

IN RECOGNITION OF ANA
RODRIGUEZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Ana Rodriguez, Director of Community Relations and Volunteer Services at Mount Sinai Queens, who was honored for her achievements as part of Women's History Month. Ms. Rodriguez is a dedicated, compassionate, and beloved representative for the hospital. She attends countless community meetings and is always cheerful and well informed.

In her role at Mount Sinai Queens, Ms. Rodriguez works with community organizations and community leaders to ensure that the hospital best serves its community. In addition, she coordinates educational health programs and events to promote awareness about health issues in the community. Ms. Rodriguez also works with people of all ages and all walks of life who are interested in volunteering, in order to ensure that the hospital's patients are served in the most meaningful way possible.

Ms. Rodriguez has also been an important advocate for children. From 1993 through 1999, she worked with Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America. In her role as Associate Director, Ms. Rodriguez served youth in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx through the Urban Emphasis and Scoutreach Program. She collaborated with school principals, religious institutions, and community organizations to establish new scouting programs.

For six years, Ms. Rodriguez served adolescents, as well as adults, as a senior clinical social worker at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. Here, she provided mental health services, and worked with young men and women to empower them to reach their full potential.

Ms. Rodriguez has been celebrated by the community for her achievements. For example, Centro de Desarrollo de la Mujer (Center for Women Development) has presented her with a Woman of the Year Award for her community service. Her work has also been recognized by the Office of the Borough President of Manhattan, and she has received the Peter Vallone, Jr. Award from the 114th Precinct Civilian Observation Patrol for her dedication to the people of Astoria and Long Island City.

Ms. Rodriguez has a Bachelor of Science from Hunter College and a Master's degree in social work from Columbia University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful work of Ms. Rodriguez and her tireless service to her community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD
HUNTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Rich-

ard Hunter of Indianola, Iowa, for completing this year's Des Moines Triathlon at age 85.

Dr. Hunter did not begin competing in triathlons until after his retirement from medicine at 67. He remained committed to his training even after he returned to medicine, not retiring again until 82. He participated in the famed Ironman triathlon, which took him on a journey all over the world to compete. After moving to Indianola to be closer to his family, Dr. Hunter wondered how he would continue to train when he did not have an ocean to swim or bike trails to challenge him. He soon discovered that he could continue training at the local YMCA. The hard work paid off. Not only did he complete the 2016 Des Moines Triathlon, but he was also the oldest participant by 11 years in the sprint race.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Hunter for having the discipline and determination to compete in this rigorous competition. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representative join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continue success.

JAMES MADISON LEGACY
PROJECT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the James Madison Legacy Project, a nationwide teacher professional development program, currently being implemented in Oregon by the Classroom Law Project, a civic education non-profit in Portland, Oregon. Led by Executive Director Marilyn Cover, Classroom Law Project brings vital and engaging civics and law-related education programs into the classrooms across Oregon, teaching students of all grade levels the values and skills essential to being a participating citizen in our democracy. Each year, Classroom Law Project's innovative, practical, and fun programs involve and inspire over 800 teachers and 60,000 Oregon students.

The James Madison Legacy Project, made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Supporting Effective Educator Development program, is a three year nationwide initiative of the Center for Civic Education that recently entered its second year. The project aims to provide professional development for over 2000 teachers of high-need students, help over 200,000 students meet state standards in civics and government, serve the self-identified professional development needs of more than 500 participating schools with significant concentrations of high-need students throughout the United States. The project will also evaluate the relative effectiveness of the Center's traditional We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution professional development model enhanced with online resources compared with a new blended-learning variation of the traditional model that also uses online resources.

The key goals of the James Madison Legacy Project are providing the best practices in civic education directly to teachers and identifying cost-effective ways to provide accessible professional development programs, particularly for teachers in high-needs schools. With exceptional professional development, teach-

ers are better equipped to help students gain the knowledge and skills necessary in a participatory democracy.

