

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as American Diabetes Month. I urge my colleagues to join me in raising diabetes awareness and encouraging Americans to learn more about how to prevent and manage this disease.

I understand on a very personal level the challenges that come with this disease. Diabetes took the life of my father, and it takes the lives of over 68,000 other Americans each year. It is also the leading cause of kidney failure, and its complications include high blood pressure and heart disease.

Diabetes is a growing concern for millions of Americans, but it is important to note that diabetes disproportionately affects minority communities. I represent one of the most diverse districts in the Nation, the 37th Congressional District of California, and racial disparities in health outcomes and access to care are of particular concern to me. In California, of 2.3 million African Americans, over 300,000 have diabetes, and there are approximately 4,500 deaths annually.

Although diabetes affects every district in every State, many Americans still struggle to access important information about the seriousness of diabetes and its complications. As a Member of Congress, I am working hard to change this and to ensure that all Americans secure their right to quality, affordable health care.

I would like to take a moment to express my continued support for the Affordable Care Act, which has been and will continue to be instrumental in improving access to health care. The Affordable Care Act ensures that people with diabetes can no longer be discriminated against for pre-existing conditions. No longer can they be denied coverage or charged at higher rates. Also, the elimination of lifetime and annual caps on coverage means that people with diabetes and other chronic conditions will not have to fear an end to their care.

Through new government policy, improved education, and greater awareness, we can begin to control this epidemic. Although there is no cure, there are many preventative measures that all Americans can take to reduce their risk and control their diabetes. I encourage everyone to exercise regularly, watch for warning signs, and make smart health decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining me in recognizing this month as American Diabetes Month, and I pledge to continue standing with the millions of Americans who have been impacted by this disease.

TRIBUTE TO MCGUIRE FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating McGuire Funeral Service, Inc. (McGuire) on its 100th anniversary of service to the residents of the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

Founded in 1912 by Robert G. McGuire on H Street NE, McGuire has offered families in the national capital region burial and funeral arrangements for 100 years. McGuire has served over 25,000 decedents from all walks of life, and has arranged services for many public figures and notable residents in the District and the world over.

We appreciate the McGuire family's longstanding presence in the District and their continuing service to the families of our residents. The success of McGuire, Inc. can be attributed to always treating the families that call on them with dignity, honor, and respect, as well as to providing exemplary service to all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of McGuire Funeral Service, Inc.

IN SUPPORT OF LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Lung Cancer Awareness Month because lung cancer is a devastating disease that affects thousands of Americans every year.

Lung cancer is the most common cancer worldwide. This year, as in the past, lung cancer will kill more Americans than any other cancer. In fact, lung cancer will claim more lives than the next four leading cancer killers—breast, prostate, colon and pancreas cancers—combined.

Mr. Speaker, in the United States, about 213,000 people are diagnosed with lung cancer every year and more than 160,000 die from it. Lung cancer tends to be diagnosed later in smokers than in non smokers because the symptoms of the disease are common among smokers. Late diagnosis of the disease also makes it a lot more challenging to treat and in some cases too late to cure.

Mr. Speaker, Lung Cancer Awareness Month allows us to pay tribute to the extraordinary health workers who dedicate their lives to fighting this disease. This month we also take the opportunity to support the patients and their families who are affected by lung cancer.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of Lung Cancer Awareness Month as well as to join me as a cosponsor of H.R. 1394, the Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act of 2011.

The Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act of 2011 amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a comprehensive program to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the mortality rate of lung cancer by 2020. It requires the program to include initiatives throughout HHS, including: (1) a strategic review and prioritization by the National Cancer Institute of research grants; (2) the establishment by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of quality standards and guidelines for facilities that conduct computed tomography screening for lung cancer; and (3) the provision of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to establish a Lung Cancer Early Detection Program that provides low-income, uninsured, and underserved populations that are at high risk for lung cancer access to early detection services.

The Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act of 2011 requires the Secretary of Defense (DOD) and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to coordinate with the Secretary of HHS in implementing this Act and implementing coordinated care programs for military personnel and veterans diagnosed with lung cancer. It also requires the Secretary of HHS to establish: (1) the Lung Cancer Computed Tomography Screening and Treatment Demonstration Project; and (2) the Lung Cancer Advisory Board to monitor the programs established under this Act.

CONGRATULATING DURHAM ELEMENTARY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate J. Haley Durham Elementary School of Fremont, California, on its recent designation as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students exemplify high performance levels or where significant improvements have been made in students' levels of academic achievement. Since Teresa Bonaccorsi became principal of Durham Elementary in 2010, it has made drastic improvements in test scores to become part of the prestigious group of schools who receive the award.

