

IN TRIBUTE TO EDMOND CLARK
ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE
CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL
OF FAME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Marine who has long known that fighting for the men and women with whom you served does not stop after no longer wearing the uniform. Edmond Clark, of Madison, Connecticut, is being inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame this week for his tireless advocacy and representation of veterans in the courtroom.

A Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, Edmond applied lessons learned from his service in the classroom. He returned to school and earned a law degree to assist his local veterans community. Often working pro bono, Ed represented numerous veterans to assist them with legal and personal challenges. He advocated for veterans in numerous scenarios: collecting money they were due for their service, challenging unfair home and apartment evictions, and facilitating entry into mental health and substance abuse programs, amongst many other issues.

Ed's record of community service is also notable. He is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Charter Oak State College Foundation, an organization that identifies scholarship funding for students with gaps in their tuition assistance. Ed also served as the President of the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials which facilitates communication between school administrators to share their ideas. An active supporter of eastern Connecticut's youth community, Ed serves as the Executive Director of the Tri-Town Giants Football Club, head coach for a middle school girl's interscholastic basketball club, and mentors middle school mock trial and debate teams.

This commitment to service of all levels of our community makes Edmond Clark a fitting addition to the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Ed Clark, who is more than deserving of this honor as a veteran who has found so many ways to serve.

HONORING JOANNE SAMUEL
GOLDBLUM ON HER 50TH BIRTH-
DAY FOR HER OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family and friends in celebration of my dear friend, Joanne Samuel Goldblum, as she celebrates her 50th Birthday! As she marks this auspicious occasion, I wanted to take a moment to laud her many accomplishments and invaluable contributions to our community.

A social worker by training, Joanne spent much of her career working with impoverished families. It was during this time that she began to notice that many of the families she was

working with simply went without basic toiletries like diapers and toilet paper. When one of her clients told her that these things were not covered by food stamps or any other assistance program, Joanne decided to take action. Founder and Executive Director of the National Diaper Bank Network, a national non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that every child in the United States has an adequate supply of diapers to remain clean, dry and healthy, Joanne is a pioneer in the ongoing struggle against poverty.

True to Joanne's vision, the organization's mission is to raise awareness of diaper need and to build the capacity of diaper banks throughout the country by creating a national network of community partners. In 2013 alone, the organization distributed more than 15 million free diapers to needy families across the country through their network of local diaper banks. With 5.8 million babies in the United States three years or younger living in poor or low-income families, disposable diapers costing up to \$100 per month per baby, and most childcare centers, even free and subsidized facilities requiring parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers, the need is staggering. The New Haven Register's "Person of the Year" in 2007, as well as recognized by ABC News as their "Person of the Week" and People magazine as one of the publication's "Heroes Among Us" Joanne's passion and advocacy is ensuring that these issues are at the forefront of policy debate.

In addition to her professional contributions, Joanne's philanthropic efforts also touch countless lives. She is a champion for a variety of programs including emergency housing and education. Joanne serves on the Early Childhood Council, which brings together community members that are focused on school readiness for young children and their families. She is on the guide team for the MOMS Project at Yale, which develops public health approaches to ensuring that pregnant and parenting women achieve high standards of emotional health and well-being throughout their lives. Her participation informed her interest in basic needs/safety net funding after a study done by the project found that the greatest stressor for the female participants was a lack of basic needs. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Foote School and the Edith B. Jackson Child Care Program at Yale.

A dedicated and unwavering advocate, Joanne's lifetime of contributions have enriched the lives of others and made our community a better place to live and grow. She continues to make a difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Put simply, she is a reflection of all that we hope community leaders will be. In recognition of all of her good work, I am proud to stand today and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Joanne Samuel Goldblum. Joanne—Happy Birthday! My very best wishes to you, your husband, David, and your children, Mollie, Jesse, and Sherman, for many more years of health, happiness and success.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL PRIMER PASO LTD.

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor El Primer Paso Ltd., located in the Town of Dover, County of Morris, New Jersey as it celebrates its 45th Anniversary.

