

HONORING THE LIFE OF MEGAN ELIZABETH BARRON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Megan Elizabeth Barron, who recently passed away on September 10, 2015, at the age of 24. Megan was an extraordinary person, and she will always be remembered as a young woman who lived her life with purpose and great dedication to her family, community, and strangers via her writing and advocacy for dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa.

Megan passed away surrounded by her loving family at the University of Miami Hospital. She was born on January 26, 1991, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Richard E. Barron and Elizabeth Ward. Megan was born with dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa, an extremely severe skin condition that led her to write about her life experiences and further inspire others. She was an extremely talented young woman who was admired by many and always asserted her right for respect.

Regardless of the obstacles Megan encountered she remained positive and was a scholar who focused on her studies. Megan graduated salutatorian of Coral Springs High School in 2009. She went on to graduate from Trinity College of Arts and Sciences at Duke University in 2013. While at Duke, Megan was inducted into Phi Alpha Theta history honor society and she founded the Duke Disability Alliance.

Among her many accomplishments Megan was a National Merit Commended Scholar, a National Advanced Placement Scholar of Distinction and a Florida International University book award winner. She received the Miami Herald Silver Knight Award in general scholarship and the annual Spirit Award from the Dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa Research Association (DebRA) of America. Megan also interned with the White House, Senator BILL NELSON of Florida's legislative office and the Library of Congress. During her last two years Megan served as the Social Media Coordinator for the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD).

Megan was a model of comportment in the face of daunting adversity. Despite her illness, she never seemed to let it get in her way. She enjoyed history, food, flowers, travel, poetry, writing, the Pittsburgh Steelers, ballet, sailing, French culture, politics, and the arts. Megan is survived by her father Richard E. Barron, mother Elizabeth Ward, stepfather James Patrick Ward, and brother Jason R. Barron.

The poem below titled The Butterfly Child written by Megan back in 2003 perfectly depicts her inspiring persona and the way in which she served as a role model and inspiration to those that she met.

A fragile little butterfly
Whose been cursed but doesn't know why
Who sees the world through different eyes
And soars with the wings for the butterflies
For the precious little butterfly
Is different and she knows
That crying doesn't ever help
But sometimes her struggling shows
To be a butterfly in such a world
Where people are so vain

She tries to keep her chin up
She knows she can't complain.
Although her physical differences
Make life become a fight
She has been blessed in different ways
And sheds the world with light.
Though people are judgmental
To the precious butterfly
Her mind is one in a million
Her mind is her tool to fly
The curse has been put on the butterfly
Yes, she knows it's true
But she won't let it stop her
From soaring to the sky
The Miraculous little butterfly
Puts up a mighty fight
But that won't stand in this Butterflies way
From spreading her inspiring light

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saying farewell to a young woman who embodied passion and inspiration, Ms. Megan Elizabeth Barron. Her genuine character and loving commitment to life will be greatly missed.

SUPPORTING TWIN CITIES PUBLIC TELEVISION'S 'BELIEVE IN BLACK YOUTH' PROGRAMMING

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Twin Cities Public Television's efforts through the American Graduate initiative to provide Minnesota's African American youth with a platform to share their educational journeys, challenges, and success stories with our community.

American Graduate is a multi-year public media initiative through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting that aids local communities across America in finding solutions to the high school dropout crisis that plagues our nation.

I am proud that in Minnesota, Twin Cities Public Television's contribution to this national effort has been to explore not only the state's achievement gap in our African American community, but also the belief gap that fuels it. There is often a significant division in belief between what children and families of traditionally marginalized groups believe they can accomplish and what others in positions of power believe these youth are capable of. TPT's effort is aimed at exposing these barriers to success and providing youth with an opportunity to share their stories.

TPT's American Graduate supported programming is called "Believe in Black Youth," which includes segments on "Almanac", TPT's weekly public affairs program, online spots and much more. The cornerstone of TPT's efforts is a thirty minute documentary titled "Black Brilliance" which chronicles the journeys of five African American high school students to graduation and their dreams for the future. It is through stories like those told in "Black Brilliance" that TPT seeks to help change the narrative of a belief system about Minnesota's marginalized African American youth from one of inadequacy and disadvantage to one of value and worth.

