

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Older Americans Month.

Every year since 1963, May has been a month to honor older Americans and highlight the value that senior citizens contribute to our communities.

The theme for Older Americans Month 2013 is "Older Americans: Connecting the Community." Older Americans are more active in community life than ever before and continue to make a significant impact across the region. Our seniors are mentoring the leaders of tomorrow, taking to heart the need for intergenerational learning to guide and inspire young minds.

In my Congressional District, we are lucky to have many older Americans embracing their role in building connections for the community. I want to recognize individuals who were recently honored by the Cayuga County Legislature as Senior Citizens of the Year: Trudy Buxenbaum of Aurora, Joni Lincoln and Anita Messina of Port Byron, and Betty Miller of Auburn.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of older Americans in New York's 24th District and applaud the Cayuga County Office for the Aging for its efforts to enhance the quality of life for seniors and encourage them to share their lifetime of experience with those around them.

COMMEMORATING THE FIVE YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNLAW-
FUL IMPRISONMENT OF THE
IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í LEADERSHIP

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Iranian Baha'i community, Iran's largest minority religion, and in commemoration of the five year anniversary of the unlawful imprisonment of its leadership, known as the Yaran-i-Iran, or "friends of Iran."

In 2008 the Iranian regime arrested seven members of the Yaran-i-Iran on several trumped up charges including espionage, propaganda activities against the Islamic order, the establishment of an illegal administration, cooperating with Israel, sending secret documents outside the country, acting against the security of the country, and "corruption on earth." Fariba Kamalabadi, Jamaloddin Khanjani, Afif Naeimi, Saeid Rezaei, Mahvash Sabet, Behrouz Tavakkoli, and Vahid Tizfahm were "tried" in a series of closed-door sessions from January to August 2010, during which they were denied meaningful access to their lawyers.

Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and a member of the group's legal team, has said that there is no evidence against them to sustain the charges. Nonetheless, all seven were sentenced to 20 years in prison—the longest of all prisoners of conscience in Iran. The conditions within the prison where they

are being held are appalling. Their unfortunate circumstance reminds us of the intolerant character and brutality of the current Iranian regime, not only towards the Baha'i, but also the Iranian population as a whole.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate my support for the Baha'i community in calling for the immediate release of the Yaran-i-Iran members, as well as the release of all Iranian prisoners of conscience. I will continue to monitor this situation and hold Iran accountable for its abuse of its citizens.

HONORING MR. DANIEL SISTO

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and members of the New York delegation, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. LOWEY, Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. MALONEY, Mr. MALONEY, Ms. MCCARTHY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REED, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, I would like to recognize Daniel Sisto of The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) for his many years of outstanding service to the cause of advancing health care delivery and improving the health of all New Yorkers.

Mr. Sisto is one of the nation's leading experts on health care public policy. Over the course of his nearly three decades as President of HANYS he has worked tirelessly to advance positive change in health care and achieve fairness and balance in resolving essential health policy issues. Because of his leadership, Mr. Sisto has helped establish HANYS as a valued, trusted voice on health policy matters in Washington, D.C., and in New York State.

Mr. Sisto has never been satisfied with the status quo. Recognizing the need to improve the health care delivery system to ensure efficient, high-quality care for all New Yorkers, he embraced patient-centered delivery system reform, worked to expand coverage, and has positioned HANYS as a leader in guiding quality improvement initiatives at hospitals and health systems across the state.

Under Mr. Sisto's guidance, HANYS has worked with hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care provider organizations in collaboratives, including the New York State Partnership for Patients, sharing best practices and facilitating the widespread adoption of proven clinical protocols to improve care delivery for all New Yorkers.

Mr. Sisto began his career in health care advocacy on Long Island, New York, as the Executive Vice President of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and former Deputy Director of the Nassau-Suffolk Health Systems Agency. Mr. Sisto holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and a Master of Business Administration degree in Marketing from St. John's University.