Just three years ago, Durham Elementary was part of the California Department of Education's Program Improvement list that tracks the progress of schools that have failed to meet the state's requirement of adequate yearly progress. Since taking the position as principal in early 2010 Mrs. Bonaccorsi has

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

led her school to improve its Academic Performance Index by 129 points, far exceeding the growth targets set by the state department.

Principal Bonaccorsi came to Durham Elementary School with experience as a classroom teacher, literacy coach, and district administrator. With a supportive staff and team of dedicated teachers, she has led an impressive improvement path for her students, a third of whom are from low-income families. James Morris, Fremont's superintendent of schools, praised Principal Teresa Bonaccorsi for leading the quick turnaround. "When Teresa became principal, she got the staff on board, and they have done an incredible job," he said. "You feel the pride in that school when you go there for what they've accomplished."

It is essential to note that Principal Bonaccorsi would not have been able to reach this achievement without the support of the teachers, staff, parents, and the students themselves. It is evident that Principal Bonaccorsi has had a vast array of support, and everyone associated with the school should feel a sense of pride for working together to achieve success.

And I too could not be more proud of Durham Elementary's accomplishments. When the school was included on the Program Improvement list, parents had the option to move their children to another school, but they gave Mrs. Bonaccorsi a chance to turn the school around and I am happy they did. I have been a longtime advocate for equity and improvement in our public school system; I am honored to have such dedicated individuals in my district who exemplify those same goals. Principal Bonaccorsi is undeniably such an individual and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating her and her school on this prestigious award.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL
ADOPTION MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of National Adoption Month because family is a fundamental American value.

Family makes us who we are. Family provides us support and it provides us with a strong sense of belonging.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, there are thousands of children across the United States who are alone and do not know family. According to the most recent Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) report which provides government statistics for FY 2011, there are 104,000 children and youth currently in foster care who are waiting for permanent families.

Mr. Speaker, raising awareness about adoption has been the focus of politicians for many decades. In 1976, Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts announced an Adoption Week to promote awareness of the need for adoptive families for children in foster care. In 1984, President Reagan proclaimed the first National Adoption Week. Seventeen years ago, in 1995, President Bill Clinton expanded the awareness week to the entire month of November.

During National Adoption Month, we are granted the opportunity to continue our efforts to promote and raise awareness about adoption.

Today, we are making every effort to use the Internet and social media in adoption recruitment.

Mr. Speaker, this month, we place particular attention on the youth and children looking for families and on the families looking to adopt. Our goal for the month of November is to put special emphasis on uniting youth and adoptive parents as happy, permanent families.

I am a proud supporter of the Affordable Care Act which improved adoption credit. The Affordable Care Act raised the maximum adoption credit to \$13,360 per child, up from \$13,170 in 2010 and \$12,150 in 2009. The adoption tax credit was refundable for tax year 2011, meaning that eligible taxpayers receive it even if they owe no tax for that year. In general, the credit is based on the reasonable and necessary expenses related to a legal adoption, including adoption fees, court costs, attorney's fees and travel expenses.

I am also a proud member of the adoption caucus.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of National Adoption Month. I also urge you to join me in supporting the Affordable Care Act and in becoming a member of the adoption caucus.

IN MEMORY OF DR. WILLIAM
O'NEILL OF LONG BEACH, CALI-
FORNIA

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Dr. William "Bill" O'Neill, a legendary educator and husband of Beverly O'Neill, one of the most popular and effective mayors in Long Beach history. Dr. O'Neill spent his entire life contributing to the vibrancy and intellectual wealth of the Long Beach community. He passed away peacefully on October 24, 2012 at the age of 81, surrounded by his loved ones.

Dr. O'Neill was born and raised in Long Beach, California, where he attended Long Beach Poly High School and met his wife of sixty years. They later attended Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach. Together, they had a daughter, Teresa, and became proud grandparents to her son, Nolan.

Besides being a proud family man, Dr. O'Neill was also a brilliant and leading figure in California's higher education system. He taught at the University of Southern California for 32 years and served as president of the National American Education Studies Organization. He authored over 75 scholarly articles and published 8 books focusing on the philosophy of education.

As a city councilwoman, I had the distinct pleasure of serving Long Beach alongside Dr. O'Neill's wife, Mayor Beverly O'Neill. It was an honor to get to know Dr. O'Neill and his beautiful family, and I have always been personally moved by his commitment to his loved ones and his pride in their many accomplishments. I hope that the memories of his love will provide comfort during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Dr. O'Neill, our community has lost a great man. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends, and I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence to honor his memory.