Through the James Madison Legacy Project, Oregon teachers are learning directly from current and past members of the Oregon Supreme Court, constitutional scholars, and master teachers. The project includes follow-up services so that teachers can more readily implement what they learn in their classrooms. Future professional development will include opportunities to examine primary source documents from our country's founding, a private tour of the Oregon Historical Society and exhibit on the Founders, and lectures from First and Fourteenth Amendment scholars. Teachers will also have an exclusive behind the scenes view of the renowned Oregon High School State We the People Competition in January 2017.

The Center for Civic Education and Oregon's Classroom Law Project are at forefront of innovative and equitable civic education in America, and I look forward to their continued success and accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES AF-
FECTED BY THE NATIONAL
OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD today the personal stories of families from across the country that have been affected by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire, I have learned so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading to change in Washington and I am proud to preserve their stories.

ERIK LEE BLOM—FAIRVIEW, TENNESSEE

Erik's death has devastated his entire family. He was an extremely gifted and creative young man whose keen wit and empathetic heart is missed everyday.

Erik began to abuse substances in 7th grade. His sister remembers the day he made the mistake of wearing bike shorts to school—he was bullied everyday after that. Eventually, Erik made a conscious decision to be tougher than anyone else and his tender heart began to harden with the belief that it was best not to feel—never to cry. Erik was intelligent, frustrated, and bored. The school thought he would benefit from being challenged in a gifted class and it did seem to help some, but he would still disappear to a place that we couldn't seem to reach. Erik's depression and anxiety kept him off-balance and he started self-medicating with marijuana before moving on to

Xanax and Lortab. Pills were easy to get. Kids took them from their parents bedside tables and traded on the bus. Erik was arrested at school during his senior year for public intoxication. He went to jail and then to treatment. He was put on probation for a year. The summer after treatment, Erik and his sister worked at a kids camp together and our family had a summer to remember—we had our son back.

In the fall of 2003, Erik started college as a double major in graphic design and print making. He was being treated for Bipolar II but his anxiety and depression weren't being managed properly and he went back to self-medicating with marijuana. From early childhood coloring contests to his mastery of printmaking, Erik was always driven to share his life through art. This process of creation became an act of rebellion against the demons that plagued him.

Erik used heroin for the first time one week before his 26th birthday. The group of people who helped him shoot up for the first time then had to spend 45 minutes reviving him. He survived. He told his family that when he used that day, he felt no pain for the first time since he could remember. He would go on to chase that feeling for three years. He never found it again. Instead, he found an addiction that brought him to homelessness, got him work as a confidential informant, landed him in jail, lost him friends and at times, his family, caused unthinkable trauma, and ultimately death.

On April 30, 2014, Erik had been clean and sober for 6 months but his mood disorder was out of control. The psychiatrist prescribed him two weeks of Klonopin but he took all of it in two days. His agitation progressed and turned into outright rage. We called the police in hopes that he would be admitted to the hospital to stabilize, but he didn't have health insurance and presented as well enough, so they released him. When he came back home things got even crazier and we called the police again. Erik went to stay with a friend who he pressured to take him to a dealer. Erik shot up in the car and then again in the bathroom. Erik's sister got a call from a detective at 2:22 a.m. He told her that the entire family needed to get to the ER asap. When Erik's family arrived they were told that Erik was dead upon arrival. That was Thursday, May 1, 2014. That was the day our lives changed forever. He was 29 years old.

JOHN BOTKINS, III—CLERMONT, FLORIDA

From the day John was born, he brought so much joy to everyone lives. No matter how hard his family tried to stay mad at him, over the mischief he got into, John always managed to say something funny to make them laugh. John was a very inquisitive child and adult, never believing anything would hurt him and always willing to try anything.

Needless to say, life with John was never dull. He was always independent and strong-willed, but always cheerful and upbeat, even when he was fighting his hardest demons. While in middle school, John was diagnosed with ADD, and placed on medication to help keep him focused. John was in and out of school after that, and barely managed to graduate high school. He attended one year of college and flunked out. He returned home and his step-father and mother paid to send him to train to climb towers, where he excelled and began working for his stepfather's company. He was one of the best climbers in the industry.

