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House of Representatives

Congressman Donald Norcross OF NEW JERSEY

May 25, 2018

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of the late **Ambassador Faith Whittlesey**, a distinguished public servant and a native of New Jersey. I have also been asked to express the condolences of my colleagues Congressmen Don Beyer, Joaquin Castro, Charlie Crist, Bill Huizenga and Alex Mooney as well as Senator Barrasso, whose lives have all been touched by the work of Ambassador Whittlesey.

Ambassador Whittlesey was the US Ambassador to Switzerland for nearly five years during both 1981-1983 and 1985-1988, and during the Reagan Administration she served as the Director of the Office of Public Liaison.

Her many roles in public life included time as the Chairwoman and President of the American Swiss Foundation in New York, and her service as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

During her influential career, Ambassador Whittlesey was a pivotal figure in building and developing Swiss and American relations, both domestically and abroad.

Ambassador Whittlesey was a graduate of Wells College and received her Law Degree from the

University of Pennsylvania, earned a Ford Foundation Grant to attend the Academy of International Law in The Hague, The Netherlands.

During her career, she received honors such as the Reagan Revolution Medal of Honor, the Congress of Racial Equality Public Service Award, the Christian Freedom International Freedom Award, the Stratton Prize, and the William Tell Award. A book written by Thomas Carty centered on her career, entitled “Backwards, in High Heels: Faith Whittlesey, Ronald Reagan’s “Madam Ambassador” in Switzerland and the West Wing”. Lastly, the Ambassador had the “Faith Whittlesey rose” named in her legacy.

These awards are a mere testament to Ambassador Whittlesey’s commendable dedication and leadership on behalf of our nation and the Swiss-United States relationship.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost an extraordinary, devoted person in **Ambassador Faith Whittlesey**. I invite you to join me in thanking her for many contributions to our country.