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**Remarks of the Honorable Mike Thompson
Honoring Margi Stern**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margi Stern. I have named Mrs. Stern as the California 4th District's Woman of the Year for Solano County. This honor recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

Mrs. Stern was born in Brooklyn, New York. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Speech and Language Pathology from Whittier College, as well as a Master's Degree in Communication Disorders from St. Louis University. She is the grandniece of Arthur Garfield Hayes, a lawyer, civil rights champion, and the co-founder of the ACLU. She is also the niece of Robert L. Stern, a well-known authority in California Campaign finance, the President of Center for Governmental Studies in LA, and a recipient of the Democracy Hero award by Common Cause.

Mrs. Stern has devoted her career to the betterment of her community. She worked as a Speech Language Pathologist for 37 years, 25 of which were in the Early Intervention Program, for the Solano County Office of Education. After retirement, she volunteered to lead support groups for the parents of children with special needs and worked to teach Parent Communication Skills at the Adult School. Throughout her life, Mrs. Stern has advocated tirelessly for our special needs community. At Vacaville High School, she created the Anya Elizabeth Janoski Special Education Scholarship, to provide funds to seniors interested in pursuing a career in Special Education. She also participated in the creation, fundraising, and promotion of the Play 4 All Park in Vacaville, and volunteers for Together Everyone Always Matters (TEAM) Vacaville, an organization that provides monthly activities for children with special needs.

In addition to being an incredible advocate for our special needs community, Mrs. Stern is also passionate about eradicating injustice and promoting political participation. She is honored for her work uplifting the women in her community. As a member of the Women's Action Network, she promotes women's participation in city council meetings, campaigns, and local political events. She also serves on the Committee to Establish the Solano Commission for Women and Girls.

Through her participation in local government, Mrs. Stern established the Backyard Hens of Vacaville Group, rewrote the Vacaville city policy to allow hens in the city limits, hosted "meet and greets" for local candidates in Solano County government, and strengthened the Northern Solano Democratic Club. Mrs. Stern consistently shows up for her neighborhood, serving as the Chair of Neighborhood Watch and organizing Neighborhood Night Out among other neighborhood functions. She also speaks every year at the Ernest Kimme Charter School Graduation Ceremony and participates in their Ernest Kimme Service Day.

Mrs. Stern was married to her late husband, Ernest Kimme, a teacher, city council member, and community philanthropist who passed away in 2015. Her son, Stefan Janoski, is bronze sculptor, short film director, and a world-famous skateboarder with a signature Nike shoe that has "Vacaville, California," inscribed on the tongue. Her late daughter, Anya Janoski, was a powerful mentor who contributed to Mrs. Stern's understanding of how to make a difference in the world. Anaya passed in 2017 at age 32; she was diagnosed with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome which affected her physical size and her developmental growth.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Margi Stern's passion, leadership, and determination have profoundly impacted our Solano County community. It is with great honor and deep appreciation that we recognize her invaluable contributions here today.

**MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress**