



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

HONORING JACQUELINE BYRD FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

HON. DARREN SOTO
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 18, 2021

Jacqueline Byrd is the superintendent of Polk County Public Schools, an educator and wife of Jason Byrd, Sr., who loves her two children Jason Byrd, Jr and Jalyn Byrd. She was the first African American superintendent of Polk County Public Schools. Through her continued focus on improving education for all students, she has become a role model for students and is an advocate for educating all students, creating wrap-around services to address meeting their needs and removing barriers to allow for success.

Jacqueline can be found visiting schools, talking to students, attending events and advocating on the behalf of her students to local community leaders. She loves spending time with her husband and family, even though many of these evenings are spent at school events. She is the

youngest of six children of Eugene and Irene Hodges. Her siblings have always said, “she should have been the oldest.” Her parents taught her that she would face challenges as an African American woman, but her independence, character and integrity were important. She has passed these life lessons to both her children.

Jacqueline is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and serves on various boards of directors within her community and state. As part of her service to the community, she served as a spokesperson for the National Bone Marrow Donor Program. In December of 2005, she donated bone marrow to a 12-year-old girl with sickle cell anemia. Jacqueline advocates for unselfish acts for the betterment of mankind.

HON. DARREN SOTO
MEMBER OF CONGRESS