Unfortunately, John's alcohol and drug habit exacerbated throughout the years, changing his personality and his lifestyle drastically. His mother never wanted to believe he had a problem and was fearful, if she

made him mad, he would not love her, and she would not see him.

After an almost fatal overdose, it came to light that John had been using drugs for 15 years. He was 30 years old at the time and had two daughters, ages two and four.

John's family tried to encourage him to enter a treatment program, but he declined, stating he had to go back to work to help support his daughters. His family agreed to support John as long as he stayed clean. He did pretty well for a couple of months, but those close to him began to see some familiar signs that he was using again.

On Memorial Day, 2012, John's mother received the phone call that every mother of a child struggling with addiction dreads getting. Her young granddaughters got up that morning and found their father lying dead on the living room floor—their lives traumatized and forever changed.

Not a day goes by that John's mother doesn't think of her sweet little happy baby boy and his sensitive and caring heart. She knows, without a doubt, that he would have never intentionally put his family through this grief and heartache. He had such a sensitive spirit and giving heart for those in trouble or need and he would never have purposefully caused this. These demons called heroin and cocaine consumed him and ultimately took him.

DAYNE BRANDANO—MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Dayne and his sister, Brittany, have struggled with the disease of addiction. Dayne died on July 25, 2015 from a drug overdose; and Brittany is in recovery and very involved in the sober community.

The Brandano family has been dealing with the heroin epidemic first-hand since 2006, when Brittany was hit by a car and needed surgery. When Brittany was released from the hospital, she was given a prescription for liquid OxyContin. Dayne and Brittany's mother had never heard of the drug before. One day, she noticed that most of the liquid was gone and had not been taken as directed. From that point forward the Brandano family tried everything to help Brittany: tough love, endless understanding and support, various detoxes, rehabs, etc. Within six months of abusing her prescription pain medication, Brittany was addicted to heroin.

After battling with insurance companies who refused to cover long-term care for addiction treatment, the Brandano family decided to send Brittany out-of-state to a privately-owned treatment facility. At the time, Brittany was 18 years old and Dayne was only 10. Dayne worried about his sister a lot and witnessed many things that no 10 year old should have to witness. On one occasion, Brittany coaxed him to urinate in her drug testing cup.

Dayne started smoking pot at an early age and was smoking regularly by the time he was 11. Dayne graduated to Percocet when he was 14, after he found a prescription at his grandmother's house. From then on, residential treatment stays became the norm for Dayne. His final stint in treatment was at the age of 16.

Dayne was sober for about four months before his first and final relapse. When he came home from treatment, Dayne looked amazing. His mother could sense peace in his eyes. She knew he really wanted to stay sober and she could finally sleep at night. The night before Dayne died, he came home looking like he had been smoking pot. His mother calmly told him that together they were going to look for treatment options in the morning and that she loved him. That was the last time she saw Dayne alive.

Dayne's mother feels cheated. All of their family's hard work for nothing. As a family, they did everything they could to save

Dayne and his mother still can't accept that he is gone. She tried getting help for Dayne from every corner; fighting for a bed, fighting with insurance companies, etc. The Brandano family were involved, loving parents, who volunteered at school and enrolled their kids in every sport and activity. Dayne was an amazing human being with the most beautiful soul—many who knew him have said the same.

GREGORY LEE CHAPMAN III—PRINCE FREDERICK, MARYLAND

Gregory (Greg) Lee Chapman III died August 27th of 2015, from a fatal mixture of heroin, Alpha PVP (AKA Flakka), and Fentanyl. He was 26 years old. Greg was many things—he was not his addiction. He loved God, his family, his friends, and his fellow Army Veterans.

On Greg's first day of high school he was given drugs by another classmate. This was the start of a journey that would ultimately end in his death. After high school, Greg decided he wanted to get away from his hometown, where he felt so heavily influenced by the drug culture; he joined the Army and went to boot camp. Things seemed to be turning around for him until he got deployed to Iraq at the age of 19. Greg never talked about the things that happened over there, but his family knows he experienced countless traumatizing events.

