

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AVALON ACADEMY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor The Avalon Academy, a unique and visionary school in Burlingame, California which is celebrating 10 years of exceptional service. The school provides educational and therapeutic opportunities to children with cerebral palsy and similar movement disorders.

Avalon Academy was founded by two sets of parents of children with cerebral palsy, Annie Noonan and her husband, Jeffrey Wohl, and Lynette Mullens and her husband, Stephen Dilly, and a special education teacher, Kinga Czegeni. They were frustrated with the fragmented educational system for children with motor disabilities and decided to create a learning environment that addresses the academic, motor skill development, recreational, social and emotional needs of these students. The outcome is a beautiful school that for ten years has allowed the children to thrive and give their families peace of mind and certainty that their children are developing to their fullest potential.

Avalon Academy is certified as a non-public school by the California Department of Education for grades K through 12. It started ten years ago with three students, three staff members and three volunteers. Today it serves 8 children and has 27 staff members. Most of the students have cerebral palsy. Their degree of mobility ranges from being able to walk with assistance to being dependent on a wheelchair. Their cognitive abilities also vary greatly and the faculty caters to their individual needs. Cerebral palsy commonly co-exists with related challenges from communication delays, intellectual impairment, social and emotional difficulties and eating challenges. Traditional schools are mostly not specialized to meet those challenges and that is why Avalon Academy is so effective and essential because the school addresses all the needs in one location. The teachers, physical therapists and speech pathologists integrate movement into all classroom activities, no matter the level of physical limitation of the student. This unique approach enhances motor abilities and encourages the children to be as independent and safe as possible in their lives.

I have the highest regard and admiration for the faculty at Avalon Academy who work miracles every day. They are led by Kinga Czegeni, the Head of School. She holds an M.A. in Special Education from the International Peto Institute in Budapest, Hungary and was recruited to California in 1997. Before co-founding Avalon Academy she was the director of Step by Step in Millbrae. She is a certified practitioner in the Ana Baniel Method, has worked with children with cerebral palsy for two decades and has developed Avalon's unique Movement Integrated Special Teaching System.

The two other founders and now board members are professional women and amazing mothers. My dear friend, Annie Noonan, is a successful attorney and employment law expert. She is the mother of Julianne and Sam,

who developed cerebral palsy after an illness when he was 14 months old. Annie took Sam's condition and turned it into a rallying cry for better educational opportunities for children like him. I continue to be in awe of her energy and optimism.

Lynette Mullens holds a Ph.D. and specializes in the clinical research and development of drugs for the treatment of neurologic and psychiatric disorders, including drugs that are commonly used for seizures associated with cerebral palsy. Her work in California with a non-profit that provides online access to clinical trials inspired her to enhance the lives of children with cerebral palsy. She is the mother of George, who has cerebral palsy, Fred and Harriet.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the extraordinary individuals who founded and have run Avalon Academy for a decade. They provide the best education imaginable for children with special needs and should serve as a model around the country.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHWEST IOWA PLANNING COUNCIL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Southwest Iowa Planning Council as they celebrate their 40th year in operation.

The Southwest Iowa Planning Council's goals are to promote regional cooperation, to serve the counties and cities within our region with community and economic development activities, and to improve the quality of life for all residents in Southwest Iowa. Southwest Iowa Transit Agency (SWITA) operates the public transit system in our eight-county region, and Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund (SWIHTF) provides safe, affordable housing by expanding housing opportunities in the region. These additional services the Southwest Iowa Planning Council provides play an important role in improving the quality of life for Iowans.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to represent Southwest Iowa Planning Council and its hard working employees in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the Council on their 40th anniversary and wish them nothing but continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE 104TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to rise in support of a great friend of the United States, Taiwan. As you know, October 10 is the 104th National Day of the Republic of China.

No one forgets the unbelievable sacrifices the Chinese endured against Imperial Japan

during World War II. Nor do we forget that the Republic of China was in that conflict a full four years prior to the entry of the United States. Earlier this year, our two countries observed the 70th anniversary of the end of that war. After 1949, Taiwan held out as a key non-Communist partner during the early days of the Cold War. As a well-established democracy and as an economic powerhouse, Taiwan has set a model example for the rest of Asia and the world in recent years.

Given our long shared history as allies, it is entirely appropriate that we share in the celebration of Taiwan's National Day. To all of my Taiwanese friends, I wish you a happy and joyous day.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. NANCY MACDONALD CLARK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Nancy MacDonald Clark, a champion of nursing education in the San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Clark's efforts in improving the lives of Valley residents, as well as expanding the California State University Stanislaus Department of Nursing, makes her extraordinarily deserving of having the university's Community Health Simulation Lab named in her honor.

Nancy Joan MacDonald Clark was born July 13, 1946 in San Francisco to Joseph MacDonald, a pharmacist, and Edith Bakke MacDonald, a registered nurse. She passed away on December 29, 2014 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Nancy's family moved from the bay area to Atwater, California in 1951 to open a drug store. Nancy learned the value of service from her parents' involvement in the community. Her father served as Mayor of Atwater for two terms, and her mother hosted Atwater Chamber of Commerce coffee meetings for the newly arrived airmen at Castle Air Force Base. Nancy graduated from Atwater High School in 1964 and became an active member of the Atwater Women's Club.

