

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL J.
MASSONI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Michael J. Massoni who is retiring as Police Chief after 35 years of outstanding service at the South San Francisco Police Department. Mike is an exceptional law enforcement officer and human being and I have had the great privilege of working closely with him to combat human trafficking in San Mateo County.

Mike started as a police officer in August 1979, was promoted to police corporal in 1983 and to police sergeant in 1988. In his four years in that capacity, he served as traffic and planning liaison sergeant, acting commander of the investigations division, and acting watch commander and in the patrol and criminal investigation divisions. In 2001, Mike became police lieutenant and served as patrol watch commander and training manager. Three years later he rose to police captain and was the commander of the operations and services divisions. And finally in May of 2009, he rose to the top of the department and became Police Chief. Over the course of three decades, Mike has served on the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association, the San Mateo County Commanders Association, the San Mateo County Training Managers Association, the Police Athletic League and the Police Association—on most of them as president. As if that wasn't enough responsibility, he agreed to also serve as the Public Safety Chief this last year. What that really means is that he served as both Police and Fire Chief.

You will never hear Mike complain. He just gets the work done quietly, and with a smile on his face. However, I have heard him say over the last few months leading up to his retirement that he is looking forward to relaxing and spending time with his wife Lexann who has lots of plans for him.

Mike was born in South San Francisco in 1955 and attended South San Francisco High School. He received his Associates of Art in Administration of Justice from the College of San Mateo in 1975. He continued his education at Notre Dame De Namur University where he earned his Bachelors of Sciences in Human Services in 2001 and his Masters of Public Administration in 2004.

Mike has completed a long list of professional classes and certificates, including the Supervisory Leadership Institute, Executive Development and the Role of the Police Chief. He also served on several regional committees such as the North San Mateo County Gang Task Force, the San Mateo County Commanders Subpoena Process Revisions Committee and the San Mateo County Human Trafficking Committee, which Mike and I co-founded in 2012. He was an incredible partner in taking on an issue that nobody in San Mateo County law enforcement knew existed. Human trafficking on the San Francisco Peninsula is indeed a serious problem because of high demand and an infrastructure that easily supports it with freeways, an airport and a large number of hotels. We brought together law enforcement on the local, state and federal level to combat this modern version of slavery. Mike took the lead in developing and

implementing the San Mateo County Human Trafficking Protocol for Law Enforcement which lays out in detail how to best deal with trafficking cases. The protocol should serve as a model for communities across the country and the world.

Mike's thoughtful approach to law enforcement has been appreciated and published on many occasions. He is a prolific writer. One of his articles was published in the FBI Law Enforcement Journal and the South San Francisco Municipal Code includes several of his city staff reports on issues such as regulating adult related businesses, side shows, curfew violations and commercial alarms.

His dedication and work have been noticed and recognized throughout his career; he was awarded a Certificate of Commendation in 1981, the South San Francisco Police Department Chief's award in 1995 and the South San Francisco High School Community Service Award in 2007.

Mike firmly believes in giving back to the community, so in addition to his job obligations, he volunteers as a guest lecturer and advisory committee member at Notre Dame de Namur University, and is a member of the South San Francisco Rotary Club, a member of the Sitike Counseling Center and co-chair of the Interact Club for South San Francisco High School. He also participated in the annual Senior Citizens Breakfast, Tip-A-Cop and Day in the Park events organized by the police department for the community.

As mentioned earlier, Mike's wife of 32 years, Lexann McKay Massoni, will be his travel and social manager in his retirement. He will no doubt enjoy spending extra time with their two children, Heather and Steven, and watching San Francisco Giants games.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives rise with me to honor the long and meaningful law enforcement career of South San Francisco Police Chief Mike Massoni whom I'm proud to call a friend and colleague. He has touched and saved countless lives and leaves behind giant shoes to fill. Mike will be deeply missed, but his impact on our community will be felt for years to come. He will no doubt go down as one of the finest police chiefs to serve in the history of San Mateo County.