After deployment, he was stationed back in Seattle. Not long after that, Greg received medication from a doctor to treat his depression and opioids for his back pain. This took him back down the wrong road—but this time his struggles were compounded by PTSD. A few months later, he put himself into a 30-day treatment program in Oregon.

Greg continued to battle with addiction throughout all of his transfers and ended up with a couple of DUI's. After 5 years in the military, he decided that it was time for him to leave the Army at the age of 23. He feared that if he didn't, he may not end up leaving on his own terms.

He ended up back home with his family. He never really found his way and the path that called to him was one that would keep him medicated from his nightmares. As time went by, his fight or flight responses heightened and he had no ability to deal with the trauma he had experienced.

Sometimes when he came to visit me Greg would pass out while we were mid-conversation. His family had no previous experience with heroin or prescription pills and didn't know what to do at first. After a while it became clear that there was a much bigger problem. Greg then entered a treatment facility followed by a stay in sober living.

After his stay in the sober living facility he thought that he could make a go of it on his own. He moved into an apartment that he found online. We later discovered that the owner of the house was a drug dealer and human trafficker and is currently serving 8 years in jail. When Greg said he wanted to move out of that apartment we told him to come home, but he wanted to stay in Florida where his friends were and find a different place.

The police raided his home on August 27th and my son was found dead in his garage apartment. He was not alone when he took that fatal dose, but he was left there to die.

Greg was too good for this world and dealt with great emotional pain. He thought he should be strong enough to recover on his own, even though his last words to one of his friends were, "We can't do this alone." He was always reaching out to others even in the midst of his own battles and there are people today who are sober because of his death.

DAVID COFFEY—BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

David was born on September 1, 1981, in Bristol, Tennessee. He entered this world healthy after a long and somewhat complicated delivery: 10 fingers, 10 toes, a set of lungs that worked perfectly. He arrived as the first-born into a happy home and was joined by his brother, Chris, 22 months later. The boys were so much alike that they were often mistaken for twins.

It was not until his late teenage years that David began experimenting with drugs, which didn't develop into an addiction until much later. He obtained a degree in Audio Engineering in Manhattan, NY and then moved back to Tennessee. He took a bad fall at one point and shattered his ankle. He had to have surgery and was given prescription pills for the pain. From that time on, life became a struggle; it all started with Lortab and progressed to Oxycontin.

After going to his first treatment facility, which lasted for almost 90 days, David relapsed almost immediately.

This cycle continued for nearly 15 years. At times, David would gain long periods of sobriety—a year, maybe two years at a time. He even returned to school to become a Master Barber and opened his own barber shop. Through it all he was a loving and giving young man—always willing to help others. He had a sense of humor that could rival the best and put a smile on your face on the worst of days. Yet in the end, drugs still won the war. On July 26, 2015, while on vacation, David passed away from a heroin overdose.

NICHOLAS (NICK) CONTOPULOS—TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA

On May 29th, 2010, the Contopulos family lost their 26-year-old son, Nick, after a 14-year struggle to find long-term, affordable, clinically informed care and recovery for his addiction and mental illness.

During his shortened life, Nick spent time in more than twenty-five inpatient treatment facilities (some at great expense), as well as numerous sober living homes, in addition to multiple visits to local emergency rooms.

Although Nick struggled courageously to find long-term recovery, he relapsed time and time again. Those who loved Nick came to respect this cunning, powerful and baffling disease and its ability to destroy everything in its path.

Due to the desperation that addiction entails, Nick was incarcerated for a total of more than three years. If a portion of what our society spent on keeping Nick behind bars had been allocated to finding long-term, affordable care, Nick's father believes that he would be alive today. Sadly, this is not so. Instead, we live in a time where hundreds of thousands of "other Nicks" struggle daily to find their own recovery in a society where this medical problem continues to be stigmatized and criminalized. May we who have survived, live to see a better day for these "other Nicks" and for those who love them.

