

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BROWARD SENIOR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate ten exemplary men and women from Broward County who were recently elected to the Broward Senior Hall of Fame.

These outstanding citizens are individuals from all walks of life who have contributed greatly to the vibrancy and well-being of South Florida. Many have served in the military, held elected offices and judgeships, volunteered, and worked as doctors. Several have provided distinguished service on boards of organizations that benefit our communities and make Broward County the outstanding place that it is to live, raise a family, and retire.

The names of these ten distinguished inductees to the Broward Senior Hall of Fame are Sandra K. Booth; Mitchell "Mitch" Ceasar; Commissioner Sue Gunzburger; Mohsin Jaffer, MD; Marie Goodrum Johnson; George A. Kling, MD; Arlene Lakin, Esquire; Patti Lynn; Judge Ronald J. Rothschild; and Jack Shifrel.

Again, congratulations to these outstanding individuals. I wish them the best of luck with their induction and continued service to Broward County. It is with great pleasure that I honor them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I look forward to hearing of their continued work and service.

NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Infertility Awareness Week, which ran from April 24–30. The CDC recognizes infertility as the inability to get pregnant after one year of trying. It affects both men and women, and there are a variety of causes. Resolve, the National Infertility Association, estimates that it affects approximately 10 percent of the population.

For couples dealing with infertility, there are a number of options. They can choose to adopt, or try to conceive through IUI, medications, or assisted reproductive technology like in vitro fertilization (IVF). Although none of these methods is guaranteed, improvements to technologies and treatments in recent years have increased the likelihood of successful therapy.

Not all families have access to this technology. Under present law, the Department of

Veterans Affairs (VA) is expressly prohibited from covering IVF for women and men who have served our country in uniform. This is especially galling considering that many of these veterans are facing infertility as a result of injuries incurred during their service. That is why Senator MURRAY and I introduced the Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act—to repeal this outdated policy and specifically authorize provision of fertility treatment. Our bill also provides other important resources to military families, including cryopreservation of gametes and adoption assistance.

As we recognize National Infertility Awareness Week, it is my sincere hope that we not lose sight of Americans experiencing infertility. And it is long past time that Congress authorizes VA to cover fertility treatments, including IVF to wounded veterans, so they can achieve their dreams of starting families.

COMMEMORATING MOTHER'S DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 108th observance of Mother's Day.

As a mother of two children myself, I understand the hardships and difficulties that so many mothers face every day in our country.

We honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of home and family as the true foundation of the Nation.

I want to pay tribute to my late mother, Ivalita Jackson, who stood the test of time in raising and rearing her children.

To the mothers of Houston, too many to name here, I salute you for your dedication to raising and saving your children.

Today, thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women, and children throughout the Nation.

Mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding and compassion, all while overcoming the challenges of modern society.

I want to congratulate and praise all of the mothers in America for all of their hard work.

Mothers have a huge influence on our everyday lives; as William Ross Wallace's famous poem reminds us: "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world."

It is in the same breath that I commend all mothers, including those giving birth to infants who will take their first breath and suckle first from mothers behind prison bars.

These infants' lives are just as valuable as those of any young Americans upon whom we will come to rely on, in building the next great generation.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the infants of mothers across the nation die at a rate of 5.96 deaths per 1,000 births.

Those deaths increase to a devastating 7.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births for Hispanic mothers when they are incarcerated, and an appalling 14.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births among African American mothers behind bars.

Other studies have documented that incarceration of mothers elevates the risk of their children dying by 29.6% for the average infant, concentrating effects during the post-neonatal period.

If these mothers' children are to grow strong and resilient, we must ensure that they have access to the nourishment and sustenance that only their mothers can provide, body and soul, in order to sustain their formidable futures for which we, alongside their mothers, hope and pray.

Cognizant of the dangerous phenomenon affecting these mothers and snipping at the heels of the life to which they give young Americans, I recently introduced H.R. 5130 the, "Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016," or the "SIMARRA Act," to expand healthcare and wellness services in Critical Stage Development Nurseries for infants and their mother-inmates.

H.R. 5130 allows infants, born to female inmates in federal prisons, to remain with their mothers in specialized housing units during the critical stages of their development in efforts to reduce infant mortality amongst this population, and to reduce recidivism rates amongst their mothers once they have completed their sentences.

Many of these mother-inmates self-report being born themselves to mothers in prison; but instead of retaining necessary physiological and psychological bonds with their mothers, many were wrenched apart and placed in the fledgling foster-care system.

Eleven percent of those children separated from incarcerated mothers and placed into foster care experienced at least two changes in caregivers during the period of the mother's incarceration; and sometimes these mothers, even when they have short prison sentences, never see their child again—forever lost to the foster-care system.

As a mother, I cannot imagine being unable to contribute to the sustainability of my child's life and wellness.

This practice is devastating the wellbeing and safety of America's infants, denying them the ability to lactate, bond and thrive with their mothers, as healthy infants require during the critical stage of development.

Just as we commemorate Mother's Day, it is time that our nation recognizes a long-persistent need to break the cycle of generational, institutional incarceration amongst mothers convicted of non-violent crimes and the children they birth behind prison bars.

H.R. 5130, the, "SIMARRA Act of 2016," gives those infants born to incarcerated mothers a chance to succeed in life.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

"SIMARRA" is not merely yet another second chance program, demanding leniency from the criminal justice system for repentant mothers.

Instead, H.R. 5130 asks our national criminal justice system what it can do for those mothers' children—young Americans born and relegated to a life of nearly impossible odds of survival.

"SIMARRA" provides that first chance—a first chance for American infants—that many of their mothers, born themselves to mothers behind bars, never received.

