

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN FOR ITS SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY BLEEDING DISORDERS

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan for its efforts to provide services and support to individuals affected by bleeding disorders. HFM has played a key role in improving care and helping drive advancements in care for these diseases.

The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan was founded in 1956 to promote awareness and improve the welfare of individuals afflicted with bleeding disorders. The organization has expanded substantially from the original group of volunteers and now features a full-time staff that handles federal funding for treatment centers in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. HFM also offers a multitude of support services to help improve the quality of life of those suffering from bleeding disorders. HFM hosts camping programs and retreats for children and adults that educate individuals about their bleeding conditions and help provide a support network for individuals in need. The organization also provides subsidized dental insurance and financial assistance to help patients afford treatment for their diseases.

The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan plays a key role in bringing together researchers, patients and providers to facilitate effective and affordable care for those affected by bleeding disorders. This integrated care can have significant effects in improving quality of life and providing support that allows patients to better cope with these diseases. The commitment of the staff and volunteers for HFM has helped build a world-class organization that continues to effectively serve the Midwest and ensure that individuals with bleeding diseases receive the support they need. I am inspired by the activism and dedication of HFM to advocate on behalf of individuals with these diseases. Their work has impacted countless lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan for its outstanding work on behalf of the people of Michigan. It has been key to providing care and support services to individuals with bleeding disorders.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT SANCHO

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2016*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Sancho, an experienced Urban Affairs Specialist and cultural activist who has dedicated his career to serving his community.

For the past forty-five years, Mr. Sancho has fought to improve the quality of education in New York City's public schools, and to make healthcare services more accessible in

New York City neighborhoods. Today, Mr. Sancho continues his fight as a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Center of Educational Innovation, Icahn Charter Schools, and the Multicultural Committee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Mr. Sancho was born and raised in the South Bronx. After completing his primary and secondary education in the New York City public schools, Mr. Sancho went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and Political Science at the Inter-American University in San German, Puerto Rico, where he was also offered a teaching fellowship. Later, Mr. Sancho was granted a scholarship to the reputable Graduate School of Urban Affairs at Hunter College, where he earned his Master of Science Degree.

Mr. Sancho was appointed to serve as Deputy Superintendent of Schools in Community School District 4 in East Harlem, which is responsible for roughly 24,000 students. During his time in office, the district rose from 32nd place in reading and math achievements among New York City public school districts, the lowest ranking at the time, to 13th place. This unprecedented rise is considered one of the most successful educational turnarounds in our nation. Thanks to Mr. Sancho's bold success, Community School District 4 was awarded national competitive grants under his leadership.

Mr. Sancho became a community activist in the late 1960s, when then-New York City Mayor John Lindsay tried to shut down the Metropolitan Hospital Center, a public hospital which provided low cost vital health services to the community in East Harlem. Mr. Sancho helped organize the East Harlem community to reject the proposed closure. After a two-year struggle, the city decided to keep the hospital open.

In 1981, Mr. Sancho was appointed Vice President of Development and External Affairs at the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center, which is located in the poorest Congressional District in the nation. As Vice President, Mr. Sancho helped the hospital secure over \$240 million in funding, which helped to finance three new hospital buildings and repair existing buildings. Additionally, Mr. Sancho's department helped raise almost \$15 million in the past few years for various hospital programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary work of Robert Sancho has done for the great city of New York.

ROSS COUNTY COMMISSIONER JIM CALDWELL

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2016*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Ross County Commissioner Jim Caldwell on a distinguished career serving the residents of Ross County and southern Ohio.

Jim has served as Ross County Commissioner since 1977, making him the longest serving County Commissioner in the State of Ohio. During his 39 year tenure of serving our community, he has made an incredibly positive impact, serving in nearly every capacity imaginable.

From teaching our youth, to guiding our communities' finances, to leading the efforts of redevelopment and revitalization, Ross County is a better place because of Jim Caldwell.

We are certainly lucky to have had Jim's commitment and service in our community, and I wish him a very happy retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ANDREA P. THAU

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2016*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Dr. Andrea P. Thau, President-Elect of the American Optometric Association (AOA), who will be installed as its 95th President during the 119th Congress of the AOA's House of Delegates.