Every student in America deserves the opportunity to receive a quality education, and

ensuring that all of our nation's children have the best chance for success in life is the most important job we have as leaders, teachers, parents, and Americans. I am truly pleased to see Twin Cities Public Television address these critical issues and advancing the voices of those in our community who have found it so difficult to have their voices heard.

HONORING ALBERT CHEN FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albert Chen on the occasion of his retirement. For 30 years Albert has served as Telamon Corporation's leader. He and his wife, Margaret, founded Telamon Corporation in 1985 and since then have turned it into a multi-million dollar company that employs hundreds of people and provides opportunities for people to do meaningful work. The Hoosier community is forever grateful for Albert's dedication to making Indiana a better place.

Albert, a Taiwan native, has been an innovator and successful business leader in Indiana for decades. After receiving his degree from National Cheng-Chi University in Taiwan, Albert came to America to pursue a career in business. He received his master's degree in Mathematical Sciences from Portland State University and started his business career with GTE on the west coast. He later relocated to Indiana to fill the role of Manager of the Midwest region for GTE. Albert and Margaret decided to lay roots and build their business in Carmel, Indiana.

Albert is the founder, Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO of Telamon Corporation, a company based in Carmel, Indiana. Telamon, a company whose mission is to simplify business for their clients, specializes in simplified solutions for telecommunication networks, business process outsourcing, energy management, industrial assembly, and telehealth services. Since its founding in 1985, Telamon has developed into one of the largest private companies in Indiana and is consistently ranked as one of the 500 fastest growing companies in the United States. The company employs over 1,400 people, has ten domestic locations and three international facilities, two of which are in China. Additionally, the company is involved with improving the local communities. They launched the Telamon Foundation, which places special emphasis on non-profit organizations that focus on arts and education.

Promoting diversity in employment and throughout business operations is an important priority to Telamon, and Albert is proud that his company is a certified Minority Business Enterprise. Albert, who is also a graduate of the Executive Minority Business Program at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, takes pride in his heritage and has a passion for teaching Asians and Americans about each other, their diverse cultures and how to work together to build trust, share knowledge and create opportunities on U.S. soil and abroad. He established the America China Society of Indiana, which he created as a foundation to

foster networking, cooperation, and trust between Indiana and Chinese businesses. Albert also started the Asian American Alliance, which aims to inspire Asian Americans to mobilize and be leaders in the community, and provided funding for the Asian Learning Center of Indiana, which aims to educate, connect, and engage Hoosiers about the history, cultures, and emerging business opportunities of Asia through public, private, community and business partnership in Indiana.

Albert is a champion in fostering economic growth and enhancing relationships between Indiana and Chinese businesses. Although Albert is retiring, his commitment to Telamon Corporation and the Hoosier community will live on through his continued mentorship. Albert is proud that his legacy will live on through his children Stanley and Stephanie. Stanley will be taking over as Chief Executive Officer and Stephanie as Chief Operating Officer. He is an inspiration, both as a businessman and a community leader, and for that we extend a huge thank you. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I'd like to congratulate Albert on his success and wish him and Margaret the best as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BERNIE AND CONNIE PETTINGER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bernie and Connie Pettinger of Anita, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Bernie and Connie married in 1965.

Bernie and Connie's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Paul, Dave, Mark, Kathy, Kim and Amy, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them and their family nothing but the best moving forward.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF EMILY LUCILLE JONES

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a hardworking and enduring woman, my aunt, Emily Lucille Jones. Emily was born on October 16, 1925 in Cooper, Texas, to Alfred and Cordie Jones.

Emily was born the third of eight children, all whom were active at a young age in day to day operations of the family farm. This taught Emily the importance of hard work and earning a living early on. After graduating from Gober High School in 1943 she moved to

Bonham, Texas, to work for the county clerk's office. While there, she started attending the First Baptist Church. Becoming involved in the church led her to meet Dan Carver, the man she would eventually marry in 1947 and with whom she would move to Lubbock, Texas.

