

TRIBUTE TO MARGUERITE GOWIN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marguerite Gowin of Adel, Iowa, on the celebration of her 100th birthday. She has had an illustrious career, serving as the Dallas County Recorder from 1957–78. She and her husband, Kenneth owned a hardware store in Adel throughout their married life. In her later years, she is known for being a woman of high fashion—always seen wearing artistic jewelry, stylish clothing and topping it off with an infectious laugh and wide smile.

Our world has changed immensely during the course of Marguerite's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones, and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism, and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Ms. Gowin has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-one Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Ms. Gowin in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Marguerite Gowin for reaching this incredible milestone and in wishing her nothing but the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal matter, I was unable to attend votes on May 16, 2016. I would have supported final passage of the following bills:

Roll Call Number 194 (H.R. 4743: National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2016—on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass as Amended).

Roll Call Number 195 (H.R. 4407: Counterterrorism Advisory Board Act of 2016—on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended).

RECOGNIZING 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fairview Baptist Church, and the 160 years of spiritual guidance and service to the community of Town Bluff.

It is with great joy that we celebrate the 160th anniversary of the Fairview Baptist Church. The Fairview Baptist Church opened in 1856 with just about 40 parishioners under

the Reverend J. G. Masterson. It is in these early days that the Church also served as a schoolhouse for the children of Town Bluff. Fairview Baptist continued to expand into new buildings over the years, with the present building having broken ground in 1968.

Brother Scott Loar continues to preside over a growing church and vibrant congregation. May God continue to bless the Fairview Baptist Church and the entire congregation.

HONORING JENNY STARR THUERAUF ON BEING ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor McAuley Catholic High School student Starr Thuerlauf, of Joplin, Missouri, on her being accepted as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. Specifically, it's designed for students aspiring to become physicians or medical researchers, and provides a path and mentorship for students to accomplish their goals.

To be considered for acceptance as a delegate, applicants are either recommended by a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Delegates represent all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, and must have a minimum 3.5 GPA. Students like Thuerlauf who qualify for this incredibly selective honor exemplify top-tier diligence and academic talent.

Mr. Speaker, Starr Thuerlauf will undoubtedly represent Missouri with distinction during her time as a delegate to this Congress. She has not only shown a strong academic capability during her time at school, but is also a well-rounded individual with a deep interest in the medical field. I would like to extend my personal congratulations for her achievement, and on behalf of the 7th District of Missouri, wish Starr the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2016 AS "NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION MONTH"

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the importance of nonprofit organizations and designating September 2016 as "Nonprofit Organization Recognition Month." I would also like to

take this opportunity to thank my friend and colleague, Congressman TOM ROONEY for again introducing this resolution with me this year.

Nonprofit organizations have made many important contributions to our nation. Over the past decade, the number of nonprofits has risen steadily, and there are approximately 1.4 million of them now operating in the United States. These groups work to improve our schools. They work to protect our environment. They work to keep us and our neighbors around the world healthy. Each of them work to enact meaningful change in our world and to improve human lives.

Many nonprofits support science and research that will have a significant impact on future generations. Others advocate for vulnerable populations across the globe—for refugees, for the homeless, and for our nation's veterans. They educate and teach, and they engage each of our constituencies on issues that matter most.

The nonprofit sector is vital to the economic security of the United States. In fact, the growth rate of the nonprofit sector has surpassed the rate of both the business and government sector. Just a few years ago, in 2010, nonprofits added nearly \$780 billion to our national GDP and employed 1 in 10 working Americans. Today, nonprofits contribute nearly \$1 trillion to the United States economy annually. In addition, these organizations facilitate charitable giving and community activism, and the combined donations and volunteer hours of individuals to nonprofits are worth billions of dollars annually.

But perhaps most importantly, nonprofit organizations are founded and managed by people trying to make the world a better place. Whether they are abroad or at home, the work that these men and women do is incredibly meaningful. Without the people behind these organizations—working tirelessly to change the world, sometimes just one life at a time—the nonprofit sector would not be the force that it has become today.

Mr. Speaker, nonprofit organizations advocate for solutions to some of the great challenges facing our nation and the world, and they deserve to be recognized for their valuable contributions to society. No matter their focus, nonprofits play a pivotal role in shaping the future of America. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and to join me in designating September 2016 as "Nonprofit Organization Recognition Month."

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN AND MICK MILLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Carolyn and Mick Miller of New Market, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on April 10, 1966.

Mick and Carolyn's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. It is because of Iowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state.

I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I

know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 241, THE
ACCESS ACT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to have had the opportunity to testify today at the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice Hearing, "Examining Legislation to Promote the Effective Enforcement of the ADA's Public Accommodation Provisions."

As you know, the Americans with Disabilities Act is undoubtedly one of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation. We can all agree that providing all Americans with access to public accommodations is an invaluable legislative objective.

