

HONORING WILLIAM A. RYAN IV

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William A. Ryan IV. Will 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 444, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Will has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Will has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Will has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Will organized and completely renovated the Girl Scouts storage facility at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Additionally, I am proud to say Will has been accepted into the United States Military Academy Class of 2018. I am sure he will serve his country with the same dedication as fellow north Missourians and West Point graduates, Generals John J. Pershing and Omar Bradley.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William A. Ryan IV for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF DR. WANDA COOK-ROBINSON AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2014*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a local education leader in Metropolitan Detroit, Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson, the superintendent of Southfield Public Schools for the last seven years. In recognition of the profound impact of her leadership on the quality of public education in Southfield, Dr. Cook-Robinson was honored in 2013 as the Michigan Superintendent of the Year by the Michigan Association of School Administrators.

Dr. Cook-Robinson became the superintendent of Southfield Public Schools in 2006—directly serving the community she has called home for the last 30 years. She brought with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in the realm of public education as an instructor for both graduate and undergraduate education classes at Grand Valley State University, Marygrove College, and Wayne State University, as well as a tenure of service as Assistant Superintendent for Student Performance and Human Resources for the Oakland County Intermediate School District.

The constant theme of Dr. Cook-Robinson's term has been promoting collaboration with staff and community stakeholders across all sectors of Southfield to fully leverage the maximum educational experience for her students. Among the fifty-two active partnerships South-

field Public Schools' has engaged in on Dr. Cook-Robinson's watch, is the Revolution Read program which has brought together local elected officials, the higher education sector, and small businesses with the goal of having every Southfield Public Schools' student reading at grade level by the end of their fifth grade year. It is a program that has already seen success as reading scores on state assessments improved in the program's second year. Dr. Cook-Robinson has also overseen the Southfield Public Schools' accreditation in the AdvancED program of the North Central Association Commission, which requires high academic standards to obtain—a distinction that had been achieved by only five other school districts in Michigan at that time. Additionally, Dr. Cook-Robinson has been directly involved with the creation of high school preparatory academies for Southfield students, providing a uniquely tailored small-class-size environment for students as they transition from middle school to high school in the eighth and ninth grades.

For her outstanding record at the forefront of leadership in the public education sector, Dr. Cook-Robinson has been recognized by many organizations. She has been honored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s Southfield Alumnae Chapter as its Educator of the Year, and has been named a Distinguished Educator by the Wayne State University College of Education Alumnae Chapter. Dr. Cook-Robinson remains an active leader across a number of local organizations including the Southfield Community Foundation, Wayne State University Board of Visitors, the Oakland University Department of Educational Leadership and the Southfield Area Chamber of Commerce, where she continues to build partnerships that are providing Southfield Public School students the tools they need to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to move into a future where knowledge is an increasingly critical component to our nation's enduring prosperity, providing a world class education that prepares our youth to meet this demand is crucial. The work of educators, like Southfield Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson, is key part of the continuing success of the Greater Detroit region, the State of Michigan and our Nation. I congratulate Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson on her achievements and know that as she transitions to new responsibilities at the Oakland Intermediate School District, that she will continue to play a vital role in preparing our youth to meet the challenges and demands of our changing world.

HONORING ELAINE POMEROY  
McKELLAR

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2014*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Ms. Elaine Pomeroy McKellar, devoted wife, mother, sister, friend and colleague. With her passing on January 8, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of her life's work to improve the social welfare of individuals and families as well as the countless lives she touched over the course of her career in social work and advocacy.

Born on August 3, 1944 in Thomasville, Georgia, she and her family moved to Valley City, North Dakota following World War II, where she grew up with her three younger siblings Linda, Earl, and Glenn. Mrs. McKellar received her Bachelor of Science in Social Work from the University of North Dakota, and obtained her Masters in Social Work (MSW) at the Washington University in St. Louis.

After completing her studies, Mrs. McKellar headed to the San Francisco Bay Area determined to work in the progressive political climate and change-oriented environment. While she walked on the front lines advocating for fair wages and walking a picket line for the United Farm Workers, she met her husband Larry McKellar. They had one son, Dominic McKellar.

She started her career off in the 1970s at Catholic Social Services in San Francisco. She primarily worked on foster care services and with youth transitioning out of the foster care system. She later went to the Children's Home Society as the Coordinator of Emergency Foster Care Family and recruitment, a non-profit agency serving children and families through critical child welfare services.

In the late 1980s, Mrs. McKellar's career took her to Bay View Hunters Point Foundation, where she helped to implement elementary school mental health programs with her experience and expertise in social welfare. Following her experience at the Bay View Hunters Point Foundation, Mrs. McKellar worked at the UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion through a Robert Wood Johnson grant and provided critical mental health services to children victimized by domestic violence.

In April 2005, Mrs. McKellar came to work in my Oakland District Office. While initially starting as a part-time caseworker, she quickly rose to become the Senior Caseworker managing the casework services. She had spent the past 8 years providing outstanding constituent services to the residents of the 13th Congressional District. Mrs. McKellar's experience as a social worker was an asset to my office, as her institutional knowledge and expertise in social welfare easily allowed her to work closely with federal agencies and handle sensitive situations with the upmost professionalism and ease. She was committed to ensuring that my constituents received timely responses from agencies, often going above and beyond what was required.

Mrs. McKellar worked closely with veterans and constituents with issues relating to Social Security and Medicare. Her many contributions to the office have not gone unnoticed. For 5 years, she was responsible for organizing An Artistic Discovery, an annual Congressional high school art competition aimed at encouraging students to express themselves through the arts. Mrs. McKellar worked tirelessly to build relationships with high school art teachers and community stakeholders, which helped to successfully grow the event. In 2012 and 2013, Mrs. McKellar worked closely with staff from Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER's office to host the Veterans' Fix-It Event, an event to address the backlog in veterans' claims and cases with the Oakland VA Regional Office.

On a personal note, Elaine was an exemplary example of a public servant. She demonstrated the highest ethical standards and truly embodied the social work code of ethics in all aspects of her life. She will be deeply missed.