

ON THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund for their commitment to the encouragement of active and informed participation of citizens in government.

The League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area were both established in 1920, the year that the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States gave women the right to vote. The League of Women Voters is a direct descendant of the women's suffrage movement, and has become an active and effective organization that serves all voters.

The League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund has an extensive, respected history of encouraging civic engagement throughout the Houston community. Their mission to encourage active and informed participation by providing accessible information and support services to the people is critical to the success of a democracy.

This August marks the 92nd anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. I join the League of Women Voters in celebrating Women's Equality Day by remembering this historic achievement and the courage, perseverance and accomplishments of women who fulfill the promise of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Members of the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund are volunteers who work in their communities to help the realities of the American system of government live up to its ideals. The organization would not be the success that it is today without their hard work and dedication. Their service to our community is greatly appreciated.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund and celebrate the anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

TRIBUTE TO LAKE HEALTH DISTRICT CEO GORDON ENSLEY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a long time community leader in the heart of Southern Oregon, Gordon Ensley.

On June 30th, after a career in health care spanning 38 years, Gordon retired as Chief Executive Officer of the Lake Health District in the great town of Lakeview, Oregon. In 1996, after 11 years at another small town hospital in Gold Beach, Oregon, Gordon and his wife Pauline moved to Lakeview so he could serve as the Lake Health District Chief Financial Officer. Then in 2003, Gordon took the helm as Chief Executive Officer, and under his leadership the health district's local hospital, long term care facility, and home care and hospice

programs, have experienced tremendous growth and improvement.

Most of Lakeview's 3,000 residents, whether they have encountered Gordon as an employee, patient, colleague, or friend, are likely to agree about the positive impact he has made on their community. This included one of Gordon's crowning achievements, a 10-year project to expand and upgrade the hospital. Gordon and his board knew this project wouldn't be without its obstacles, but nevertheless began work on a plan to find additional finances, which included a plea to the community to support an \$8 million bond. In 2008, voters agreed that improving overall patient care and access was a worthy investment, and approved the ballot measure to help finalize a 33,000 square foot expansion and upgrade to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, even with this achievement, Gordon still understood the struggles associated with providing health care to rural patients. Most areas within Oregon's Second Congressional District are as rural as you can get, and access to a health provider can be difficult. Lakeview is no exception, but fortunately for this community and its surrounding areas, Gordon embodies the dedication and vision that is necessary to provide quality care and improved access. All this, however, and Gordon will be the first to say that while working in the rural health care field offers its challenges, it presents even greater rewards.

And as we develop policies in Washington, D.C., it is crucial for Congress to do so only after seeking the advice of on-the-ground experts like Gordon and those like him. Fortunately, he has always been more than willing to take time out of his otherwise busy days to offer his valuable expertise, and he has never been afraid to get in touch with me to express his concerns. Whether discussing pending legislation, burdensome federal regulations—on which Gordon has certainly made his position known—or even sometimes non-health related issues, I have greatly appreciated his expert guidance and useful counsel over the years.

So as Charlie Tveit, the Lake Health District's new CEO, takes over, he begins on the solid foundation laid under Gordon's strong leadership. And while I know Gordon had reservations about leaving his post after so many dedicated years of doing what he knows best, I think all of those who know him, most notably his wife Pauline and their family, would agree that he has earned a well-deserved break.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gordon's many years of service to his community as we wish him a long and happy retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE MSC COYOTES GREEN UNDER-14 GIRLS SOCCER CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an incredible group of young ladies—proud members of the MSC Coyotes Green Under-14 Girls Soccer Club—who

brought home to the great State of Maryland the National Championship.

Yes, this team has reached the top of youth soccer. They may just be rising 9th and 10th graders—most of them residents of Montgomery County, Maryland—but they have already achieved in sports what most young athletes can only dream about. And they didn't get there without putting in the work. Being fast and strong and athletic are important, but putting in the work is what sets you apart from your competition. These young ladies trained endlessly—in rain, snow, extreme heat, and freezing cold—while staying focused on academics.

