

MacCormack possesses doubts that she will soon be doing something else of great value. But this is an appropriate time to note the wide range of very important contributions she has made to our region.

As the Member of the House proud to represent what has been for many years the leading fishing community in the United States, New Bedford, and its surrounding towns, I have derived enormous strength from the work that has been done at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth to support the fishing industry with first-rate research, and Jean MacCormack has been an essential factor in that effort.

Under her leadership, UMass Dartmouth has become a very important source of research and leadership for economic development in dealing with our ocean resources in general and UMass Dartmouth has played a very essential role in promoting the economic development of our region both with regard to some specific industries, including textiles and cranberries, in addition to fishing, and in general.

Many people talk about the important synergies that come from making sure that first-rate academic work is coordinated with economic development. Jean MacCormack has done as much as anyone I know to make that a reality. And I was very proud to be one of those who worked under her leadership to create the first public law school in the history of Massachusetts, with the merger of Southern New England Law School into the University of Massachusetts system, headquartered at the Dartmouth branch.

Mr. Speaker, Jean MacCormack was to me not just a great educational leader, but a great friend. No one could be in her presence without being made to feel valuable and to be entertained and instructed at the same time. I join with the population of Southeastern Massachusetts in thanking her for a job very well done and in wishing her well as we watch her move on to her next work.

And Mr. Speaker, as an indication of the impact Jean MacCormack has had, I ask that the excellent article from the New Bedford Standard Times about her career be printed here.

UMASS DARTMOUTH CHANCELLOR STEPPING
DOWN AFTER THIS YEAR
(By Steve Urban)

DARTMOUTH.—Expressing deep concern for the future of public higher education in America, Jean F. MacCormack Tuesday announced she will retire at the end of this academic year as chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

MacCormack, 64, notified the campus at the annual faculty/staff convocation breakfast and in a campus-wide email.

Noting the shrinking financial support for state-run colleges and universities, MacCormack, both in her address and in an interview, lamented the dwindling public support and today's increasing hostility toward the public sector. "They're angry at the government and it spills over," she said.

But she did not say that was the reason for her retirement; rather, she cited the wish to pursue other interests after three decades of working "24/7" in college administration. And despite the fact she has come under criticism politically, she said politics had no bearing on her decision.

Citing the 1862 Morrill Act signed by President Lincoln establishing land-grant colleges, MacCormack said: "We simply cannot allow the debate to be dominated by nega-

tive voices and allow the spirit and intent of the Morrill Act to be hijacked. We cannot accept the new dogmas of the stormy present to prevail. Too much is at stake for our nation and our democracy."

She said in her address that she sees no obvious strategy. "I would love to tell you that I see a clear pathway for improvement on the national issues, but instead I think those possibilities are only slowly emerging from the name-calling and the rancor. What I am quite certain about is that we must find our voice in this national debate and become strong advocates for not abandoning our nation's longstanding commitment to the clear mission of public higher education."

New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang, who has conducted hardball negotiations with MacCormack and the university over land at Fort Taber to expand SMASIT, was effusive in his praise for the chancellor.

"She's left a very long-lasting, positive legacy for the university," Lang said. "She's left a tremendous amount of momentum in key areas that the next chancellor will need to build on."

"I regard her as a friend. We don't agree on every issue and we never, never will. But I enjoyed working with her. It's in the interest of everyone in this region that our university be extremely successful, innovative and a true partner," Lang said.

During her tenure, which began in 1999 when she arrived from UMass Boston, the campus expanded greatly, including a visual and performing arts campus in downtown New Bedford, the state's first public law school in Dartmouth, the Charlton College of Business, vastly increased on-campus housing, establishment of the School of Public Policy and Education, and the Advanced Technology Manufacturing Center, among others.

In her letter of resignation to UMass President Robert L. Caret, MacCormack listed several pieces of unfinished business that she hopes to complete. They include expansion of the School of Marine Science and Technology in New Bedford, the Bio-Manufacturing Center in Fall River, securing American Bar Association accreditation for the law school, finishing the renovation of the Claire T. Carney Library, and "re-engineering enrollment and retention strategies to address a changing marketplace."