We have a unique opportunity to nurture infants by uniting them with their mothers through the "SIMARRA Act of 2016," better preparing them to endure the harsh realities of this world.

Further, H.R. 5130 simultaneously implements risk and needs assessments, risk reduction incentives, and risk and recidivism reduction programs to address the healthcare, safety and rehabilitative needs of new-mother-inmates while they serve their sentence.

The most likely long-term mechanism through which imprisonment affects infant mortality is through its effects on maternal health.

Mothers are fighting to keep their children alive and we, as guardians, have an opportunity to say that the buck stops here when it comes to the next generation—any sins that the mother may have committed need not be visited upon her child.

Mr. Speaker, as a nation we do not have a person to waste, so we must embrace practices that nurture the bonds between mother and child.

In observance of May 8, 2016, we will honor mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, stepmothers, foster mothers and godmothers who take in children, mothers who adopt, those who act as mothers, and those women who have no relations by blood, but who give the gift of mothering to children.

In hindsight, we can never thank our mothers enough for all the sacrifices they have made for us.

Thus, in our reflection, let us include the children of all mothers regardless of the circumstances under which they came to walk the Earth.

I wish every mother a safe and happy Mother's Day this Sunday and hope to echo the message that we value your contributions and will safeguard your efforts because they benefit us all.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southeast Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization in Southeast Fort Worth, Texas, as they host their 2nd Annual Pathway's Banquet, highlighting the work of local leaders for their contributions to empowering our local youth and adults.

The Southeast Community Development Corporation was founded in April 2014, by

Pastor Robert J. McGinty, who saw a need to continue to serve others after retiring from 36 years of service in law enforcement. Since its founding, the program has found success in providing education support, mentoring, leadership development, health and wellness initiatives, and programs where participants can prepare themselves for financial literacy, life-skills, job readiness, and empowerment for home ownership.

One of their most successful programs is the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School, the only all-male program in Texas aimed at building strong, literate, and empowered children to serve a fundamental role within their families, communities, and nation. Young men between the ages of 13 and 17 participate in an interactive summer reading-based curriculum to improve their reading level and to curb summer learning loss. In addition, the scholars participate in college tours and community service projects and learn valuable tools to expand their educational opportunities.

Every year, the Southeast Community Development Corporation hosts their Annual Pathways Banquet to honor local government, city, business, and community leaders for their contributions to creating "Pathways for the City's Youth and Adults."

This year, the organization will host its 2nd Annual Pathways Banquet at the Tarrant County Community College Trinity River Campus, where they will honor Tarrant County Commissioner Roy C. Brooks, Former Dallas Cowboy Greg Ellis, and former TCC Chancellor, the late Erma Johnson Hadley, for their work and commitment to expanding opportunities for our adults and youth in the Tarrant County community.

In honor of the Southeast Community Development Corporations 2nd Annual Pathways Awards ceremony, and the invaluable service the organization provides to the Fort Worth community, this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Friday, May 6, 2016.

RECOGNIZING POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY ON MAY 3, 2016

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Polish Constitution Day on May 3, 2016 and the Polish Constitution Day Parade in my hometown of Chicago on May 7, 2016.

On May 3, 1791, Poland ratified the first democratic constitution of its kind in Europe. The document laid the groundwork for a constitutional monarchy and, eventually, the spread of democracy in the region.

The Polish Constitution Day Parade is a longstanding Chicago tradition. The Parade brings together nearly 100,000 people for festivities that include floats, folk dancing, and polka bands. This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Parade, which recognizes Chicago's vibrant Polish American community. Polish Americans make up over 7 percent of Chicago's population and have made notable contributions to the arts, academics and even politics. In fact, Chicagoland has the largest

Polish community outside of Poland and is home to many organizations that celebrate Polish culture and heritage, including the Polish Women's Alliance of America based in my district.

Ada Ezlakowska will serve as this year's Queen of the Parade, and Jan Krawiec will be Grand Marshal. Mr. Krawiec is a 96-year-old Holocaust survivor who fought in the Polish Resistance during World War II and helped run the underground press. He moved to Chicago after being tortured by the Gestapo and detained at Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buchenwald. He attended Loyola University in my district and travelled to the U.S.S.R. with President Nixon. I am proud that he will be honored on Saturday.

The United States and Poland share a deep bond. We need to strengthen that relationship by increasing opportunities for travel and cultural exchange. I am proud to support Poland's proposed inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program. This would promote short-term travel between our countries, encouraging cultural and political ties as well as easing travel for families with members in both countries.

Polish Constitution Day is a time to celebrate our Polish American community. I congratulate Chicago on 125 years of marking this special occasion.

RECOGNIZING CINCO DE MAYO

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to recognize the holiday of Cinco de Mayo commemorating the victory of the Mexican Army 1862 over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War.

The fifth day of May, or Cinco de Mayo, is a special day because it represents the importance of freedom, liberty and determination for the people of Mexico and for Mexican-Americans.

It was on that day, May 5, 1862, that untrained, outnumbered, and outgunned Mexican forces—determined to protect their land—successfully defended the town of Puebla against the French.

The quest for an independent Mexico started on September 16, 1810, when the people of Mexico, following the will to become a free nation, refused to submit to Spanish rule.

The struggle went on for 10 years.

Finally, in 1821, the first independent Mexican government was established.

But being an independent nation was not easy.

Over the years, Mexico received economic support from several nations, France and England among them.

Later on, even Spain supported the new country.

Thus, Mexico became heavily indebted to foreign powers.

Due to ongoing political unrest caused by many groups struggling for power, Mexico was not able to pay back the loans.

On July 17, 1861, President Benito Juarez issued a moratorium in which all-foreign debt payments would be suspended for a period of two years, with the promise that after this period, payments would resume.