They arrived in Rock Hill, SC last week as the sole representative of Region 1 (Maine to Virginia), and they left Rock Hill, SC as the top U14 girls club team in America. I rise to recognize these young ladies, their families, and their great coaches for all of their hard work, dedication, grit, and perseverance.

The MSC Coyotes Green qualified for the National Championships after winning the Region 1 Championships in Lancaster, PA having to survive matches against some of the top ranked teams in America. They won this prestigious Regional Championship but not the easy way—the Coyotes won their semi-final and final matches in winner-take-all penalty kicks.

The National Championships was a round-robin between the Final 4 teams in America from Maryland, California, Ohio, and Tennessee. To put the MSC Coyotes Green achievement in perspective, over 10,000 club teams competed for a chance to play in the Regional and National Championships.

The National Championships round-robin started Wednesday, July 25, 2012 in Rock Hill, SC. The Coyotes Green tied their first match against Beach FC '97 from California 0-0 on Wednesday; lost their second match against Tennessee '98 Azzurri 2-0 on Thursday; and won their third match—a win or go home game—on Friday against Ambassador FC from Ohio 3-0. The Coyotes qualified for the Title Game and earned a rematch with Tennessee '98 Azzurri on Saturday, July 28, 2012 at 6:45 p.m. in Rock Hill, SC for the U14 Girls National Championship. It was a tough match, but the MSC Coyotes Green won 2-0, earning their spot as the nation's top U14 girls team.

I would like to recognize the following MSC Coyotes Green players who will play—or already do play—for several Washington, DC and Maryland suburban high schools:

1 McKenzie McCaull, F, Lingonore; 2 Naomi Gross, GK, B-CC; 3 Annika Jansa, M/D, Bullis; 5 Sara Johnston, D, Stone Ridge; 10 Paula Germino-Watnick, M/F, B-CC; 13 Julia Abbott, F, Good Counsel; 14 Cristina Valianatos, M, Walt Whitman; 15 Jade Ruiters, F/M, Holy Cross; 16 Amanda Wilson, D, Good Counsel; 20 Lindsay Wytkind, D, Walt Whitman; 21 Emma Anderson, F, Walt Whitman; 23 Kristen Darragh, GK, Poolesville; 25 Deena DeSilva, D, Magruder; 26 Kristen Bissell, M/F, Undecided; 27 Juliana Comer, M, Churchill; 28 Elizabeth Coletti, F, St. John's Catholic Prep; 29 Clare Severe, M/F, Walt Whitman; and 44 Julianne Keehan, F, Holy Cross.

I also want to commend the two coaches who led them to victory—Alex Gould and Kevin Layton.

It's not often that you can pause to recognize national champions in your congressional

district. Today it is my privilege to recognize and congratulate the MSC Coyotes Green U14 Girls Team, the best U14 girls soccer team in America.

WESLEY GROVE UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a legacy of faith and community in Virginia's Third Congressional District. This year, Wesley Grove United Church of Christ in Newport News, Virginia is celebrating its 125th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed institution and its contributions to the greater Newport News community.

Originally organized in 1887 by a group including Reverend J.H. Edlow and Deacon G. Wesley Raney, the Wesley Grove congregation originally met in a building just 20 by 30 feet, at the time too large for the small congregation. As a poor congregation, it was difficult for them to pay for this space. Fortunately, the congregation found ways to make ends meet, and in 1895, under Reverend James M. Parson, a new house of worship was completed.

In 1897, Elder S.A. Howell became pastor of the Church. As time went by, the congregation continued to expand, eventually growing to over 1,000 and finding itself in need of a larger place of worship. Under the leadership of Reverend Howell, a new building was constructed on the 700 block of 19th Street in Newport News. Dedicated in 1900, this building was used by the congregation under the leadership of Reverend T.S. Crayton, Reverend J.B. Jones, Reverend Thomas J. Moore, and Reverend Zander P. Jenkins.

