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Steering Committee of the D.C. Affairs Community of the D.C. Bar Communities

Public Statement Honoring Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

May 1, 2026

A Career of Service: Honoring Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

It's the end of an era. Earlier this year, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton announced her retirement at the end of her current term in the United States House of Representatives after 35 years of service to the District. Congresswoman Norton is only one of two people to have ever been elected to represent the District in Congress. Her legendary career has been defined by a strong commitment to the D.C. Statehood, civil rights, and equal justice movements, among other issues of importance to the District's approximately 700,000 residents.

Congresswoman Norton's career in public service started long before her election to Congress. A civil rights leader who helped plan the 1963 March on Washington, an accomplished attorney, former Chairwoman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, Congresswoman Norton has long been an advocate for District residents and other marginalized communities. She has also long been a member of the D.C. Bar.

When the Congresswoman won election to the House in 1991 for her first term, Norton leveraged the non-voting delegate position to bring national attention to the D.C. Statehood movement earning the nickname D.C.'s "Warrior on the Hill." The District has turned to the Congresswoman in recent years as the District's Home Rule has come under relentless attack on Capitol Hill.

Just some of the successful legislation Congresswoman Norton has championed over her 18 terms in Congress include the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant for District high school graduates attending any public U.S. college or university and the \$5,000 homebuyer credit for District

residents. She has been a strong advocate for D.C. Statehood legislation over the years, fighting for greater autonomy and political rights for District residents.

In 2023, the D.C. Affairs Community was pleased to honor the Congresswoman for her leadership and extraordinary career. As she told us then, “[t]he struggle for civil and human rights for all Americans has been the central theme of my professional life. The country was founded on the principle of ‘no taxation without representation,’ yet District residents taxed without full representation in Congress cannot consent to the federal laws that govern them and, ultimately, cannot consent to the local laws that govern them because Congress has the final say on all D.C. matters.” Those words matter as much today as they did three years ago.

The D.C. Affairs Community congratulates Congresswoman Norton on her well-earned retirement and wishes her well in this next chapter and all future endeavors. Her presence on Capitol Hill will be sorely missed.

As a reminder, D.C. primary elections are on June 16, 2026, and the general election is on November 3, 2026. For more information visit <https://dcboe.org/elections/2026-elections>.

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The members of the Steering Committee of the D.C. Affairs Community of the D.C. Bar Communities unanimously approved this statement on May 1, 2026.

The International Law Community of the D.C. Bar Communities have joined in this statement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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