MacCormack expressed frustration at the difficulty in getting enrollment up to 10,000 from 6,000. That's important, she said, because the campus had a 10-1 student-teacher ratio when it could support 16-1. With growth, she said, comes fiscal stability because students pay fees and tuition, which supports programs and development.

It also offsets steadily declining state support, down below 20 percent of the budget from as much as 78 percent two decades ago.

And yet, she said, public higher education accounts for 80 percent of enrollment and does—in theory, at least—offer as good an education as private schools, although perhaps without the connections a student can make at Harvard, for example.

MacCormack touted her efforts to connect UMass Dartmouth with the community, and said she will remain in SouthCoast to perhaps write a book and take up community-related interests. But she will retire, not return to teaching, to give herself a breather after 30 years in administrative jobs that required all of her time.

"UMass Dartmouth is already a model of a university whose teaching and discovery is fully engaged in the life of its community. I am sure that this campus will be attractive to higher education leaders who strive to be entrepreneurial and bold," she said in her address.

Margaret "MarDee" Xifaras, a local attorney and former chairman of the Southern

New England School of Law, which was absorbed by UMass, said she doubts MacCormack will slow down all that much.

"Neither one of us is constitutionally capable of doing that," she said.

MacCormack's pending retirement did not strike her as much of a surprise, she said. "She always had a sort of a long-term plan that obviously would include retiring, but she was anxious to get things done, and she'll make sure certain things are well under way."

For merging the law school, Xifaras said, she will be "eternally grateful" to the chancellor. "She was a critical moving force," she said.

"Now its time for her to step back from a lifetime of commitment to education. She will be missed."

Fall River developer James Karam, chairman of the UMass Board of Trustees, said, "Jean has always understood that educational opportunity was vital to our area and has worked tirelessly to make sure that education of the highest quality was available to all of our citizens."

He added that MacCormack "has worked to transform our lives and in the process has transformed our region. She has championed the SouthCoast and has our undying gratitude."

HONORING OFFICER GARY
CONKLIN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a brave public servant Officer Gary Conklin of the Linden Police Department.

Recently, tragedy struck the town of Fenton when two contractors fell twenty feet into a sewer filled with methane gas. One of the contractors was killed in the accident and the other severely injured. If it were not for the bravery of Officer Conklin there would be two families grieving the loss of a loved one.

Upon arriving at the scene Officer Conklin saw the two men laying face down in two feet of water. Knowing the risk the gas posed Officer Conklin obtained a respiratory device from his vehicle. The device was not made for these types of toxic situations but he knew it was better than nothing. Putting himself in harm's way he entered the sewer and began working to stabilize the men.

He was able to prop the survivor Joseph Flipansick up on the side of the sewer. A civilian entered the sewer to assist and the two of them were able to roll the other victim over so he did not drown. After moving the men Officer Conklin felt his time running out and exited the sewer ordering the civilian out as well.

When Linden Police Chief, Scott Sutter asked Officer Conklin why he entered the sewer Officer Conklin responded simply "that's what I signed up for." Because of Officer Conklin's selfless act of courage and bravery Joseph Flipansick is alive.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sympathies to the family that lost their loved one that day. I would also like to thank Officer Conklin for acting with such brazen courage. He embodies what it means to be a public servant and his commitment to "protect and serve" is inspiring to all.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHNNIE DOSS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, one hundred and two years ago a tenacious man of God was born in Camp Hill, Alabama on August 14, 1909; and

Whereas, Mr. Johnnie Doss was born to Mr. Jack and Mrs. Minnie Doss, he grew up in Camp Hill, Alabama attending school in the local school system; he worked as an experimental farmer for the government. He owned cattle and sold milk to the local dairy; and

Whereas, Mr. Doss has shared his time and talents as a husband, father and motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mr. Doss has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the will of God; he is a father of fifteen (15), a grandfather of fifty (50), a great-grandfather of forty-two (42) and a great-great grandfather of thirty-two (32); and

Whereas, Mr. Doss along with his family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, his 102nd birthday, we pause to acknowledge a man who is a cornerstone in our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mr. Doss on his birthday and to wish him well and recognize him for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim August 14, 2011 as Mr. Johnnie Doss Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 14th day of August, 2011.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JONAS BENTON KELSALL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Commander Jonas Benton Kelsall who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. LCDR Kelsall was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

LCDR Kelsall was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Joint Service Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, three Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

LCDR Kelsall is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates. His nation owes LCDR Kelsall an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to LCDR Kelsall's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILHELM G. SPEIGELBERG, II

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Wilhelm G. Speigelberg, II, who is retiring after 31 years of government service.

