

Thank you for your many contributions to our Nation, Ken, and Happy Birthday on this centennial milestone.

RECOGNIZING SHANA RUNCK

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Shana Runck as she receives the White House Champion of Change award. Each week, the President of the United States honors local leaders, who perform extraordinary work on a daily basis in their community to build a better America.

Shana is the Assistant Vice President of Community Relations and Financial Capabilities with New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union. Every day she shares her experience and knowledge, providing financial education and job training to at-risk Latino students in New Mexico. Shana is a true role model, instilling in others the same confidence that drives her success. She shares her work ethic in a selfless way and teaches others that with persistence and determination, anything is attainable.

Our very own city of Albuquerque is fortunate to have such a remarkable person in Shana. She has played a vital role in developing the City of Albuquerque's "Running Starts for Careers" program, and she has designed the Financial Services Career Exploration course to ensure they receive college credit for their internship experience. Shana's outstanding work within the local community has helped students continue their education and get job-training in trade fields that interest them.

Shana exemplifies the bedrock principles of our nation; civic engagement, love for our neighbor, an understanding that one ripple of change can soon become a current, and the idea that one individual can have a profound impact on a community. I have no doubt that Shana will continue to accomplish great things in all her future endeavors.

HONORING PROJECT CHILDREN
AND FOUNDER DENIS MULCAHY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of Project Children.

Since its founding in 1974, Project Children has brought over 22,000 children from both Protestant and Catholic communities in Northern Ireland to America, uniting them with over 15,000 American host families for a summer of peace and a lifetime of friendship. Summer vacation in the United States has given these children a break from the conflict and politics of their country and a chance to experience what many might take for granted during their youth.

Denis Mulcahy and his brother Pat founded the program together after they immigrated to

New York. A retired member of the New York City Police Bomb Squad, Denis is truly the heart and soul of Project Children. His extraordinary dedication to peace and understanding has made a tangible difference in the lives of many in the U.S. and in Northern Ireland, and to the peace process on the island.

A nonprofit all-volunteer organization, the program has fostered countless friendships among communities in Northern Ireland, Ireland, and America. Project Children along with host families, coordinators, fundraising volunteers, benefactors, and alumni here in the United States have played a pivotal role in the growth of this organization.

Project Children has had a tremendous impact on the peace process along with U.S. and Irish relations. This group is one of the organizations that laid the community-wide foundation for the Good Friday Agreement, while continuing to serve as an example of the power of peace and reconciliation efforts at the grassroots level—as well as the power of individual leadership exemplified by Denis Mulcahy.

During my time as a member of Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus, I have been fortunate enough to be a part of many significant achievements in implementing peace in Northern Ireland. I have seen firsthand what organizations like Project Children have done to offer hope and a better life for future generations. Without this organization's commitment along with the leadership of Denis Mulcahy, many young men and women from Northern Ireland would not have the quality of life they have today. Congratulations to both Project Children and Denis Mulcahy on this momentous occasion.

CALIFORNIA 3RD CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, the success of our districts and the livelihood and future of our communities relies heavily on the devotion and service of those who go above the call of duty, willing to devote their time and energy to improving society and the lives of people around them. This fall, through my 2014 Women of the Year awards, I have made an effort to recognize, honor, and celebrate the vital contributions of outstanding women in my district.

Each of these women exemplifies sacrifice and devotion. These civic leaders have helped improve their communities in various ways, and are compelling advocates for critical issues including education, flood protection, environmental stewardship, and the arts. They promote healthy communities, organize events to promote world peace, and raise community awareness to end bullying. They are all women in California's Third Congressional District who have succeeded in bettering their communities and the lives of those around them—living proof that when women succeed, America succeeds.

Throughout our history, America's foremothers have made great strides in securing their equal rights and equal treatment under the law. And while we have come so

far, there is still work to be done. We stand on the shoulders of giants, but that does not mean we should cease to reach further. Thanks to these women and others like them, I see our communities reaching further every day.

Pat Ash (City Councilwoman and preservationist; Williams—Colusa County): Pat Ash, the current mayor of Williams, has served as a Williams City Council Member for many years. She is the founding and most active member of Citizens for a Better Williams, known locally as CBW.

Through her membership on the city council and in CBW, Pat has played a crucial role in beautifying vacant areas, including a parcel that was annexed into the town square park. An outstanding example of Pat's leadership and generous spirit is her preservation of the aging Masonic Hall in town. Pat recently purchased it herself, thus maintaining its historic value to the city and county.