In 1964, under the leadership of Reverend Jenkins, having once again outgrown their place of worship due to mergers with other congregations, the Wesley Grove congregation completed the purchase of a building owned by another local church. Reverend Jenkins, feeling called to serve elsewhere, left the congregation in 1970.

Over the next few years, the congregation struggled without a pastor at times. Reverend Vernon Harris served the congregation for a year in 1972 before Reverend Jenkins, having fulfilled his calling to other congregations, returned in 1974. Unfortunately, Reverend Jenkins passed away suddenly, leaving Wesley Grove again without a pastor.

With Reverend Jenkins' passing, Reverend G. Wesley Raney, III, the grandson of one of Wesley Grove's founders, proved ready to lead the congregation. During his ministry, the church flourished. Feeling called to pastor a church in another state, Reverend Raney left Wesley Grove in 1985, and was succeeded by Reverend Isaac L. McDonald. Under his leadership, numerous programs were established to help Newport News youth excel in their educational pursuits.

Reverend McDonald was succeeded by Reverend Prince Raney Rivers, who was

called to minister Wesley Grove as both a pastor and a teacher until 2005. A descendant of one of the founders of the church, Reverend Rivers presided over another period of tremendous growth for the church. Under his leadership, the Church established new ministries, expanded membership, and created lasting community partnerships to address issues and challenges facing the community.

Reverend McDonald was succeeded by Reverend Dr. Alexander Jamison, Sr., who served the community from 2007 until 2011.

Wesley Grove remains committed to maintaining its legacy of faith and community action to this day. With a congregation that has historically included a large number of professionals in the field of education, Wesley Grove established education programs that include after school tutoring and Project REACT, a technology focused tutoring program to help improve students' performance. It has also provided numerous scholarships to college bound students, including the G. Wesley Raney III Scholarship, the Olivia Smith Scholarship, and the Emma Gupton Scholarship. Wesley Grove also has an accomplished and talented choir program, featuring a men's choir, a senior's choir, and a children's choir. These programs, amongst others, continue to demonstrate Wesley Grove's commitment to the Newport News community.

As the Wesley Grove United Church of Christ gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future. I would like to congratulate all of the members of the Wesley Grove United Church of Christ on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary, and I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO TYLER HANSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tyler Hanson of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Tyler planned, organized, and painted badly faded curbs, light poles and parking lines at his local church. His project also included adding handicap accessible parking spaces in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The work ethic Tyler has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates

the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Tyler and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, due to an operational issue with the voting machine on the House floor, my vote did not register on the passage of H.R. 3803 (Rollcall vote No. 539). Had this issue not arisen, I would have voted "no" on this vote.

HONORING MR. JASON ROBERTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jason Roberts, a White House "Champion of Change" from Oak Cliff, Texas. This week, the White House honored Mr. Roberts and other leaders from across the U.S. for their groundbreaking initiatives to enhance their communities.

Mr. Roberts' leadership has been exemplary in his initiatives to improve local areas, and revitalize communities in South Dallas. As founder of the Oak Cliff Transit Authority, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reclaiming Oak Cliff's past distinction, Mr. Roberts worked to revive and modernize the Dallas streetcar system. Through hard work and ingenuity, Mr. Roberts led the city's effort to obtain a \$23 million TIGER grant from the Federal Transit Administration for their revitalization efforts.

Mr. Roberts' "Better Blocks" project reclaims blighted areas, converting vacant properties into temporary walk-friendly districts, complete with pop-up businesses, bike lanes, café seating, and landscaping. Mr. Roberts' efforts have been so successful in South Dallas that over 20 U.S. cities have taken steps to enhance neighborhoods in the same fashion based on his work. Mr. Roberts' "Better Blocks" project has even gained international recognition, and has since been featured in the New York Times, TED Talks, and on NPR.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the hard work and vision that Mr. Jason Roberts continues to bring to South Dallas. His hard work and vision have allowed him to not only envision a better Dallas, but to also act on that vision. I look forward to seeing what future advances that Mr. Roberts will spearhead next, and I stand ready to support these efforts at every turn.