ELIZABETH (LIZZIE) DELSARDO—PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Lizzie was only 23 years old when she lost her battle with addiction. Sadly, she struggled for several years, spent time in a few treatment facilities, and was called home by her Heavenly Father on May 11, 2016.

Lizzie was very interested in musical theatre and enjoyed both watching and performing. She loved to sing and dance constantly singing anywhere she was. Lizzie would write her own songs and poems and was always so excited to share them with us. She was eager to hear our opinions, even though she would sometimes get upset if we didn't LOVE them.

Everyone who knew Lizzie loved her infectious laugh and bright smile. After she

passed away, we found out from her friends that Lizzie was their go-to person for support and encouragement; she was always willing to help and comfort them.

Lizzie touched so many lives in her short time here on earth. She will be forever remembered for her free spirit, compassion for others, and her sense of humor. She will remain in the hearts of those who loved her forever.

KEVIN DOAN—CINCINNATI, OHIO

Kevin Doan grew up in an upper middle class family. They lived on wooded property and as a child Kevin spent most days "building camps," fishing, and hiking around with his sister, brothers and friends from the neighborhood. When he was six he expressed an interest in ice hockey and excelled on the ice, quickly moving up through the teams. Kevin spent his teenage years traveling to play AAA hockey. He was a large, formidable figure on the team. His dad was always the head or assistant coach, so they spent many hours together on and off the ice.

Kevin graduated from high school and got a degree in Construction Technology. He gravitated towards construction because he loved being outside and working with his hands. He spent weekends doing what he loved—camping, fishing and playing hockey.

Kevin's family believes his drug problem began in 2014, at the age of 28, after he injured his back on a job site. The doctor prescribed him pain meds and Kevin quickly developed a substance use disorder—wanting and needing these pills even after the doctor would no longer prescribe them.

Kevin was always able to hold a full-time job, and therefore had enough money to buy the pills illegally. He began to come around less often for family gatherings, and kept missing birthdays and holidays. When his family questioned him, Kevin said he was "sick." His family knew something was wrong but had no idea the extent of his illness.

Kevin came to his family in October 2015, and told them he wanted to get help. On October 15th, Kevin packed his belongings and his parents drove him to a treatment facility in Northern Ohio. They hugged, kissed and told him how proud they were of him!

During Kevin's time in treatment he wrote his family letters about how happy and whole he felt. He honestly thought he could come home and stay clean. Kevin was allowed to come home for a visit over Christmas. When he came home, he was clear-eyed, 25 lbs heavier and enjoyed spending time with his entire family—he kept saying how thankful he was for his family.

Kevin returned to the program after the holiday and was officially released on January 23, 2016. Kevin was advised not to return to Cincinnati, where he would be triggered by his apartment and his friends. He ignored this advice, thinking that he could handle himself. He planned to return to his job and apartment. His family was terrified for him to come back and their fears were realized on January 26, 2016, only 3 days after Kevin came home, when his mother discovered him dead—in their home, in his old bedroom. Kevin was 30 years old.

The detectives found a needle near his body with a small amount of heroin left in it. It was later determined that the heroin was laced with a synthetic fentanyl. The detectives said that because Kevin had just gotten out of treatment and his system was clean, the drugs immediately shut down his heart. His family had no idea that Kevin was using heroin. He had never been arrested and had no police record—not even a ticket.

REESE ENGLE—HENDERSON, NEVADA

Reese was 19 years old at the time of his death on July 21, 2011. He had a dynamic per-

sonality, never without a smile on his face or a kind word on his lips. He was a loving brother, son, uncle and friend to all he came in contact with.

Reese was an accomplished athlete from a very young age. As a nine year old, Reese was selected to join the boys All-Star baseball team.

As the oldest of four boys, Reese tended to take care of his younger brothers' needs and wants before his own; always making sure everyone was included in the activity of the day. As a born leader and protector, Reese made sure that no one felt uncomfortable or unsure of themselves. Graduating high school was a huge accomplishment for Reese and he had plans to join the military.