El Primer Paso's mission is to provide and serve the community with culturally responsive resources for families and children. High-quality and inclusive early childhood programs are provided to children in order to foster literacy and dual language learning. Education programs for parents and other community members are also provided to increase literacy and dual language proficiency.

A group of volunteers founded El Primer Paso in the year of 1969 with the objective of preparing local Hispanic children for American public school systems through preschool programs that were both bilingual and multicultural in nature. In 1976, El Primer Paso received a CETA Grant which allowed the program to become formalized with salaried workers and sessions. Since the formalization of El Primer Paso, an "English-as-a-Second-Language" program, a program for three-year-olds and a Family Childcare Program have been introduced in addition to the curriculums and sessions that the program also supports. El Primer Paso's efforts were awarded in 2009 as the program became one of the first in the nation to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

El Primer Paso's preschool program offers families a very affordable and beneficial preschool education for their children. Classes are taught in a bilingual format to children between the ages of three and five and are meant to foster language skills and build upon vocabulary for children in both English and Spanish. El Primer Paso follows the NJ Department of Education early childhood curriculum model, Creative Curriculum, which is a program that fosters positive social-emotional relationships, constructive play to support learning, and teacher-family partnerships inside and outside of the classrooms. The preschool program is offered on a full day and half day basis for children.

El Primer Paso also offers an "English-as-a-Second-Language" program which focuses on educating adults of all levels of English proficiency on appropriate English dialogue in the workplace and in social situations. This program enhances the individual's proficiency in English and builds upon their active English vocabulary. This program also examines cultural issues and empowers minorities to pursue their versions of the American dream. The Family Child Care program offered by El Primer Paso provides families connections to child care providers for low to mid-level income families.

El Primer Paso's core values of integrity, respect, early literacy and family involvement in education, acceptance of differences and community partnerships are truly admirable in today's increasingly globalized and cosmopolitan world. Such programs allow children from low income minority families to thrive in American public school systems and allow minority

adults to transition smoother into adult life in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating El Primer Paso Ltd., its trustees, administrators and supporters as it celebrates its 45th Anniversary.

HONORING THE NEW HAVEN DIAPER BANK ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many friends, supporters, and community leaders who have gathered this evening to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the New Haven Diaper Bank. This is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization—a decade of “change from the bottom up!”

A social worker by training, Joanne Goldblum spent much of her career working with impoverished families. It was during this time that she began to notice that many of the families she was working with simply went without basic toiletries like diapers and toilet paper. When one of her clients told her that these things were not covered by food stamps or any other assistance program, Joanne decided to take action. The New Haven Diaper Bank, an organization dedicated to ensuring that every child in the United States has an adequate supply of diapers to remain clean, dry and healthy, was founded in 2004 with Joanne holding the first diaper distribution in her home. That year, the New Haven Diaper Bank provided nearly 5,000 to five flagship agencies and in just ten short years, the organization has grown tremendously, distributing 17,000,000 free diapers to families in need throughout the country through their nationally recognized Diaper Distribution Network.

True to Joanne’s vision, the organization’s mission is to raise awareness of diaper need and to build the capacity of diaper banks throughout the country by creating a national network of community partners. With 5.8 million babies in the United States three years or younger living in poor or low-income families, disposable diapers costing up to \$100 per month per baby, and most childcare centers, even free and subsidized facilities requiring parents to provide a day’s supply of disposable diapers, the need is staggering.

Today, while Joanne is leading the National Diaper Bank Network, the New Haven Diaper Bank is currently led by another exceptional woman, Janet Alfano. Joanne and Janet have been relentless fighters for children in our state, and the good work they do could not be more important. I cannot thank them enough for helping to ease the burdens on low-income families, and giving every child an opportunity to thrive.

I am so proud to stand today to extend my very best wishes to Joanne, Janet and the many friends and supporters of the New Haven Diaper Bank as they celebrate this very special occasion. Happy 10th Anniversary and all the best for many more years of continued success.