After graduating cum laude from Case Western Reserve University with a degree in political science in 1978, Mr. Speigelberg attended the Cleveland Marshall School of Law. He earned his J.D. in 1982.

Mr. Speigelberg began his career in public service with the Ohio State Lottery in 1976 as a public information officer. He later worked with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services as a grant coordinator. Once Mr. Speigelberg had earned his law degree, in 1983, the City of Garfield Heights appointed him as the city's assistant law director. After several years, Mr. Speigelberg began working with Judge Deborah J. Nicastro. He would serve as her personal bailiff and law clerk and was later appointed Magistrate and Acting Judge to assist Judge Nicastro.

In addition to his distinguished career, Mr. Speigelberg is an active member of the community. He has been involved in numerous campaigns throughout the State of Ohio and is well known for his political campaign management skills. He is a licensed referee who officiates local basketball, football, baseball and lacrosse games.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Wilhelm G. Speigelberg II and thanking him for 31 years of dedicated service to the City of Garfield Heights and State of Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE HONORING MS. SYLVIA S. SCHWAB, HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON OFFICER, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (RETIRED)

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to rise to honor Ms. Sylvia S. Schwab, House Congressional Liaison Officer, Office of Legislative Affairs, United States Marine Corps, for her decades of service on Capitol Hill and twelve years as an invaluable Civilian Marine.

Ms. Schwab is an alumna of Mary Washington College, and has undertaken graduate

studies in social work at the Catholic University of America. Ms. Schwab's personal decorations include twenty-five years of outstanding performance and monetary awards as well as numerous letters of appreciation and training completion certificates. Ms. Schwab was a valued staffer to Representative Tom Bevill (D-4-AL), who served in this body for 30 years. Representative Tom Bevill (D-4-AL) and my father, Representative Walter B. Jones, Sr. (D-1-NC), both served together in Congress for many years and were close and personal friends.

Ms. Schwab brought her unique experience and perspective to numerous roles, including Senior Legislative Assistant/Director of Case-work and Deputy Chief of Staff/Constituent Relations Director. Since that time, Ms. Schwab has served with distinction as Special Assistant to the Chief of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Secretary of the Navy, as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and as Special Legislative Liaison, Office of Legislative Affairs, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

As House Congressional Liaison Officer, Ms. Schwab has served four Commandants and five Legislative Assistants, providing her mastery skills and knowledge to the Marine Corps environment. She brought with her a keen insight into the inner workings of the House of Representatives. Ms. Schwab's two decades of experience on Capitol Hill and at Marine Corps Headquarters have provided her with the ability to capitalize on long-standing relationships with congressional staff members to ensure that the Marine Corps message was being delivered and received in a manner that ensured open and effective communication between Congressional Staff and the Marine Corps. Ms. Schwab represented the Marine Corps on all Marine-related matters and guided the Marine Corps' most difficult and challenging legislative initiatives with great success. Through direct interaction with Members of Congress, and their staffs, she ensured that the Marine Corps requirements were widely known and understood, thereby guaranteeing the best possible support. Examples of her success include the procurement of the MV-22 Osprey, the acquisition of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles and wide-ranging Congressional support for the establishment of the Wounded Warrior regiment.

Ms. Schwab's uncompromising professionalism, astute judgment and strong interpersonal skills contributed substantially to the development of many Marine Corps plans, programs, policies, and activities. She consistently worked to reinforce the Marine Corps policies and ensured that the guidance was widely disseminated to influential, keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

I had a long professional relationship with Ms. Schwab and always found her to be the consummate professional. It was a pleasure to serve with her.

It is for these outstanding personal qualities, dedication to service, and exceptional performance both on Capitol Hill and with the United States Marine Corps that we express to her our heartfelt pride and best wishes in her surely successful future endeavors.