As Dan attended Texas Tech University, Emily was employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone. After Dan earned his degree they had three beautiful children, Jeffrey, Judy, and Mary. In 1967 Emily received her Associates degree in elementary education from Trinidad Jr. State College and went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in elementary education in 1972 from Texas Tech University. Working with children was always a great passion of hers and she has always been a strong role model.

Emily was always an active teacher in various church organizations including Sunday school, Girls Auxiliary, and Bible School, to name a few. She worked as a teacher as well as managed finances for various companies. Even in her retirement Emily remains active in several senior groups within the church. Travel was her leisurely passion, as Emily has travelled extensively throughout Europe and the United States. She is an avid quilter and enjoys crossword puzzles, cooking, working in her yard, and spending quality family time with her only grandson, Andrew.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to celebrate the birthday of such a fulfilled and jubilant person, my aunt, Emily Lucille Jones. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating her ninety years.

RECOGNIZING THE MINDEN-SOUTH WEBSTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR 2015 LOUISIANA SMALL CHAMBER AWARD

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce for being presented the 2015 Louisiana Small Chamber of the Year Award. Since its inception in 1942, the Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce has worked towards the economic development of its members and the establishment of strong business relationships within the community. They are also actively engaged in strengthening and recognizing the contributions of all South Webster Parish residents. Recently the Chamber of Commerce hosted an inaugural First Responders Lunch, where they honored the self-sacrifice and dedication of all emergency first responders in the community. Through projects such as the Webster Education Endowment Fund, the Webster Youth Leadership Program, and 15 Under 40 Awards, students are poised for success and Webster schools are widely recognized as among the best in Louisiana. Furthermore the Chamber has achieved a rare combination of preserving the beautiful history of the community while incentivizing new urban development. They have the security interests of the entire nation at heart, as they coordinate closely with the National Guard in the

economic development surrounding Camp Minden. All members of the chamber should feel confident that because of their dedication to initiative, our community will continue to prosper. I applaud the Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce for receiving this award, and I thank them for the exceptional work they provide in support of their community.

CONGRATULATING THE JEFFREY MODELL FOUNDATION ON THEIR NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HOSPITAL IN WASHINGTON, DC

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my heartfelt congratulations that I rise today to recognize the Jeffrey Modell Foundation on the dedication of its newest Diagnostic and Research Center here in Washington, DC. Home to diagnostic and clinical care as well as an additional research facility, this new center will undoubtedly be a beacon of hope for families with children suffering from Primary Immunodeficiency both here in the metro-Washington area and across the country.

In 1986, Vicki and Fred Modell lost their only son, Jeffrey, to Primary Immunodeficiency, a genetic disorder that leaves the body unable to fight off infections. Not long after their son passed away, the Modell's created the Jeffrey Modell Foundation—not to commemorate Jeffrey's death, but rather to celebrate his life by giving life to others who suffer from the same illness.

Today, the Foundation is a global organization devoted to early and precise diagnosis, meaningful treatments, and research toward a cure. A thriving force in the field, it achieves its aims through basic and clinical research, physician education, patient support, advocacy, public awareness, and newborn screenings. The Jeffrey Modell Centers Network now includes 600 expert physicians and 250 research, diagnostic, and referral centers. It has a presence in 206 cities, in 80 countries, on six continents.

On Tuesday, September 29th, Vicki and Fred came to Washington, DC to celebrate the dedication of the newest Jeffrey Modell Diagnostic and Research Center for Primary Immunodeficiency at Children's National Medical Center. This world-class facility will help sick children and their parents deal with the trauma of serious illness. Under the leadership of Dr. Michael Keller, this new Center will be a national center of excellence in patient diagnosis, clinical care, and research.

This great step forward for children suffering from serious illness throughout the Washington region came about because of the dedication, commitment and support shown by Vicki and Fred Modell and the Jeffrey Modell Foundation. I could not be more proud to congratulate and thank both the Jeffrey Modell Foundation and Children's National Hospital for all that they do to save so many precious lives.