Under Pat's sustaining leadership CBW recently arranged for a mural to be painted on the Masonic Hall, adding local interest and a festive atmosphere to this popular park. On June 7th, the mayor hosted a mural dedication ceremony that featured Governor Jerry Brown and relatives of W.H. Williams, founder of the town. Through her creativity and tenacity, Pat has been instrumental in organizing Williams' Summer Concerts in the Park series featuring local musicians. The venue offers the community a place to mingle and for nonprofit groups to hold fundraisers. In further testimony to Pat's enduring appreciation for her city, she has written a book illustrating the influence of Western Europeans settling in Williams. Pat's fellow citizens appreciate her efforts to preserve and showcase the city's history.

Marci Coglianese (Municipal law attorney, former city official, land use advocate; Rio Vista—Solano County): Marci Coglianese, past mayor and council member for the City of Rio Vista, has practiced municipal and environmental law for more than 25 years. Her achievements in furthering good land use planning, and environmental and risk management practices for the Delta are extraordinary. Marci represented the League of California Cities on the State Floodplain Management Task Force and on the public advisory committee to update the California Water Plan. She has been instrumental in protecting Solano County farmland and served as co-chair of the Delta Levees and Habitat Subcommittee of the Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee. She is an active member of the Rio Vista Army Base Steering Committee.

Marci has always been a vocal and staunch advocate for fairness and for racial and gender equality in local government. After assuming office she was notable for her openness in listening and responding to the needs of her constituents of every political stripe and economic status. A person of the highest integrity and forthrightness, Marci sets an exemplary standard for all in political office, from the smallest village to the national capitol. Despite serious illness and family trauma, she has maintained a manner of openness, grace, and humor toward even her most bitter opponents. Marci Coglianese is greatly loved and admired by all who know her.

Deborah Eernisse (Fitness instructor, mentor, and volunteer; Davis—Yolo County): Deborah's outstanding trait is her ability to build community with diverse groups of all ages, particularly around fitness and health. In Davis she has built a supportive community of older adults who remain active and engaged in their own health and happiness. Her "Fit for Life" program at the Davis Senior Center has reduced injuries, falls, and the

need for hospitalization or skilled nursing care.

Deborah graduated from UC Davis with a minor in Adult Development and Aging. She had planned to be an at-home mom, but faced with serious medical problems in her immediate family she had the foresight and strength to persevere and graduate from the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Sacramento City College. Since then she has earned a number of other certifications.

Participants in Deborah's fitness classes have been able to improve their muscle tone, balance, coordination and strength in such a way that many age-related declines are slowed or prevented. Class members who have had strokes, joint replacement, fractures and similar problems are able to follow through with their long-term rehabilitation. Those with chronic conditions such as diabetes or neuropathy are able to optimize their independence and quality of life. Beyond strength, friendships are created and social support flourishes. Her classes fill up quickly and have a waiting list. Deborah also conducts a popular free yoga class for the Davis High School football team, and she has served on the board of the Davis Food Co-op. Recently she completed 30 hours of training to become part of the Davis Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Deborah is now part of a pool of volunteers ready to assist in large-scale emergencies.

Gloria Estrada (Veteran advocate and peace activist; Williams—Colusa County): Gloria Estrada works tirelessly for the interests of Colusa County families, donating much of her time to organizations that benefit the community's veterans and the families of fallen soldiers. On August 11, 2011, not long after recovering from a head-on crash Gloria's son, Pfc. Rueben "Boy" Lopez, was killed in action by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Since then Gloria has dedicated herself to helping families in need and advocating for peace. She celebrates her son's service and sacrifice by paying it forward.

One way she has done this is by arranging for the placement of Peace Poles in each community in Colusa County. The Peace Pole serves as a symbol to remind community members that they are the peace builders. On August 11, 2014, Gloria and her family organized a ceremony on the grounds of the state capitol in Sacramento. Veterans of Colusa County traveled to the state capitol for the ceremony in which 193 full-size flags of the world were carried. A Peace Pole featuring the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 12 different languages was presented to the People of California.

Each year on the anniversary of her son's death, Gloria chooses an agency, school, or group where she hosts a celebration urging those present to celebrate life and to please pay good works forward. Gloria is a tireless community volunteer and an exceptionally loving and giving woman. Whenever someone is in need, Gloria is quick to search on their behalf. If someone needs company, Gloria is at their side with reassuring words. Those who know her well agree that each of us is a better person because we have Gloria in our life.