Nancy graduated from then Fresno State College with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing in 1968. She then went on to earn a Master's of Science in Nursing from California State University Fresno in 1983. She completed a Master's in Public Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco in 1985, and earned her Doctorate in Education from University of California, Davis/California State University Fresno's Joint Doctoral Program in 2004.

Dr. Clark worked in acute care in San Francisco, Texas and Florida for two years before relocating to the Central Valley, where she worked in Migrant Health. She then worked as a nurse in the Merced County Health Department for six years. After raising two young children for a number of years, she accepted an appointment at California State University, Stanislaus as a visiting lecturer. Nancy eventually progressed through the ranks to become a full professor in the nursing program, an RN to BSN Second Degree Program.

Dr. Clark was appointed Chair of the Nursing Department at CSU Stanislaus in 1999

and implemented a partnership with Sonoma State University to bring an MSN–FNP Program to campus. As Chair of the program, Nancy was most proud of founding the Pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in 2002, the first generic nursing program to open in California in ten years. Before leaving the department, she had completed a needs assessment and proposal for an MSN program which opened in spring 2009.

After earning her doctorate in 2004, Dr. Clark was appointed Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Letters, and Sciences at CSU Stanislaus. Following two years of leave and twenty-eight years in academia, Nancy retired in the summer of 2008 to focus on her health and family.

Mr. Speaker it is with reverence that I recognize the memory of Dr. Nancy Joan MacDonald Clark. Nancy dedicated many years of her life educating nurses of the future, and enabling those students to not only improve the lives of California residents but the lives of people throughout our nation. May her years of service to the California State University, Stanislaus never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO NICK AND SUE HUNT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nick and Sue Hunt of Atlantic, Iowa, for receiving the 2015 Conservationist of the Year Award, presented by the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District. This award is a joint effort of the Governor's Office, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the Department of Natural Resources.

The Conservationist of the Year Award recognizes the exemplary voluntary actions of farmers who work to improve and protect the environment and natural resources of our state. Nick and Sue were selected for this award because of their outstanding work in their farming operations and for serving as local leaders in environmental stewardship on their farm, utilizing a variety of techniques and best management practices. Their efforts have helped improve and protect the environment in the State of Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Nick and Sue for earning this award. They are shining examples of how hard work and dedication to conservation can benefit their property and the environment around them for years to come. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them for this outstanding achievement and wishing them nothing but continued success.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took of-

fice, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,150,604,277,750.63. We've added \$7,523,727,228,837.55 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Broward County Public Schools and the School Board of Broward County as they celebrate their centennial anniversary and the school system's impressive history of educational excellence. As the second-largest public school system in Florida and the sixth-largest in the nation, Broward County teachers and administrators continue to demonstrate their commitment to the betterment of our South Florida community.

This remarkable system includes 238 schools, centers and technical colleges, and 99 charter schools. Their impact on our state and this nation reaches far beyond the 265,000 young students and 175,000 adult students currently enrolled in one of their programs. Indeed, this school system is a cornerstone of South Florida's growing and vibrant economy.

Broward County Public Schools continues to prepare our students for the challenges of the 21st century. The school system educates students from 204 different countries who speak 184 different languages. Through innovative initiatives and a focus on the needs of our diverse community, they stand as beacon of the American ideals of educational achievement, upward mobility and the resolve to succeed.

It is with great pleasure that I honor Broward County Public Schools, the School Board of Broward County, and its Superintendent, Mr. Robert Runcie.

HONORING TEAM INC. ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the communities of the Lower Naugatuck Valley in extending my sincere congratulations to TEAM, Inc. as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary—a special milestone for this outstanding organization.

Guided by the mission to connect individuals and families with solutions that lead to well-being, self-sufficiency and full participation in the community, over the course of the last five decades TEAM, Inc. has diligently worked to provide programs and services to those most in need. From Meals on Wheels for seniors to Head Start programs for children, from energy assistance to eviction prevention and

security deposit assistance, and from financial education workshops and employment services to their annual holiday toy drive, as the needs of those they serve have changed, TEAM Inc. has expanded their work to provide their clients with skills and resources they need to succeed and thrive.

TEAM, Inc. works with individuals and families in times of crisis and stressful life changes. People of all ages turn to them for help with things ranging from basic needs and relief during a crisis to support in making long term changes in their lives. I want to extend a special note of thanks to all of the staff and administration of TEAM, Inc. whose hard work and contributions have strengthened the organization and advanced their mission. It takes a special combination of compassion and dedication to provide the myriad of programs and services at TEAM, Inc. The staff and administrators possess those unique qualities and through their efforts make a real difference in the lives of others.

I have had many opportunities to work with TEAM, Inc. and always find myself in awe of the scope of work they undertake every day. In their 50-year history, TEAM, Inc. has touched the lives of thousands, bringing the most precious of gifts—that of hope. There is no greater gift that we can provide to our fellow citizens. I am proud to stand today and extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone at TEAM, Inc. on this very special occasion and wish them all the best for many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO DORIS SAMUELSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Doris Samuelson of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the celebration of her 90th birthday. Doris celebrated her 90th birthday in September. She was married to Bill Samuelson for 56 years and has four children. She also taught at the elementary school in the Council Bluffs School District.

Mr. Speaker it is an honor to represent Doris and Iowans like her. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Doris on this incredible milestone, and wish her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN AND BARBARA CROSSEN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John and Barbara Crossen, who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on September 30th.

Both children of Boston Police Department officers, John and Barbara met and fell in love as teenagers. Married on September 30, 1945