

She was among a handful of people in those early days of the epidemic who managed to get us to the right level of urgency. One, obviously, was Surgeon General C. Everett Koop. Another was Tony Fauci at NIH.

But many people got their most memorable information from an unexpected source—Elizabeth Taylor. Beginning with her concern for her friends who were sick, she became an ambassador for people living with AIDS, for their doctors, and for AIDS research. When the Reagan White House was refusing even to acknowledge that tens of thousands of Americans were sick and dying, she went public.

To those who would shun our fellow citizens with HIV/AIDS, Elizabeth Taylor literally embraced them—showing us how to respond to a terrible illness that exacted a relentless toll on millions.

And so it was Elizabeth Taylor who called us to account every day, as individuals and as a society, for the humanity of those with HIV/AIDS.

Working with Dr. Mathilde Krim, Elizabeth Taylor championed the American Foundation for AIDS Research, a group that advocated for AIDS research and found funding for research that no one else was financing—functions it serves to this day.

To her enduring credit, Ms. Taylor leveraged her unique celebrity to speak truth to power, going to the media, the Administration, and Congress to urge ongoing attention and funding to the epidemic.

She testified before the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the House Commerce Committee about the need for research, prevention, education and treatment and about the Congress' responsibilities to find funds for them. Her efforts helped seal public support for the 1990 Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act.

She was a movie star. But she used her star power to do something that scientists, doctors, and public health officials could not have accomplished on their own. She made the nation stop, look, listen, and understand what was at stake for those with HIV/AIDS and for us as a society.

In this way, Elizabeth Taylor helped motivate us to start doing needed work.

For that we owe her more than movie-star fame. She may be remembered most for her screen roles. But it was her living role as a healer for which we owe Elizabeth Taylor a debt of profound gratitude—for lives improved and lives saved, for advances in treatment and prevention, and for the hope of one day finding a cure for HIV/AIDS.

#### SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI'S VISION

#### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud those who are leading America toward equality and equity for all people—and, especially, to commend Maryland's Senior Senator, BARBARA MIKULSKI.

As a father, my greatest hope is for the continued social progress that will allow my daughters to achieve the full measure of their

dreams. That is why, during Women's History Month each year, I am thinking more about our future than about our past.

Recently, President Obama, also the father of two daughters, expressed the same perspective.

"While enormous progress has been made," he observed, "there is still work to be done before women achieve true parity."

His observation is backed up by "kitchen table" economics. When women are not treated fairly, their families suffer as a result.

One would think that the concept of equal pay for equal work is so American that it would already be a "done deal" in this country. Yet, we know that equal pay is not yet a reality.

Family hardships result from the harsh reality that women, on average, make just 77 cents for every dollar earned by men in comparable jobs (just 69 cents if you are an African American woman—and 59 cents if you are a Latina woman).

Last week, Senator MIKULSKI was afforded another opportunity to remind everyone of this still-to-be-achieved civil rights goal as we participated in an event honoring Lilly Ledbetter, the woman whose Supreme Court equal opportunity case led to the "Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009."

As she was applauding Ms. Ledbetter for the courage and determination she had shown fighting for fair pay, I had the opportunity to reflect on BARBARA MIKULSKI's vision for America—and upon all that she has achieved in public life.

Maryland's senior Senator is a remarkable human being—and a person I am honored to call my friend.

When I first entered the Congress after a Special Election in 1996, BARBARA was there for me, helping us to get our office up and running as quickly as possible so no one in Maryland's 7th Congressional District would lack representation.

I have never forgotten that kindness. It was a practical demonstration of the same human compassion that BARBARA MIKULSKI has offered to tens of thousands of Marylanders over the years.

It is why she has become a national leader—and why her colleagues in the Senate have supported her work and leadership on two of its most prestigious committees: Appropriations and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

We all have an interest in women and their families receiving fair pay for the work that they perform. Maryland's Senior Senator was one of the essential leaders in our efforts to enact the Affordable Care Act, as well as the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Yet, despite the national prominence that she has achieved, "Senator BARB" has never lost that candor, honesty and strength that are so typical of the Highlandtown of her youth.

In her family's grocery store, she learned the challenges faced by working families. Then, as a social worker, she perfected the skills that she needed to become an effective leader in our cause.

Today, I doubt whether there is a single person in our home State of Maryland who does not know what Senator MIKULSKI stands for. Her progressive values are solid and clear. We know that she is going to fight for all of us every single day.

Less well known, however, is BARBARA MIKULSKI's lifetime vision of bringing all of Amer-

ica's working families together in support of progressive change. It is a dream that ties together her roots in Highlandtown with my own South and West Baltimore heritage: "Unfortunately, because of old prejudices and new fears," she observed back in 1970, "anger is generated [within European ethnic communities] against other minority groups rather than those who have power. What is needed is an alliance of white and black, white collar, blue collar and no collar based upon mutual need, interdependence and respect—an alliance to develop the strategy for new kinds of community organization and political participation."