During his nearly three decades of distinguished work in health care, Mr. Sisto has repeatedly proven himself to be one of New York State's most respected advocates and

health care leaders and we, as New York's Delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives, wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

HONORING CHRISTIAN THORNTON
BRYAN**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christian Thornton Bryan, who graduated from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA on May 20, 2013.

Christian graduated with a degree in International Relations. He also participated in the ROTC program where he was selected to join the Lehigh Valley Steel Battalion. As a member of this Battalion, he competed in the 2nd Army ROTC Brigade's Ranger Challenge Competition and helped his team place third. He will now serve as an Infantry Officer in the United States Army and is assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington as an Infantry Platoon Leader.

Christian follows in the footsteps of his father, who serves as a Major in the U.S. Army Infantry. I am proud of this young man's decision to serve his country, and I know he will go above and beyond to uphold this duty.

I wish him the best of luck in the Army and in all his future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, I ask those present today to join me in honoring Christian Thornton Bryan.

RECOGNIZING SUPPORT OUR SOL-
DIERS FOR ITS UNWAVERING
DEDICATION TO OUR TROOPS

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work and admirable service of a very special military support nonprofit in Texas—Support our Soldiers (SOS).

Led by Teresa Nelson, whose father served in the Army's 101st Airborne Division, SOS was founded to care for our troops at home and abroad with support they might otherwise not receive. SOS volunteers often create custom boxes to meet the unique needs of troops. Just this week, a Marine unit serving overseas received a shipment of pillows after SOS learned they had none. Since its establishment in June 2011, over 17,000 pounds of food and supplies have been sent overseas to benefit more than 500 soldiers.

Texans are always looking for ways to give back to the men and women of the United States armed forces, and SOS provides a wide range of opportunities for its surrounding communities to serve those who wear the uniform. Teresa and her team host monthly meetings with sell-out crowds and organize community events across 6 cities in Tarrant and Johnson County to raise awareness, funds, and support for our troops. Beyond collecting and distributing material goods, SOS also works with ROTC programs and students to teach them the importance of patriotism.

It's people like Teresa Nelson and organizations like Support our Soldiers who embody the American spirit of gratitude and generosity. Our nation is free today because of the selfless sacrifices of thousands of brave men and women who have answered the call of duty. We owe these troops and their families abundant support, whether it's food, shelter, clothing, or comfort. I commend SOS for their commitment to providing this much-needed support, and I am proud to know the wonderful leaders and volunteers of this great organization.

God bless our troops and God bless America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JILLIAN DAGON ANDOLINA

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a truly courageous young woman, Jillian Dagon Andolina. Jill, 26, passed away on May 11, 2013 after a two-and-a-half-year battle with leukemia. She always carried a bright smile with her and was an inspiration for her parents, Dr. Richard and Molly Andolina, and for all those in our community who had the fortune of meeting her.

A resident of Arkport, New York, Jill graduated from Arkport Central School in 2005. She received an associate's degree from SUNY Alfred before continuing on to SUNY Geneseo where she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2009. The diagnosis of leukemia interrupted her plan to acquire a master's degree in November of 2010.

Despite this setback, Jill persevered through chemotherapy and bone marrow transplants to remain an active member of the community. She was a member of the Hornell Association and the Arkport American Legion Post 1248 Auxiliary. The Hornell Humane Society and Relay for Life were also graced with her time and efforts.

Jill Andolina will be missed by all, but her legacy will continue to inspire. She touched the lives of hundreds of people and her spirit and determination motivate each and every one of us every day.

TRIBUTE TO PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hospital system that has served as a beacon for 75 years in Columbia, South Carolina. Providence Hospital in the Palmetto State's capital city has provided extraordinary care and healing for three quarters of a century, earning it the appreciation and admiration of a grateful community.

Providence Hospital was founded in 1938 as an act of faith and charity. The vision behind the hospital came from Father Martin C. Murphy of St. Peter's Church, who wanted to bring the quality care that Catholic hospitals

provide to the Columbia area. With a generous donation from local businessman James B. Younginer, he was able to put a downpayment on an 18-acre tract of land. The final piece of the puzzle fell into place when the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine in Ohio mortgaged their motherhouse in Cleveland in order to finance the new hospital. This was extraordinary considering the sisters had never been to Columbia.

