

Fairfax County, primarily in the Dulles Corridor and Tysons areas. The expansion of professional opportunities continued to fuel the population growth of the County, irrevocably changing commuting patterns and posing new challenges and opportunities. In this century, as the County continues to redefine itself, emphasis has been placed on smart-growth, multi-use development easily accessible to public transit. Through the natural cycle of growth and redevelopment, new activity centers have been established throughout the County in communities like Reston, Laurel Hill, Springfield, and the Mosaic District in Merrifield.

In May 2010, the Planning Commission presented the most ambitious redevelopment plan in the County's history to Board of Supervisors—The Tysons Plan. The Tysons Plan was a culmination of years of planning and analysis, much of which I had the honor of working on while serving as the Providence District Supervisor and then as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Under the Tysons Plan the area known as the “downtown of Fairfax County” will be transformed from a district filled with a patchwork of unconnected development and businesses into a vibrant, walkable, sustainable, transit-oriented mixed-use community. When completed, Tysons will be an urban center where people live, work, and play, and it will be home to up to 100,000 residents and 200,000 jobs. This plan received the American Planning Association's 2011 Daniel Burnham Award, which recognizes one urban plan in the nation each year, for advancing the science and art of planning.

Looking forward, the Planning Commission and staff will continue to seek a balance between this phenomenal growth and the need to maintain open space, manage traffic, and provide affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fairfax County Planning Commission on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary and in thanking the volunteer Commissioners and the staff of the Fairfax County Planning Commission for their efforts, expertise, and dedication toward making Fairfax County one of the best places in the country to live, work and raise a family.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan, our dearest friend and closest ally in East Asia, is celebrating their 102nd birthday on October 10 of this year, known as “Double Ten” day given it is the tenth day of the tenth month.

Taiwan and the United States' strong relationship is based on the common standard that human rights, democracy and the rule of law are critical to maintaining a flourishing society. Both nations do not just speak of these as theories, but create environments for which they can be attained.

Because of this friendship, there are a few areas that I would like to shine a light in the hopes of strengthening Taiwan's global standing.

First of all, I would like to see a Bilateral Investment Agreement, BIA, between the United

States and Taiwan as soon as possible. The protections afforded in a BIA are greater than what currently exists. This BIA will give investors of both countries greater confidence investing in each other and provides a platform for sustained economic growth.

I would also like my colleagues to join me in supporting Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, TPP. As a Member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC, Taiwan is rightfully allowed to be a part of TPP. The absence of their membership could create an unfair disadvantage for Taiwan and will be a hardship for our good friends in this global economy.

Taiwan is a beacon of democracy in East Asia. The United States should do all that it possibly can to ensure that Taiwan is in position to prosper and is on a firm foundation for sustained economic growth.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEPTEMBER 15–OCTOBER 15, 2013

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, since 1968, America has annually celebrated the National Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize the contributions of those whose ancestors came from South and Central America, Mexico, Spain, and the Caribbean. The start day of National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15th, is significant because it is also the anniversary of independence for some Latin American countries such as: Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. Additionally, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and September 18th.

This year's theme, “Hispanics: Serving and Leading our Nation with Pride and Honor,” highlights the tremendous impact Hispanics have made in all sectors of our society. It is individuals like Thomas Pérez, the country's first Cabinet Secretary of Dominican descent, who reminds us that willingness to work hard can help achieve great success. Secretary Pérez is not only a role model for youths in our congressional district, but also an inspirational example of the American Dream.

I am proud to represent a congressional district with one of the largest and diverse Hispanic populations in the country. Our District is blessed to have great organizations that provide very useful services to my Hispanic constituents such as: Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriquena, Institute for the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Elderly, Hispanic Federation, El Museo del Barrio, Julia de Burgos Cultural Center, Casabe House Development Fund, Inc., the Dominican Women's Development Center, El Centro Civico Cultural Dominicano, Inc., the PR Dream, Boriken Neighborhood Health Center, Dominican Sunday, Inc., The Dominican Bar Association, the Hispanic Community Organization for Life, El Asociacion Tepeyac de New York, New York City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the New York State Federation of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, MASA, Acacia Network, Casita Maria, and Comunilife. I am grateful for their continuous efforts to improve the lives of people in our district.

I will tirelessly continue to fight for various issues that are most important to our Hispanic community, such as comprehensive immigration reform which can create a path to citizenship, and provide more opportunities for Hispanics to achieve the American Dream.

TO CONGRATULATE BARBARA LIPPA ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Barbara Lipa on her retirement as Executive Director of the Fairfax County Planning Commission and to thank her for 35 years of service to the community.

Ms. Lipa began her career with the Planning Commission in 1978 as a Planning Aide. In 1979, she was promoted to Deputy Director and was promoted to Executive Director in 1999. In December 1999, Ms. Lipa earned designation as a Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner.

During her 35 year tenure with the Planning Commission, Ms. Lipa witnessed an explosion of growth. In 1978, the County population was less than 579,000. There were approximately 192,776 residential housing units, nearly 60% of which were single family detached homes. Ethnic diversity was virtually non-existent; 91.6% of the residents were white, 5.4% were African-American, and all other minorities combined comprised only 3% of the population. The median household income was \$15,707, and 62% of housing was owner occupied with the median home value of \$35,400. And while Metrorail operated in Washington, D.C., and a few close in suburbs, it would be nearly another decade before Metro would be an option to Fairfax County residents.

By the end of 2012, the population of Fairfax County had nearly doubled to more than 1.1 million residents. There are more than 408,000 residential housing units and the percentage of single family detached homes has decreased to approximately 47%. Fairfax County is now an ethnic tapestry; nearly 40% of its residents are minorities with Asian/Pacific Islanders comprising the largest single ethnic group. The 2012 median household income was \$105,797 and the median home value was nearly \$431,000. Metro is a daily part of life, and the Silver Line through Tysons and the Dulles Corridor will extend this service through Fairfax and into Loudoun County.

In 1978 there were fewer than 159,000 jobs in Fairfax County, today there are nearly 600,000. With 10 Fortune 500 Companies headquartered here, Fairfax County is home to more Fortune 500 companies than 33 states and is tied with 3 others; this exponential job growth has fueled the need for additional facilities, infrastructure, development, and services.

Ms. Lipa has excelled in leading Fairfax County's planning efforts during 35 years in an ever-changing climate. Her management and guidance has contributed greatly to the evolution of Fairfax County from a suburban enclave to a 21st century metropolis. In 2010, she was honored with a Team Excellence Award for her work with the Commission's