All Americans are better off for our progress toward achieving BARBARA MIKULSKI's dream—and the movement toward a better America that her dream sustains.

#### LIZBETH BLANCO-RAMOS

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos is a 12th grader at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during rollcall votes on H. Con. Res. 28 and H.R. 1076. Had I been present, I would have voted against both of these bills.

#### HONORING MR. JONATHAN SMALLS

#### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, a tenacious man from Frogmore, South Carolina utilizes his gifts, talents and wisdom everyday to insure that veterans and

their families are provided resources in the state of Georgia; and

Whereas, Mr. Jonathan Smalls is a renowned leader not only for his hometown of Frogmore, South Carolina, but as a husband, father and community leader in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mr. Jonathan Smalls served our Country honorably for Twenty-eight (28) years in the U.S. Army as an Army Ranger, retiring as a Command Sergeant Major, he is a man of honor and a strong advocate of justice, education and family; and

Whereas, this model citizen has shared his time and talents for the betterment of his community and his nation through his tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that have and continues to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Jonathan Smalls for his outstanding leadership and service to the citizens in the state of Georgia, his community temperament is to be acknowledged and his commitment to the citizens throughout the state continues to touch the lives of citizens in our District;

Now Therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim March 20, 2011 as Jonathan Smalls Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 20th day of March, 2011.

KAYLA KOVAL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kayla Koval for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kayla Koval is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kayla Koval is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kayla Koval for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BEVIN KALATHIL VARUGHESE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to seek Congressional recognition of the exceptional achievements and outstanding career of Susan Bender. Over the course of her

almost 40-year professional career with Jewish Community Centers (JCC) in New York City and Long Island, Susan worked tirelessly to ensure that families and individuals living in New York City and Long Island had access to mental-health and social-service programs. She has not only been an innovative leader and unyielding advocate for individuals with disabilities, but also a dedicated leader in her community.

After graduating from Brooklyn College with a degree in speech pathology, Susan began working at JCCs with distinction. She started her career at the Staten Island Jewish Community Center as the Director of Early Childhood Development. In 1988, she moved to be the Executive Director at the Young Men's-Young Women's Hebrew Association in Westchester, New York. Then, in 1992, Susan became the Executive Director of the Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center in East Hills, New York, in my congressional district.

Under Susan's enthusiastic direction, Sid Jacobson has flourished. The Center dramatically expanded its facility in East Hills and also added the Bernice Jacobson Day School and Camp in Old Westbury, New York. Susan developed the Center's noted innovative programs for autistic children, single parents, and the bereaved. She helped found a first-of-its-kind program for adults with early-onset Alzheimer's and their families.

Today, the Center has a staff of over 250, an annual budget of \$12 million, and offers an extensive catalog of dynamic programs for people of all ages and abilities. The success of the Center is a direct testament to the strength of Susan's leadership and her dedication to providing community members with the best possible services.

In addition to her work at Sid Jacobson, Susan has applied her energy and vision in a variety of leadership roles in the national JCC movement. She served as a member of the Jewish Community Center Association's board of directors, was president of the Association of Jewish Center Professionals (AJCP) for the Eastern Region, and, in 2002, was named the national president of the AJCP.

Mr. Speaker, this year Susan Bender will retire having contributed immeasurably to her community. I am proud to recognize Susan and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her lifetime of tremendous work for others.

KAYLEEN LAWTON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kayleen Lawton for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kayleen Lawton is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kayleen Lawton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kayleen Lawton for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF RUSSELL R. CHARD FROM THE HOLLYWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Russell R. Chard from the Hollywood Fire Department.

Mr. Chard has more than 30 years of distinguished service working on behalf of Hollywood, Florida's fire fighters, paramedics and local safety community. For the last 20 years, Mr. Chard served as President of Local 1375, overseeing the welfare of its membership, fighting for the professional standards and ensuring the safe working conditions that are befitting of the service of these men and women.

Known as a coalition builder, President Chard served a critical role as liaison to all associated areas for the Local, as well as outside groups such as the AFL-CIO, Florida Professional Firefighters and Paramedics, International Association of Fire Fighters, and Maritime Trade Council. This commitment to the betterment of the community was second only to his dedication to his brothers and sisters in the Union. He was a powerful role model and mentor for many new recruits over 20 years, always emphasizing the unique bond that all fire fighters share.

In 1980, Mr. Chard was first appointed to the negotiation committee for Hollywood Professional Fire Fighters Local 1375, where he was quickly recognized for his grit and passion. He was quickly elected as a Trustee and has served Local 1375 ever since. His legacy of fierce advocacy, candor and friendship will not soon be forgotten or lost.

I am proud today to honor President Chard's distinguished career and leadership in the South Florida community and wish him and his family well on their future endeavors.

LAWRENCE SALAZAR

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lawrence Salazar for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Lawrence Salazar is a 9th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lawrence Salazar is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.