Dr. Thau, a native of the 12th Congressional District in New York, was first elected to the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees in 2007, and has served as its vice president, Speaker of the House Pro Tem, and Chair of the AOA Investment Committee. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, a Fellow of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development, a Distinguished Practitioner on the National Academies of Practice, and a Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry. Dr. Thau is also a faculty member, associate clinical professor, and former chair of the Admissions Committee at SUNY College of Optometry, where she received her doctorate.

Prior to her election to the AOA Board, Dr. Thau broke new ground as the first woman president of the New York State Optometric Association, the New York Academy of Optometry, and the Optometric Society of the City of New York. She has continually used her expertise and success in her field to serve the public, especially children. She is a founding member of the New York Children's Vision Coalition as well as the AOA's InfantSEE committee, a national program that provides vision assessments to babies at no cost. She has advocated for children's vision at both the state and national level. Dr. Thau is also the owner of a private practice in Manhattan, Dr. Andrea P. Thau and Associates, which serves as a full-scope primary care practice with a special emphasis on children's vision and vision therapy.

Dr. Thau has been lauded by her peers for her excellence in optometry and has received numerous awards for her outstanding work, including the 2005 New York State Optometrist of the Year and SUNY Optometry Alumna of the Year. She has also been recognized twice as Vision Monday's 20 Most Influential Women in Optical.

Dr. Thau has long stood out as an example of extraordinary dedication and brilliance in her field. She was a stellar student at the Bronx High School of Science and completed her undergraduate studies at SUNY Albany before attending the SUNY College of Optometry. Since then, Dr. Thau has practiced optometry for nearly three decades, consistently providing first-rate eye care to her clients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Andrea P. Thau for her outstanding work in the field of optometry and her

tireless efforts to provide accessible eye care and eye health education to her community and the general public.

#### HONORING NANCY VORHEES

### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2016*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a good friend and community advocate, Nancy Vorhees, on her retirement as Chief Administrative Office (CAO) of Inland Northwest Health Services (INHS).

Nancy first started with Inland nearly two decades ago as Chief Operating Officer of Northwest Health Partners (NHP), which includes Northwest MedStar, Northwest Telehealth, Community Wellness, Health Training, INHS Foundation, and Children's Miracle Network Hospital. All of the divisions under Nancy's direction worked diligently to integrate the delivery of health care services throughout the Inland Northwest. Her work also focused on regional economic development, removal of barriers to health care, quality care, and customer satisfaction.

As a champion of rural medicine, Nancy provided leadership that connected our rural, and often times most vulnerable patients, to health care resources in urban settings. Nancy served on many regional and national boards including the American Telehealth Association, Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center, Mid-Valley Hospital, and Greater Spokane Incorporated's Health Industry Development Group. Nancy became Inland's CAO and a member of the Providence Health Care Senior Leadership Team in 2015.

In addition to her role at Inland, Nancy has served as interim Executive Director of the Spokane Teaching Health Clinic, a collaboration with Empire Health Foundation, Providence Health Care, and Washington State University. The goal of this partnership is to improve regional access to health care by increasing the number of medical residencies in the area. I am pleased that she will continue in this role after her retirement from Inland.

Mr. Speaker, Nancy is a tremendous asset to the Spokane community, Eastern Washington, and Inland Northwest. Her years of dedication and work have touched the lives of countless people in many positive ways. I look forward to her continued friendship and leadership to expand access to health care through her role at the Spokane Teaching Health Clinic.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE MITTERSILL PROJECT RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

### HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2016*

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cannon Mountain Ski Area for the completion of the Mittersill Improvement Project.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony marks the conclusion of a four-year project that has com-

pletely upgraded an integral part of New Hampshire's vibrant snow-sports economy into a world-class resort for both recreation and professional training. Included in the upgrades was a widening of the Taft trail, which is now the widest ski trail in New Hampshire, and facilities upgrades that culminated in Mittersill being named a US Ski Team training venue. The project also increased snowmaking capacity, improved public access, and made the resort a safer place to ski.