TRIBUTE TO THE MCFADDEN
SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

HON. SCOTT DESJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students, faculty and staff of the McFadden School of Excellence in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for the leadership they have shown in promoting recycling and environmental stewardship.

In acknowledgment of their hard work, the McFadden School was selected as a winner of the 2014 Good Sports Always Recycle Award sponsored by Eastman Chemical Company, the University of Tennessee, Waste Connections, and Food City. This selection, made by the nation's largest stadium recycling program, recognizes ten schools annually as having the best recycling programs throughout Tennessee.

As Tennesseans, we are truly blessed to live in a beautiful state with an abundance of natural resources. Therefore, I commend the McFadden School for their efforts in protecting our natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices.

On behalf of the people of Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District, I congratulate the students, faculty and staff of the McFadden School of Excellence for their leadership in promoting environmental stewardship.

RECOGNIZING JMU'S CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL STABILIZATION
AND RECOVERY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA.

Founded in 1996, CISR's mission is to help post-conflict communities by promoting recovery, rebuilding, and resilience. CISR achieves this goal in a number of ways including training and education, publications, conferences, and workshops. The center undoubtedly improves lives around the world by providing unequaled support to populations struggling with the lingering effects of war. Staff members, under the direction of Ken Rutherford, deploy worldwide to support their ongoing mission.

CISR produces The Journal of ERW and Mine Action which provides a platform to educate and discuss issues related to explosive remnants of war. It also produces To Walk the Earth in Safety which documents the government's commitment to conventional weapons destruction. The center makes these publications and many other reports, studies, and tools available to the public via its website. CISR is dedicated to sharing this critical knowledge with the communities that most need it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at James Madison University.

RECOGNIZING ORANGE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Superintendent Barbara Jenkins and the teachers and staff of Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) for being chosen as a co-winner of the Broad Prize for Urban Education. This year, OCPS will be awarded \$500,000 to provide college scholarships to high-achieving, low-income high school seniors.

OCPS students have made remarkable gains in recent years. Among them, the Broad Foundation cites narrowed income and minority achievement gaps, improved college-readiness and academic improvements among low-income middle school students.

Educating America's youth is an investment in our nation's future, and it is imperative that all students have access to quality education. By equipping our students with the tools needed to become successful employers and employees, we fuel technological innovation, wealth creation, and economic growth.

Again, congratulations to Orange County Public Schools for being chosen as a winner of the 2014 Broad Prize. I sincerely appreciate their leadership and dedication to educating the students of Central Florida.

RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEE LEARNING WEEK—DECEMBER 1–5, 2014

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Employee Learning Week, which will be celebrated the week of December 1–5, 2014. A national campaign, Employee Learning Week strives to emphasize the importance of the link between employee education and achieving exceptional results within an organization.

Established by the American Society for Training & Development, the campaign brings awareness to the necessity of professional training and workplace education for employees and organizations alike. Each year, Employee Learning Week recognizes and lessens the growing skills gap in today's highly competitive economy. An important facet of Employee Learning Week, the Niagara Frontier Chapter is an independently-incorporated, nonprofit organization affiliated with the American Society for Training & Development.

With over 140 members hailing from diverse industries across the region, the chapter has been successful in making a meaningful difference in the area of professional growth.

Through these efforts, the Niagara Frontier Chapter has demonstrated a significant commitment to developing the region's workforce, a noble investment in Western New York's economy. Mr. Speaker, please join me in identifying December 1–5, 2014, as Employee Learning Week, and congratulating the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the American Society for Training & Development on their endeavor.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the National Institutes of Health and the vital importance of continued investment in medical research. The National Institutes of Health is one of the world's leading medical research centers and represents our best hope for improving treatments and finding cures for diseases that affect millions of Americans.