Lee Ann Grigsby-Puente (Flood protection advocate; Hamilton City—Glenn County): As president of Reclamation District 2140 Lee Ann played a leading role in working with Congressman Garamendi and other federal, state and local representatives to secure federal funding in an Energy & Water Development appropriation to begin construction of the Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project.

The current J Levee, now mostly in disrepair, was built in the early 1900s. The levee failed twice in the 1970s and required emergency reinforcement six times in the past 30

years. If the river floods, the homes of 2,000 Hamilton City residents are at risk, as are the farms and Highway 32.

The project is multipurpose. Plans include 6.8 miles of setback levee to protect the town and farmland. The existing J levee will be "degraded" and 1,400 acres of land will be restored to native habitat along the Sacramento River floodplain. Thanks to Lee Ann's perseverance and effective work with elected representatives, Glenn County Sheriff Larry Jones, who serves as head of Glenn County's Office of Emergency Services, was able to say: "I am very pleased. The project is vital to our public safety. . . . Now I can start to look forward to the time when the J Levee is no longer one of my biggest concerns."

Lee Ann serves on the Hamilton City Task Force developing a 5-10-20 year strategic plan for the city. She is president of the Hamilton City Women's Club that leads the way in adding new civic amenities in the downtown.

Mary Grimmer (School and community volunteer extraordinaire; Arbuttle—Colusa County): Mary Grimmer is an amazing woman, full of energy and passion, and extremely giving of her time and resources. For the past five years, Mary has volunteered at least 12 hours per week in the school library, helping students locate books, cataloging new books, and reminding students to return overdue ones. Each year she donates a generous number of titles to the library collection.

Meanwhile, the school office can count on Mary to help with school pictures in the fall and spring of each year. Through the Parent Club, she takes the lead on ordering all of the school tee-shirts and sweatshirts that students purchase. You also will see Mary Grimmer at all kinds of events, camera around her neck, taking thousands of pictures that she shares with the students. Mary is an active 4-H leader and a member of the Arbuttle Little League where she is responsible for many aspects of the organization, including scheduling of games. She is a part-time employee of the Arbuttle Parks & Recreation Department, giving more time than she could ever be compensated for. And, when someone in the community is ill or has just had a baby, Mary graciously delivers a home-cooked meal as a show of support for them.

Programs for children just don't happen. They take the dedicated people who care about kids to devote their time, energy and often their own financial resources. Mary provides initiative and the physical labor to fill the gaps. She is a beacon calling others to volunteer their time to change the lives of children.

Samina Masood (Working to end poverty, homelessness, and abuse of women; Fairfield—Solano County): Since 2012 Samina Masood has partnered with the City of Fairfield to seize the twin horns of homelessness and domestic abuse in order to demonstrate that renewal is possible for homeless, abused, and neglected women and their children. Were it not for her direct intervention and program services, hundreds of women and children would go without hope, a place to live, or resurrected lives. Each year her organization, Heather House, takes in hundreds of needy and vulnerable women, then shelters and supports them. Samina resides on campus with them to run the seven-day-a-week program. Empowered by their experience in a 90-day work program, they are able to leave the shelter with a job, housing, and the skills to achieve economic independence. Samina's passion and dedication are quite infectious, engaging many city leaders to join hands and work together on behalf of these at-risk local women and their children.

She has served as a commissioner on the Mayor's Commission on Crime to help prevent and reduce crime in the city.

Masood herself is a role model. She came to the United States as an immigrant from the third world country of Pakistan. She is a writer and published columnist with her columns appearing in the Tracy Press nationally and in the U.S. State Department Gazette. Samina has two master degrees—an MA in Communications and an MS in Clinical Psychology. In the 80s and 90s she worked for the World Health Organization, the U.S. Department of State, and U.S.-AID as an advocate for women and children. An abuse survivor herself, Samina talks openly about her childhood growing up in a county where women and children are deprived of rights. She often speaks of how she saved her own soul by fighting for other women who had no voice. She is writing a memoir.

Dr. Frances Nelson (Librarian, educator, literacy advocate; Fairfield—Solano County): Frances Nelson has brought outstanding gifts to the educational community of Solano County. She is a preeminent librarian whose commitment to diversity and whose advocacy for the teaching of U.S. history and government have enriched the lives of many students and adults. Frances has a myriad of community and educational experiences over more than 15 years in Vacaville's secondary classrooms and, after her retirement, as adjunct librarian with 20 years of service at Solano Community College. She is the only African-American librarian that Solano Community College has had in its seventy-year history.

