(OC San) Board of Directors, and his dedication and service to the residents of Orange County in this capacity.

Throughout his tenure on the OC San board from December 2018 through June 2021, Chairman Shawver has remained steadfast in his commitment to providing an affordable service to the community, while understanding the importance of keeping with OC San's mission of protecting the public health and the environment.

Under his leadership, Chairman Shawver and the Board of Directors understood the financial hardship COVID–19 created for many of our ratepayers. As a result, the Board of Directors forwent the board approved regional sewer service fee increase for the 2020–21 fiscal year, keeping it at $339 for the year, which is less than $1 a day.

Chairman Shawver's commitment to affordable water and water use has allowed OC San to move in the direction to recycle 100 percent of its reclaimable flow through the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), a joint project between OC San and the Orange County Water District.

Upon completion of this project in 2023, GWRS will produce 130 million gallons of high-quality water every day, which will be enough water for 1 million residents in north and central Orange County.

As a former educator myself, I would also like to recognize Chairman Shawver for his more than 40 years of service as an educator in the Long Beach Unified School District, at Long Beach City College, and at Hope International University in Fullerton.

On behalf of the residents of the 47th District, I want to thank Chairman Shawver for his years of service and dedication to OC San and to the community he has committed himself to serving.

HONORING DR. ALA STANFORD AS A VIRTUAL GUEST FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ADDRESS TO JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

HON. MARY GAY SCANLON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ala Stanford from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On Wednesday, April 28, 2021, President Biden delivered his first address to a Joint Session of Congress, 100 days into his first term.

When President Biden took the oath of office, he pledged that help was on the way. Thanks to our work together to enact the American Rescue Plan, help is here.

Hardworking people in Pennsylvania and all across the country have been the heroes of the pandemic, and now they are leading our recovery. Dr. Stanford is one of those heroes.

The Black Doctors COVID–19 Consortium was founded by Dr. Stanford in 2020 to educate and advocate for the Black community in order to reduce the incidence of disease and death from coronavirus.

The group originally focused on bringing testing to underserved communities, and now they also run vaccination clinics in these same areas. Dr. Stanford and her team are intentional about targeting their resources to the Black community because Black Americans have been disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus and are still underrepresented in the number of people who have received the COVID–19 vaccine.

After more than a year of having our lives consumed by COVID–19, I could think of no better person to represent our region at President Biden's Joint Address to Congress than Dr. Stanford. When the pandemic hit, she figured out what needed to be done, and then she did it. She has dedicated herself to the work of serving her community and reducing racial disparities in access to testing and vaccines.

In a typical year, I would have invited Dr. Stanford to join me in the House Chamber for the Joint Address. COVID–19 safety protocols limited this year's in-person attendance, and I—along with many other Members of Congress—instead watched the address from home.

However, I couldn't miss this important opportunity to honor Dr. Stanford and people like her all across Pennsylvania.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF JAY SIMSON

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jay Simson, the President of The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York, on his retirement after 29 years of dedicated service.

ACEC New York represents the business interests of nearly 300 engineering and related firms in New York State. These are the companies that design our built environment. Without them, our transportation infrastructure, our public buildings, private office towers, hospitals, and so much more would simply not exist.

Jay Simson was a leader in his industry and a driving force for the interests of his member firms in Albany and before Congress. I know many of my colleagues from the New York delegation know Jay and have worked with him on a wide range of issues over the years.

What many of my colleagues might not know about Jay is that he is also an Olympic judge. He served on the U.S. Freestyle Ski Team board and was their delegate to the International Ski Federation. He was also the Head Judge for Freestyle Skiing at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan.

I thank Jay Simson for his commitment to the engineering industry and congratulate him on his retirement.

HONORING WILIAM GILLISON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William Gillison. Born in Beaufort, South Carolina, Pastor William Gillison attended Lackawanna, New York schools and enrolled in the United States Army in 1965. Sixteen years later—in 1981—Reverend Gillison became the pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church. During his time at Mt. Olive, the church's capacity increased tenfold, from 150 to 1,500.

Early in his career, Reverend Gillison founded the Mt. Olive Development Corporation, which continues to provide subsidized apartments for low income residents. Mt. Olive also operates as a distribution center for food and other essentials in Western New York. During the Covid–19 pandemic, it served as a testing and vaccination site. Interviewed by WGRZ, Pastor Gillison said that ''The pandemic has really magnified and exposed in many cases the deficiencies in especially black and brown communities.'' Mt. Olive helped to lessen the racial disparities in vaccine distribution, furthering its mission and serving thousands of local community members.

Mt. Olive serves in every season. During the summer, the Church hosts a cookout and fireworks show for families. In the fall, it provides Thanksgiving dinners to 1,500 families. In the winter, through its Angel Tree Ministry program, it gives Christmas gifts to children of incarcerated men and women. Before he became president, George W. Bush visited Mt. Olive and was impressed with its work.

Pastor Gillison's experience with the government has not always been cordial. Working closely with attorney Johnnie Cochrane, Pastor Gillison fought to overturn a ban on bus routes to the Galleria Mall. This discriminatory practice prevented many people of color from shopping at the Mall, and even led to the killing of a worker who was forced to walk to her job at the Galleria Mall.

Pastor Gillison has served two terms as the President of the Baptist Ministers Conference and the Baptist Great Lakes Conference. He is the recipient of honorary doctorate degrees and has been recognized by national organizations for his ministry and service. He is particularly known for his interfaith communication; Pastor Gillison has traveled to Israel multiple times and formed relationships with both government and religious officials. None of this would have been accomplished without the help of his loving and devoted wife of 58 years, Antonia Gillison. She has been his greatest supporter. While being a pastor he has also maintained his strong fatherly presence with his children.

Pastor Gillison has advanced our community spiritually, politically, and economically. He has been a tireless advocate for those with no hope and no voice. His leadership has transformed Mt. Olive into an indispensable beacon of light for our community and his work has touched lives across the country and world. During his fortieth anniversary as pastor, we celebrate how much Mt. Olive has accomplished, and we pray for the community it serves. Though he has accomplished much, Pastor Gillison is just grateful for the opportunity to serve. As he would say, ''To God be the Glory.''