The project has been made possible by a collaboration of partners including, Cannon Mountain, the Holderness School, the Franconia Ski Club, and the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association, in addition to generous contributions by many members of the ski and snowboard community.

As co-chairwoman of the Congressional Ski and Snowboard Caucus, I am an advocate on behalf of the winter recreation industry, including the many professionals whose hard work develops and supports the beautiful resorts we have in New Hampshire. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support, develop, and protect this industry.

I am pleased to congratulate all who worked on this project for their valuable contribution to the Granite State.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF GINA ARGENTO

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2016*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Gina Argento, who was honored for her achievements as part of Women's History Month. Ms. Argento is President of Broadway Stages, one of New York's largest film, television, and music production facilities which is located in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

Ms. Argento and her brother, Tony, opened Broadway Stages in 1983, turning a rundown movie theatre into a sound stage. Over the past 32 years, Broadway Stages has expanded both its physical size and capabilities. Broadway Stages now has over half a million square feet of space with 38 state-of-the-art stages and support facilities. Offering full service film, television, photography and music production facilities, Broadway Stages has served an extensive list of hit movies and television shows including "The Good Wife," "Blue Bloods," "Mr. Robot," "Madam Secretary," "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," "Limitless," "Broad City," "Unforgettable," and "Master of None," in addition to commercials, print and music videos. Broadway Stages has facilities in Brooklyn and Queens and is currently in the process of building a 69 acre facility in Staten Island.

Under Ms. Argento's leadership, Broadway Stages has exhibited an unparalleled commitment towards the local community in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. In addition to creating hundreds of local jobs, Broadway Stages helps neighboring residents, small businesses, and community-based organizations. Broadway Stages has donated food, equipment, and additional resources to local soup kitchens, partnered with the McGolrick Park Neighbor-

hood Alliance to clean up the beloved park located in the center of Greenpoint and hosted family-friendly neighborhood block parties during the summer. Most recently, Broadway Stages joined the television show "Blue Bloods" and CBS to give \$25,000 to the families of NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu who were brutally murdered in Brooklyn.

Ms. Argento is also committed to supporting young people. Broadway Stages provided new audio equipment to St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Academy, sponsored a 5 Boro Basketball team for teens, created a "Green Science Week" at PS110, and partnered with community organizations to hold a local "Schoolfest" fair for students and their families. Broadway Stages also funded the SYSTEM Teen Summer Program, which provides high school students the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities focused on green technology, engineering, gardening, and community service.

Broadway Stages is an incredible community partner that is committed to building a strong and environmentally sustainable future. Under Ms. Argento's leadership, Broadway Stages has become a model of the way private industry can champion energy sustainability and environmentally-sound community development. By installing 50,000 square feet of solar photovoltaic systems on the roofs of 7 of its sound stages, Broadway Stages created the world's first solar powered sound stage and the largest private solar power installation in New York State. The solar roofs have offset 30 percent of Broadway Stage's annual electricity consumption. Broadway Stages also created an organic vegetable farm called "Eagle Street Rooftop," located on top of a warehouse in Greenpoint. The 6,000 square foot rooftop farm features a variety of educational and volunteer programs and a farmer's market during the growing season. Broadway Stages is also involved in cleaning up a Brownfield site at 359 Kingsland Avenue.

Ms. Argento has worked with YMCA Greenpoint, Boy Scouts of America, Kings County Democratic Club, Greenpoint Chamber of Commerce, Solar One, and EWVIDCO, an advocacy organization for industrial businesses in Greenpoint. Ms. Argento is a loving mother to her three sons, John, Anthony, and Paul. She and her husband, John Ciafone, make an incredible team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable work of Gina Argento, a successful businesswoman, environmentalist, and fantastic neighbor.

#### ST. XAVIER GOLF TEAM

### HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2016*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cincinnati St. Xavier High School golf team on their state championship win this fall 2016 season.

With skill and precision, the Bombers' golf team won its second consecutive state championship, totaling 5 wins in team history.

While mostly considered an individual sport, the golf team exemplified St. X teamwork and brotherhood to win a high pressure, one-round