems, promotion of innovative apprenticeship programs, and development of affordable health care and family leave policies.

Intent on highlighting labor's importance to our democratic political process, Mr. Bender and Mr. Link created a groundbreaking grassroots political program featuring the "Labor Neighbor" program, a highly successful effort that became a national model for engaging union activists and volunteers in the election process and informing rank-and-file members of labor's endorsements.

They also led successful campaigns for pro-worker ballot measures, including the nation's first indexed minimum wage law, which began as an initiative filed by Rick Bender; it was approved by the voters of Washington State in 1998 following an exciting campaign co-chaired by Rick and especially memorable because it relied entirely on volunteer signature gatherers.

Mr. Speaker, the formidable team of Rick Bender and Al Link leaves a vital legacy that will strengthen the lives of working people and their families for decades to come. On the occasion of their retirement from the Washington State Labor Council, I join thousands of union members, working families, and appreciative citizens across Washington State in thanking them for their vision, their bold leadership, and their dedicated service. We wish them good fortune and much satisfaction in the coming years.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARUCH COLLEGE AND ITS 2010 BERNARD BARUCH DINNER HONOREES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Baruch College of the City University of New York. Last year the College honored several remarkable leaders on the occasion of the 21st Annual Bernard Baruch Dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street in Manhattan.

A senior college in the City University of New York (CUNY), Baruch College is ranked among the top 15% of U.S. colleges and was named one of the 50 public colleges offering the "best value" to students. Currently led by Interim President Stan Altman, Baruch College honored five distinguished women in 2010, for the first time ever. Each is a prominent leader in New York City's real estate industry, chosen by Baruch College's trustees for their remarkable achievements in professional life and their extraordinary devotion to serving their communities. In addition, the Bernard Baruch Dinner last year honored the women of the College's Class of 1940, who were the first female students admitted after a 1933 ban on women students was ended in 1936, and who served as pioneering trailblazers for the generations of women who followed in their footsteps at Baruch. Appropriately, the former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Donna Shalala, a former President of Hunter College at CUNY, served as a dinner presenter.

The five women who were recognized at the 2010 Bernard Baruch Dinner are truly deserving honorees. The Bernard Baruch Medal for Business and Civic Leadership was presented to four outstanding leaders, Suzanne Sunshine, Louise M. Sunshine, Sylvia J. Smith, and Doris W. Koo, and the Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to Dolly Lenz.

Suzanne Sunshine is the President of S. Sunshine & Associates, which provides commercial and residential real estate brokerage and consulting services to non-profit organizations and their personnel, donating a percentage of its fees back to each non-profit client.

Louise M. Sunshine has enjoyed extraordinary success in the worlds of business, politics and government. After serving as a trusted top advisor to New York State Assembly Majority Leader Al Blumenthal and New York Governor Hugh Carey, in 1986, she launched the Sunshine Group firm focusing on residential real estate, where she coined the phrase, "All Square Feet Are Not Created Equal." Today, she serves as a consultant to Alexico Group, LLC, and is playing a leading role at Domineum, a firm offering global real estate solutions.

Sylvia Smith, FAIA, LEED AP, is a Senior Partner at FXFWOLE Architects, a leading firm that also provides planning and interior design services. She is the founder of the firm's Cultural & Educational Studio and is currently leading the redesign of public spaces at Lincoln Center, the Juilliard School expansion, and the Alice Tully Hall renovation, and recently completed award-winning Bronx Zoo projects.

Doris W. Koo is a nationally respected leader with nearly three decades' experience in affordable housing and community development.