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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2021

## *House of Representatives*

### TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF COUNCILWOMAN HAZEL ERBY

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 16, 2021*

There are no words that can truly encapsulate what Hazel Erby meant to the St. Louis region. She was a true personification of a public servant. She served with grace, class, integrity, and most importantly from a deep place in her heart — a place that was filled with love for her community. That love was always evidenced by the vigor, passion, and unrelenting disposition she would approach her work with. She was a community icon and a legislative trailblazer, unafraid of going where others would not venture to go and speaking when many stayed silent. During my run for office, she maintained her love and support of me and she was a bedrock of encouragement when I needed it most. I faced so many obstacles throughout my political journey and her unyielding support and encouragement to both me and my staff will be etched in my heart forever. Hazel Erby was driven by doing what's right for all people, starting with those among us who have the least because she clearly understood that's what matters.

"Mama Hazel"'s legacy will be felt for years to come as it is in the work she accomplished and all of the lives she touched. She was deeply committed to equity in government funding and was instrumental in establishing legislation that outlined standards and requirements for minority participation in government contracts. She also played a key role in securing funds for a recreation center in St. Louis County. Hazel Erby had a vision for St. Louis County, and she worked tirelessly on and off platforms and stages to see that vision become a reality.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of this community giant, and I, like the rest of my community, am mourning her death. That said, I take great comfort and joy in the fact that she is left this world with an empty cup because she's poured so much of herself out for the betterment of our world. I'd say there is no better way to live. We are no doubt indebted to her for the service she's paid to our community.

Thank You Hazel Erby.

CORI BUSH

*Member of Congress*