Dr. Nelson has pioneered information access techniques with individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Through the California School Library Association Dr. Nelson participated on a committee that developed "Standards for Information Literacy: Grades k-12." This endeavor prompted her to develop a library skill workbook and a video tape presentation on school site curriculum for a Vallejo school library. Frances travels regularly to Oakland to select as many as 75 books that she then donates to the Solano Juvenile facility. She also donates hair care products to African-American girls there when these are requested. Dr. Nelson is a newly appointed Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commissioner for Solano County, is active in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society Beta Psi Chapter, and has served in leadership roles at her church. Dr. Frances Gholson Nelson has elevated the whole community—not just with the time she has spent in community service but in the quality of her service that counts for so much more.

Gloria Partida (Advocate for restorative justice and anti-bullying activist; Davis—Yolo County): When her son was savagely attacked near downtown Davis the night of March 10, 2013 in what was deemed to be an anti-gay hate crime, Gloria Partida responded with composure and grace. She not only cared for her son Mikey's needs, physical and emotional, she led the community in a candlelight vigil coordinated by concerned community members. Mikey spent months in rehabilitation and many more in at-home care by family members relearning the tasks of daily life and receiving counseling for PTSD. Gloria faced the tragedy and its aftermath courageously and with compassion. In an October 6, 2013 editorial, "Innocence Lost: Now where are my virtues?" she set a powerful example, showing our community how to push back against hate crimes and bullying behaviors of all kinds: "Having survived this magnitude of violence, my son and family became magnets for people who had suffered similar experiences and wanted to share their stories. Sadly, there were many. This produced for

me, ever the optimist, an internal civil war. How could people who started out sweet and promising turn into vessels of evil? . . . What became evident to me . . . was that I needed to be responsible for more than my own children. And not just the smart, easy-to-get along with ones . . . the marginalized ones."

Gloria attended a church meeting on the topic "Standing Up to Hate," and in that meeting the Davis Phoenix Coalition was born. Gloria worked ceaselessly on the group's projects, including a March 2014 anti-bullying workshop; a screening and discussion of "The Laramie Project" and other awareness-raising events; find-raising and attending the "Not in Our Town" national gathering in Montana; designing a tee shirt and bumper sticker; writing an anti-bullying brochure . . . always turning a devastating personal event into an opportunity for community growth.

Linda Plummer (Healthcare advocate, arts supporter, community volunteer; Marysville—Yuba County); Linda Plummer is known as a distinguished advocate for health care and for the arts, twin passions that merged when she created Rideout Healthy Kids. RHK is a musical theater program teaching healthy eating and exercise habits. Still in its first year, the program created seven jobs—four actors, a director and two sound technicians—and reached more than 4,000 school children in its first season.

As part of her job as marketing manager for Rideout Health, Linda helps to get the word out about the newly expanded Rideout Regional Medical Center, the largest construction project in recent memory in Marysville and its neighboring communities. Linda is a dedicated steward of the project. As 30 ironworkers, eight carpenters, six deck builders, two rebar workers and 15 other laborers and inspectors worked on the structure last year, Linda observed the sudden transformation following years of planning. "It's like Christmas," she said.

The Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce has recognized Linda for her deep community involvement. She founded the Way, Way, Way Off Broadway event to give performance opportunities to high school actors. She is a board member of the Sutter Performing Arts Association and Yuba-Sutter Arts. A past president of the Rotary Club of Yuba City, she has been involved with Friends of Yuba City Parks and Recreation; the Casa de Esperanza shelter for victims of domestic violence; Marysville Charter Academy for the Arts; and the Galena Street East performance group to encourage young artists. She was a judge for the Sacramento Regional Theater Alliance. When asked how she manages her busy schedule, she admitted: "What schedule?" For Linda, "Volunteering is addictive. Whatever form it may take, volunteerism has an incurable impact on people—you see it change lives."

Lonetta Riley (Educator and school district trustee; Yuba—Sutter County): Lonetta Riley has served on the Yuba City Unified School District board for 16 years as District 3's representative and for the past two years as board president. Says a friend, "you can count on Lonetta's support for the students and she stands up for teachers and the job that they try to do in these times of diminished funding." Lonetta Riley is the only African-American woman to ever have been elected to office in Sutter County. When asked what it was like to be the first, she always responds that "it doesn't really matter unless I work to make sure there is a second, third and fourth."