HONORING KATHY HECHT

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Hecht of Jackson, Missouri for her exemplary achievements and impact on the community.

In June 2005, Ms. Hecht bought Boothill Area Rapid Transportation (BART), a shuttle service that provides transportation to and from the St. Louis airport. She strategically manages 38 drivers as well as 5 full time and 2 part time employees. Furthermore, she offers free transportation to veterans taking Honor Flight trips to express appreciation for their service.

Ms. Hecht has taken on prominent roles in the Missouri community. For instance, she became a member of the Chambers of Commerce in each of the regions BART does business in. She also joined the Advisory Board of Directors for the Bank of Missouri, the only woman serving on this board. However, the achievement she is most proud of was her decision to fold her 18 year-long career in education to open her own business in order to become more accessible to her family.

Kathy Hecht’s service to the state of Missouri has been truly admirable and has benefited our community greatly. Her selfless decision to be a full time parent is also highly admired by her family and those closest to her. It is my pleasure to recognize her efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING E. ROBERT CHAMBERLIN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM SOURCEAMERICA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize E. Robert Chamberlin on the occasion of his retirement from SourceAmerica later this month. Located in my district, SourceAmerica is a national non-profit that creates employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities. As Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Chamberlin lead a network of more than 500 affiliated non-profit agencies that participate in the AbilityOne Program, which currently provides employment to more than 50,000 people in the United States who are blind or have other significant disabilities. I and more than 100 of my colleagues are proud to partner in these efforts as AbilityOne Congressional Champions.

Mr. Chamberlin joined SourceAmerica as Vice President of Operations in December 1999, following a career with the U.S. armed forces, and he was appointed CEO in January 2001. During his Navy career, he achieved the rank of Rear Admiral and held key positions afloat, overseas, and ashore. Later as the Deputy Director of the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, he served as the Department of Defense’s representative on the AbilityOne Commission, the Federal agency which oversees the AbilityOne Program.

Throughout his career, Mr. Chamberlin has been tireless in his efforts to improve the employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. In addition to the hundreds of thousands of individuals employed through the SourceAmerica network, Mr. Chamberlin has provided critical leadership on a number of new employment initiatives, including the establishment of the Institute for Economic Empowerment, Pathways to Careers Internship Program, and the AbilityOne Design Challenge for assistive technology. In addition, he has helped to expand SourceAmerica’s outreach to the private sector through new partnerships with large corporations and franchise organizations. Those efforts are particularly important for preserving work opportunities given the current constraints on federal agency budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished military service and career accomplishments of Mr. E. Robert Chamberlin, and I want to personally commend him for his comment to safeguarding the rights and opportunities for all Americans.

HONORING ANNE CASTLE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WATER AND SCIENCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representatives DIANA DeGETTE, ED PERLMUTTER, JARED POLIS, GEORGE MILLER, JIM COSTA, and JARED HUFFMAN, we rise today to recognize Anne Castle, who is departing after more than five years as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior. Anne has worked to protect our nation’s water resources for her entire career, and we are grateful for her service.

It is appropriate that Anne hails from Colorado, where engraved in the State Capitol is the poem, “Here is a land where life is written in water.” From the Front Range to the Western Slope, water has shaped the character of Coloradans and has no doubt influenced Anne’s career.

Prior to joining Interior, Anne practiced law for 28 years in Denver, Colorado specializing in water rights law. She also served on several state water initiatives, including the South Platte River Basin Task Force, which she was appointed to by Colorado Governor Bill Ritter in 2007. Anne was twice appointed to the Colorado Groundwater Commission by former Colorado Governor Roy Romer and served from 1994 to 2002.

During her tenure at the Department of the Interior, Anne oversaw the creation and implementation of WaterSMART, spearheaded several hydropower initiatives, and played a key role in the recent successful launch of Landsat 8. She also worked to promote youth and STEM initiatives within the Department and mentored the next generation of water leaders.

Perhaps Anne’s greatest contribution during her tenure as Assistant Secretary is in her leadership on Western water management. Anne was a key member of the team that