Today, more than 30 million Americans suffer from rare or incurable diseases. The research conducted by the National Institutes of Health is critical for success in the fight

against these diseases. Particularly troubling among these is Alzheimer's disease, for which there are no preventative measures, palliative treatments, or cure. While we have seen reduced incidence of some common diseases—like heart disease and some cancers—deaths from Alzheimer's disease have increased over the last 30 years.

Currently, Alzheimer's disease affects more than five million Americans. Families suffer both financially and emotionally as they care for loved ones with the disease, and it places a staggering burden on our health care system at a cost of over \$200 billion per year. In Pennsylvania alone, more than 270,000 seniors suffer from Alzheimer's—13 percent of all senior citizens in the state of Pennsylvania. These numbers only underscore the importance of investing in public health research, which might yield valuable treatments and cures.

Mr. Speaker, continued support for the National Institutes of Health is a critical step in meeting the health care challenges currently facing our nation. I urge my colleagues to consider the far-reaching and long-term benefits of investment in medical research through the National Institutes of Health and the positive effect it will have on our nation's health and economy.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2014 ARTS COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX COUNTY ARTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Arts Council of Fairfax County and the recipients of the 2014 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations, as well as individuals and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. The Arts Council operates programs and initiatives that include grants, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations. In FY14, the Arts Council awarded over \$500,000 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and individual artists. These grants helped to fund approximately 13,000 performances and 2,600 arts programs which were attended by more than 1 million people. In addition, The Arts Council of Fairfax County has been a strong supporter and sponsor of the 11th Congressional District High School Arts Competition and has been instrumental in making this program one of the most successful in the nation.

The Arts Awards honor supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Arts Impact Award, the Arts Education Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award. It is my honor to enter the following names of the 2014 Arts Awards Recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: The 2014 Jinx Hazel Arts Award will be presented to Bill Reeder and Richard Kamenitzer of George

Mason University. Together they have built one of the nation's most respected higher education programs for the arts and arts management, training hundreds of artists and arts administrators, helping young professionals create new arts programs, and sustaining local arts organizations in Fairfax communities.

The 2014 Arts Impact Award will be presented to the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE). Over the past 40 years, GRACE has enriched the Reston community with art exhibitions, arts education programs, and the annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, which has become one of the region's largest arts festivals with tens of thousands of attendees. Since its inception in 1974, GRACE has mounted more than 250 exhibitions, presenting the work of local, regional, and national artists.

The 2014 Arts Education Award will be presented to Cappies of the National Capital Area (Cappies NCA) for its innovation and impact in arts education. Cappies—the Critics and Awards Program—engages high school students in a comprehensive theatre education program. Each year, Cappies NCA involves approximately 3,200 students from 56 schools as theatrical performers, production managers and technicians, and critics. Since its inception in 1999, thousands of high school students have experienced the breadth and depth of the theatre, with many becoming actors, theatre professionals, arts educators, and journalists.

The 2014 Arts Philanthropy Award will be presented to Pat and Steve Macintyre for their outstanding support of initiatives that strengthen the arts in Herndon and Reston. Through their generosity over the past three decades the Macintyres have founded or supported organizations including the Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts, Council for the Arts of Herndon, League of Reston Artists, Initiative for Public Art—Reston, Herndon's Art in Public Places initiative, and Technology and the Arts scholarships. Additionally, Pat has served on the boards of many of these organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2014 Arts Awards and in recognizing and thanking the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

URGING SUPPORT FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FUNDING

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the inclusion of additional funding for Alzheimer's research in the National Institute of Health's (NIH) budget. This disease affects over 5 million Americans, and every 67 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's. The impact on these patients and their families is immense, and Congress must act now to ensure needed funding is available to researchers working to better understand, treat, and cure Alzheimer's.

As the Appropriations Committee drafts spending legislation for the current fiscal year, it is critical that the NIH budget include an additional \$200 million for Alzheimer's research.