Lonetta began her advocacy for education in 1970 while a graduate student at the University of Nebraska where she led dem-

onstrations to address the poor graduation rates of black athletes. As a member of the Douglas County (Nebraska) Citizens Committee, she was instrumental in bringing attention to local civil rights violations. More recently as a Juvenile Justice Commissioner for Sutter County, she has worked to raise awareness and organize efforts to address the difficult issues facing delinquent youth. She is passionate in believing that mentoring during probation is an opportunity to help individuals get their lives back on track.

A criminal justice professor in the Los Rios Community College District, Lonetta is the Training Coordinator for the Regional Public Safety Training Center of American River College and guides the training of law enforcement personnel. She is a member of the Bethel AME Church, the National Urban League, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Bridges 2 Housing and other community organizations. Lonetta believes that "if you don't use your voice for change, your silence says the status quo is okay." She exemplifies the adage to be the change you would like to see in the world.

TRIBUTE TO JACKSONVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Jacksonville Public Library's 100th anniversary as a Member of the Federal Depository Library Program. Since its designation in 1914, The Jacksonville Public Library system has faithfully provided information from the federal government to the citizens of Northeast Florida, providing a better informed and educated citizenry. Additionally, employees of the Library have offered guidance and acted as liaisons to the wealth of knowledge that the Depository contains.

The Federal Depository Library Program was established by Congress to ensure that the American public has access to its Government's information. Materials—whether, print, media or e-resources—are added by cataloging to the library's catalog and can be searched just like anything else. In the past government documents were not automatically cataloged and thus were missing from the records. The Jacksonville Public Library has an array of legacy materials from the 1860's, statistics, reports, newly published titles, as well as a mix of non-print media.

I am proud of the work that the Jacksonville Library has done on behalf of the community. The Library has made accessing information easier and more convenient for those wanting to extend the breadth of their knowledge. This achievement makes me particularly proud to call myself a Jacksonville native.

STOP ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we are now half way through September, and young people in Chicago and throughout the nation have started a new school year. As

they advance in age and begin to realize their potential, many teens from junior high through the first years of college are confronted with peer pressure and normal curiosity to engage in illegal underage drinking. In spite of great progress in reducing underage drinking, the statistics remain unacceptably high.

For many years, the dedicated staff of the Federal Trade Commission has promoted a consumer education program known as We Don't Serve Teens. It is an effort to inform parents and other adults of the ways in which teens acquire alcohol and the risks they face. The FTC initiative is reinforced by members of the alcohol beverage industry who publicize the information in the media and at retail outlets throughout the nation.

According to survey data compiled for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, many young teens have easy access to alcohol. A study funded by that agency showed that 93.4 percent of adolescents ages 12–14 who drank alcohol in the past month got it for free.

In most cases, adolescents have access to alcohol through family members, from their own homes or homes of friends. The same survey indicates that more than 500,000 youngsters in that 12–14 age group consumed alcohol within the last month. Alcohol consumption at that age can be the indication of other problems. If ignored, it can lead to patterns of abusive drinking and other risky behavior that adversely affect the teenager for a lifetime.

In addition to monitoring the activities and behavior of young teens, illegal alcohol consumption poses a serious risk to high school and younger college students. This past August, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism published guidance titled, Fall Semester: A Time for Parents to Revisit Discussions About College Drinking. As our young people enter their later teenage years, the challenge for parents and the broader community increase. High school and college students have older friends who can purchase alcohol for them. They also have smart phones, cars, and other means to communicate and travel.

We often hear the message, "If you see something, say something," from our homeland security agencies. Parents, friends, neighbors, pastors, and teachers all have different experiences and interactions with teens. We need to enlist all people of good will to say something if they see a teen that they know engaged in underage drinking.

Last year, alcohol was a factor in over 190,000 emergency room visits by persons under the age of 21. Some of those teens died and some suffered traumatic injuries that will permanently change their lives and diminish their potential. Those numbers are every bit as troubling as the national security issues we face. The We Don't Serve Teens web site and materials provide many common sense approaches to limit teen access to alcohol and to recognize the signs that a young person you know may be consuming alcohol illegally.

In addition to supporting the We Don't Serve Teens message, I urge my colleagues to support the H.R. 498, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act, better known as the STOP Act. It was introduced by Rep. ROYBAL-ALLARD again in this Congress. Thanks to her efforts and those of our Republican colleague FRANK WOLF, portions of this