Today Providence Hospital operates under the auspices of the Sisters of Charity Health System. Over the last 75 years, the non-profit organization has grown to provide 304 beds in four hospitals: Providence Hospital, Providence Heart & Vascular Institute, Providence Hospital Northeast and Providence Orthopaedic & Neuro Spine Institute. Providence Hospital is a faith-based health care facility that employs more than 1,900 caring individuals.

Providence Hospital is renowned as South Carolina's "heart hospital." Since 1974, Providence Heart & Vascular Institute physicians and staff have performed more cardiovascular procedures than any medical team in the state. It is recognized statewide as a referral center for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

In 1985, Providence Hospital added a helicopter service to help bring critically ill patients to the facility to be treated. Today LifeNet South Carolina is a 24 hour a day airborne intensive care unit serving Providence and other facilities in the Carolinas and Georgia.

In 1999, Providence Hospital established a 46-bed community hospital in the Northeast area of Columbia. This facility offers a range of medical services in surgery, emergency care, women's and children's services and rehabilitation. Also located on this campus is the Providence Orthopaedic & Neuro Spine Institute, which offers an integrated continuum of care for orthopaedic and neurosurgical patients throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating Providence Hospital for its 75 years of compassionate health care. As the facility continues to grow and expand, I commend Providence for its commitment to improving the delivery of quality health care to the people of South Carolina and maintaining its focus on faith. Providence Hospital has become synonymous with exceptional patient care and embodying the values of respect, compassion, collaboration, courage and justice. I look forward to its continued service to the community and the Creator.

5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF PARKERSBURG TORNADO

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, May 25th, 2008, a devastating tornado ripped through northeastern Iowa. This was the strongest to hit Iowa in 32 years and the most powerful tornado in the United States that year, leaving a path of devastation throughout Iowa's First District. Five communities—Dunkerton, Hazelton, New Hartford, Lamont, and Parkersburg, Iowa—suffered massive damage. Eight people lost their lives, 50 busi-

nesses were destroyed, and thousands of homes were severely damaged.

Five years later, the memory of the tornado is still fresh in the minds of many Iowans. But tremendous progress has been made since then. Parkersburg is a model for recovery after a natural disaster. Through community service the town has rebuilt and come together to improve the lives of its citizens and its community.

I also want to acknowledge the tragic events in Oklahoma. The people of Iowa stand in solidarity with those affected by the devastation caused by the tornado. Our hearts and prayers go out to them. We take solace in knowing that if communities like Parkersburg can rebuild after such tragedy, then there is hope for the people of Oklahoma.

These communities have shown incredible strength and resolve in the face of such a terrible catastrophe. As we look to the future, we must never forget the service and sacrifice made by those who have rebuilt and revitalized Parkersburg.

HONORING OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, with Memorial Day just around the corner, I rise to honor the memory of our brave men and women in uniform who have sacrificed their lives for our country in what Abraham Lincoln called "the last full measure of devotion."

At this weekend's parades, festivals, and barbecues, let's all pause for a moment to recognize the sacrifices of those who put themselves in harm's way so we don't have to.

Let's continue to support our troops on the battlefield, and let's make sure to support our veterans and their families when they return home. That means ensuring quality health care for the 61,000 veterans in New Mexico's First Congressional District, ending the unconscionable backlog of disability claims at the VA, and providing our veterans with good-paying jobs.

Our national heroes deserve nothing less.

HONORING ANDREW REID BRYAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Reid Bryan, who will be graduating from Patriot High School in Nokesville, VA on June 13, 2013.

Andrew is a member of the National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America, a two-time Varsity Boy's Lacrosse team captain, and has earned All District Athletic Honors as well as All District Academic Honors. Andrew also made the academic honor roll for both his junior and senior years. He plans to continue his education at Stevenson University in Baltimore, Maryland, where