Reese started using prescription pain medication when he was 15 years old, which turned into a heroin addiction. Heroin became a way of life for him and ultimately too big a foe to overcome.

In his short, yet, vibrant life, Reese touched people in a unique way. Those who had the pleasure of crossing his path have distinct memories of him. Reese is at peace, and his family grieves this loss but not the experiences they had with him.

KATHRINE FOLKER—WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

From the moment she was born, Kathrine and her mother had a powerful bond, and despite what was to come, this connection never faltered.

Kathrine showed some signs of trouble early in her life, but her family didn't think they were anything to worry about. In elementary school she developed attention issues and by the time she was in middle school, she had some problems with anxiety. Doctors said Kathrine was borderline and never formally diagnosing her or prescribed medication.

Socially, Kathrine thrived. She had many friends and always went out of her way to take care of the underdog. She was filled with energy for the people around her and believed that everyone deserved love, no matter what.

During Kathrine's senior year of high school, she got her CNA nursing license and started working in a local senior and rehabilitation home. She was the youngest employee at the facility. She adored her patients and they loved her right back. However, during this time, Kathrine became involved with people who introduced her to illicit substances. This led her down a path that would eventually take her life.

At 18 years old, Kathrine realized that she wasn't just partying hard but drinking to blackout. Bad things happened to her when she was drunk and of which she had no memory. She was scared and did not want that to be her life. Kathrine was mature enough to check herself into a treatment center and then join a sober living community. And it worked, it really did. For a year, Kathrine was clean, sober and self-supporting. She was happy again, she was beautiful, and her family was full of hope.

When Kathrine turned 19, she was excited about the future and felt strong enough to live alone. She moved out of the sober living community and signed a lease for her own apartment. Unfortunately, she wasn't ready. Kathrine told her mother that she wanted to see if she really had a problem or could learn to drink like everyone else. And so she drank. One night about four weeks or so after moving into her apartment, Kathrine was drunk when someone told her, "keep still," and injected heroin into her hand. That moment was the beginning of the end. Twelve weeks later, Kathrine was dead. Her first overdose was her last.

Kathrine, who was nervous that wanting a glass of champagne on her 21st birthday, never made it to twenty.

RECOGNIZING IRMA GARCIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of one of Laredo's finest citizens, Irma Garcia.

Ms. Garcia was born in Laredo, Texas on the 26th of October in 1951 to Adolfo and Irma Garcia. She was the second child of six children; Adolfo, George, Ileana, Hector and Cordelia Garcia. Throughout her life, Ms. Garcia was always held in high regard by her family members, friends, and colleagues because of her outgoing nature and positive attitude. Her ability to treat everyone she met with kindness and respect made her a role model for the entire community.

Irma brought the best out of everyone who had the privilege of being in her company. Known for her fun-loving side, she was regarded as one of Laredo's best party hosts. Ms. Garcia was also known for her love of politics and enthusiasm for social justice. This devotion led to her taking on work in the county clerk's office in 1976 under Clerk Mike Volpe. She then went on to work in the 49th District Court. In 2007, she started working with Jesus "Chuy" Garza in County Court of Law No. 2. She was revered for her faithful dedication to her work throughout her career.

Ms. Garcia is survived by her father Adolfo Garcia; siblings, Adolfo Garcia, Ileana Garcia Maldonado, and Hector J. Garcia. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews, Kenny, Adrian, David, Vanessa, Ariane, Chanelle, Meriel, Nicole, Cordelia, and Joshua—all of whom she regarded as her own children.

Her legacy will remain strong through dedication and support of those around her. Her kindness will never be forgotten and is something that all should strive to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to remember the legacy of Irma Garcia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WYANDOTTE JAYCEES FOR THEIR SERVICE AND ACTIVISM IN THE DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wyandotte Jaycees for their efforts to promote positive change in the community. For the past 40 years, the Wyandotte Jaycees have helped to build young leaders while engaging in projects to raise awareness and address issues facing the Wyandotte and Downriver communities.