The purpose of the ADA is to ensure access for the disabled to public accommodation and provide appropriate remedial action for those who have suffered harm as a result of non-compliance. Although there are times when litigation by harmed individuals is necessary, there are an increasing number of lawsuits brought under the ADA that are based upon a desire to achieve financial settlements rather than to achieve the appropriate modifications for access. These lawsuits filed by serial litigants, often referred to as "drive-by lawsuits," place exorbitant legal fees on small businesses, and often times business owners are unaware of the specific nature of the allegations brought against them.

In early 2011, frivolous ADA lawsuits against small businesses reached an all-time high throughout California, and as a result, my good friend and colleague, former Congressman Dan Lungren (R-CA), championed the issue and introduced the original ACCESS Act (H.R. 3356) in the 112th Congress. I was pleased to have been afforded the opportunity to take over the legislation for reintroduction beginning in the 113th Congress. In January 2015, I reintroduced the legislation as H.R. 241, the ACCESS Act (ADA Compliance for Customer Entry to Stores and Services).

H.R. 241 is a cost-free and commonsense piece of legislation that would alleviate the financial burden small businesses are facing, while still fulfilling the purpose of the ADA. Any person aggrieved by a violation of the ADA would provide the owner or operator with a written notice of the violation, specific enough to allow such owner or operator to identify the barrier to their access. Within 60 days the owner or operator would be required to provide the aggrieved person with a description outlining improvements that would be made to address the barrier. The owner or operator would then have 120 days to make the improvement. The failure to meet any of these conditions would allow the lawsuit to go forward.

I think we can all agree that we must ensure that individuals with disabilities are afforded the same access and opportunities as those without disabilities. Frivolous lawsuits do not accomplish this goal. Allowing small business owners and cities alike to fix ADA violations

within 120 days, rather than waiting for lengthy legal battles to play out, is a more thoughtful, timely, and reasonable approach.

While the ADA is a national law, California has become ground zero for ADA violation lawsuits. In fact, California is home to more federal disability lawsuits than the next four states combined. A 2014 report determined that since 2005, more than 10,000 federal ADA lawsuits had been filed in the five states with the highest disabled populations; 7,188 of which were filed in California. Violating the ADA in California carries a minimum \$4,000 penalty in addition to the plaintiffs legal fees. As of 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 31 individuals made up at least 56 percent of federal disability lawsuits in California. As was mentioned during the second panel of today's hearing, California has 12 percent of the nation's disabled population, but accounts for over 40 percent of ADA lawsuits. Those figures and the real life toll it takes on small business owners, are why I introduced this legislation to allow for a "fix-it" period.

However, it is clear that this is not just a major problem in California. The introduction, in November 2015, of similar legislation by the gentleman from Texas, Representative TED POE, shows just that. His legislation authorizes a training and education component for the affected community and Certified Access Specialists, which I would welcome and embrace as an amendment to my bill.

This is also a bipartisan issue supported by states. I was pleased to see that California SB 269 passed unanimously in the State Assembly and Senate, and was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on May 10th, 2016. SB 269 was authored by a friend of mine, Democratic State Senator, Gen. Richard Roth. The legislation is similar to the ACCESS Act in that it allows businesses to take immediate steps to become accessible by providing them with 120 days, from receipt of a Certified Access Specialist report, to resolve any identified violations without being subject to litigation costs or statutory penalties. I worry that with California acting to curb these lawsuits, some of these serial litigants will try their trade in other states.

Without question, the ACCESS Act will ensure that the ADA is used for its true purpose of guaranteed accessibility to public accommodations for all Americans while eliminating abusive, costly and unnecessary lawsuits for small business owners.

It is more important than ever that the House of Representatives act to move this vital piece of legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday May 16, my return to Washington, D.C. was unavoidably delayed. As a result, I missed two recorded votes.

On Roll Call Vote Number 194, H.R. 4743—National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act;

On Roll Call Vote Number 195, H.R. 4407—Counterterrorism Advisory Board Act;

Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR
TECHNICAL COLLEGES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, under the leadership of Chairman JOHN KLINE held a hearing on the importance of reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

This Act provides individuals with the necessary academic and technical tools to succeed in this skills-based jobs market. We should support our career and technical colleges that improve the lives of many hard-working Americans.

In South Carolina, we have sixteen remarkable technical colleges that have been successful in helping to create jobs throughout the state and particularly the Second Congressional District. Apprenticeship Carolina has been successful in creating more than 15,000 apprentices to date, partnering with businesses such as Michelin and Continental. Thank you to their Director Brad Neese and the South Carolina technical college presidents. A special congratulations to Dr. Forest Mahan, who was selected to be the fifth president of Aiken Technical College on Monday. Godspeed President Susan Winsor.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

TRIBUTE TO THE SUNSHINE CLUB

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sunshine Club for their 61st year of fellowship, service and support in central Iowa.

The Sunshine Club was founded in 1955 by three residents of the Morrisburg area, south of Panora, Iowa. The club's membership today has 22 members of various ages who reside in the areas of Panora, Stuart, Menlo, Dexter, Redfield and Casey. Its threefold purpose of service to their community, socializing and enjoying life is what brings them together. Club members now say that faith, friendship and food has kept the group together this long.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Sunshine Club for making their communities in central Iowa a better place to live by their acts of service. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Sunshine Club and wishing them nothing but continued success.