Founded in 1976, the Wyandotte Jaycees is an organization of young professionals that, in collaboration with local non-profits, works to improve their community while providing leadership opportunities for its members. The group has compiled an impressive record of developing leaders while working to improve the local community through events like Hooray for the Good Guys, which provides food and baked goods to public safety officials. The

Jaycees also host team building events like camping trips and leadership conferences. Collectively, these help build a strong organization with community-minded individuals that are equipped to address issues facing the city.

The Jaycees embody the values of community service through their project and events throughout the city of Wyandotte and the surrounding area. Through the organization's actions, the Wyandotte Jaycees have not only worked to tackle local issues while promoting economic development, but have also provided countless young men and women with valuable leadership and organizational experience that opens the doors to new opportunities. I have confidence that the experience that these individuals gain through their involvement with the Wyandotte Jaycees will allow them to become leaders in the community and give them the skills they need to succeed professionally.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Wyandotte Jaycees and their 40 years of service on behalf of the Wyandotte and Downriver areas. The Wyandotte Jaycees continue to serve a critical role in providing valuable community service while helping young people develop leadership skills.

RECOGNIZING JASON JABBAR SPEAR

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. NORTON, Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing Jason Jabbar Spear, who has served as my Legislative Associate and Deputy Communications Director for more than five years. During this time, he has proven himself to be a valuable member of my staff and essential to the work that our office provides to our more than 670,000 residents. On December 31, 2016, Jason will be leaving my office to further his education at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. Jason's strong work ethic, quick wit and humor, intelligence, and constant enthusiasm will surely be missed by his colleagues in the House, the residents of the District of Columbia, and especially my office.

Jason, a native of Alabama, quickly adopted D.C. as his second home. After completing a term as a White House intern, Jason joined my office and took advantage of every opportunity to help the mission of our office. Jason performed his duties with excellence and energy. He answered phones; wrote correspondence, legislation, and press releases; planned events; and even photographed many of those same events, all while managing a legislative portfolio. His capacity for hard work and his very affable demeanor made Jason a pleasure to be around and work with.

Jason's presence in my office and in the city will surely be missed and I wish him all the best in New York.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jason Spear for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives and my office, and to the residents of the District of Columbia.

TRIBUTE TO LORNA GROW

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lorna Grow for her 50 years of leadership with the Sugar Grove Sunshine 4-H Club, which celebrated its 100th anniversary on September 24, 2016.

Since 1965, Lorna has served as the Sugar Grove Sunshine 4-H Club leader, guiding and encouraging its members through fair projects, shows, and other activities. Head, Heart, Hands and Health are the tenets of 4-H. Lorna embodies them all. Her influence has been evident in the lives of so many area families. A former member said Lorna encouraged her to do a presentation to quell her fear about public speaking to a large group at the Iowa State Fair which now, in adulthood, she does on a regular basis. Another former 4-H Club member made sure her own children joined Sugar Grove Sunshine 4-H Club because of the guidance and skills taught by Lorna, including how to can vegetables and sew clothing. Lorna meets with every member of the Club regularly and on an individual basis, encouraging them in their growth as individuals and to experience new adventures they might not otherwise have.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Lorna for her outstanding leadership. Her dedication as a 4-H club leader has influenced so many over the past 50 years. It is an honor to represent her and Iowans like her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE OSHER LIFE-LONG LEARNING INSTITUTE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Mason University and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) on the occasion of OLLI's 25th Anniversary.

In 1991, OLLI was founded as the Learning in Retirement Institute by Kathryn Brooks, Shirley Fox, and Lilyan Spero, whom I knew and collaborated with for many years. The institute eventually developed a relationship with George Mason University as part of GMU's continuing efforts to expand access to educational opportunities to all members of the community.

OLLI's mission is "to offer to its members learning opportunities in a stimulating environment in which adults can share their talents, experiences and skills, explore new interests, discover and develop latent abilities, engage in intellectual and cultural pursuits, and socialize with others of similar interests." What started as a member-run center with 100 individuals operating and teaching out of a single room has grown into a robust, first-rate educational and social organization with more than 1,200 members.