

Don Sykes was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1936, the second of eight children born to Rose Bolden and father Chester Sykes who died when Donald was three years old. He lived in Chicago public housing while growing up, but said he never felt impoverished. Donald graduated from Wendell Phillips High School, and later taught at Phillips High School, while his younger siblings attended the school. He received a bachelor's degree at Northern Illinois University and later received a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

In 1968, Donald became the Executive Director of the Social Development Commission (SDC) in Milwaukee and joined the war on poverty. He led SDC for the next two decades and during his tenure, the agency grew into Milwaukee County's largest anti-poverty agency. I am proud to say that early in my career, I was employed by SDC in one of my first professional positions. In 1993, Donald was appointed to serve as the director of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Relations for President Clinton; he served in Washington, DC for the next seven years developing nationwide welfare and anti-poverty programs. In 2007, Donald returned to Milwaukee to assume leadership of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MWIB), known today as Employ Milwaukee—a public/private partnership that coordinates employment and training programs for adults and youth in Milwaukee County. He announced his retirement from MWIB in 2014, concluding a career of working on behalf of low-income people and the community as a whole. Donald was a gentleman who seldom spoke ill of anyone and who was open to considering differing viewpoints.

Donald married Geraldine Kirksey in 1960 and their union produced two sons, David and Dennis. In the 1970s, Donald and Gerri sponsored Trevor Knight, who became a beloved member of their family. He is survived by his wife Gerri, Sons David (Valerie), Dennis and Trevor (Laura); Grandchildren Travis (Susan), Ashley (Graham) and Tyler; Brothers Leonard and Clifton; Sisters Alberta and Patricia; Nieces Stephanie, Sharon, Jackie, Lisa, Sonja and Shamieka; Nephews Kenneth, Chris, Carleton; and numerous aunts, cousins, grand nieces and nephews. He leaves a strong legacy of leadership for his children and grandchildren to model.

Mr. Speaker, Don was my friend, and a valued member of Milwaukee and the 4th Congressional District. I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in a salute to the late Donald Sykes.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DEBBIE WATROUS AND HER SERVICE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE HUMANITIES

#### HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere gratitude for Debbie Watrous and her 24 remarkable years of service to New Hampshire Humanities.

Debbie's time and dedication to serve our state through this organization has been an in-

valuable contribution, and I congratulate and thank her on her tremendous work.

During her time as Executive Director over the last 13 years, Debbie helped make public programming more accessible. Her work allowed more Granite Staters to discover culture, history, and new ideas.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and all those who have benefitted from Debbie's work, I thank her for her many years of service to the Granite State. I wish her great joy and success at FoodCorps.

#### HONORING NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH 2017

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of National Recovery Month 2017. According to the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality's 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 20.8 million individuals aged 12 or older were classified with a substance use disorder, while approximately 43.4 million Americans aged 18 or older had a diagnosed mental illness in 2015. Moreover, in 2015, more than 8.1 million U.S. adults aged 18 or older had co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. These disorders often require long-term, high-quality treatment and support services.

Now in its 27th year, National Recovery Month is coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) every September to increase awareness of the importance of behavioral health conditions and to highlight the achievements of those who have reclaimed their lives in recovery. National Recovery Month also affords Americans the opportunity to learn more about effective prevention, treatment and recovery programs designed to assist those dealing with behavioral health challenges and to celebrate the dedicated service providers who make recovery possible.

The theme for this year's commemoration of National Recovery Month is "Join the Voices for Recovery: Strengthen Families and Communities." The 2017 theme was selected in order to highlight the critical role families and communities play in supporting individuals throughout the recovery process, as well as to encourage individuals in recovery, their family members and their support networks to stay the course by reflecting upon their shared experiences, successes and achievements. I applaud this year's National Recovery Month theme for incorporating the importance of family and community resources in promoting a positive outcome.

Here in the District of Columbia, there are thousands of women and men working day in and day out on behalf of community-based organizations, nonprofit/advocacy associations, health care providers and both local and federal government agencies to support residents who are in recovery from mental and/or substance use disorders. Entities such as the D.C. Department of Behavioral Health, University Legal Services, D.C. Superior Court Men-

tal Health Community Diversion Court, the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) all offer specialized programming and services to help those confronting behavioral health challenges.

To mark this year's commemoration of National Recovery Month, CSOSA, along with other D.C. public safety partners, will sponsor a series of events, panel discussions and programs designed to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance abuse disorders throughout the District and to promote people in recovery and those working in the field of recovery. For example, on September 12, 2017, CSOSA's Reentry and Sanctions Center will host an open house to educate the public about CSOSA's treatment services, as well as to promote the ideals and theme of National Recovery Month 2017.

With over 80 percent of CSOSA's entering population self-reporting a history of substance abuse and approximately 40 percent reporting a diagnosed mental illness, CSOSA places a priority on providing quality programming and treatment services. CSOSA provides clients in need of treatment with a variety of services, including detox and short- and long-term residential and aftercare. In addition, CSOSA's Reentry and Sanctions Center provides high-risk clients with intensive assessment and pre-treatment services as well as those with co-occurring substance use and behavioral health challenges.

Mental and/or substance use disorders affect all communities. Yet, with the proper professional help, support and treatment, we know that people suffering from these disorders can achieve healthy and productive lives in recovery. The annual commemoration of National Recovery Month is designed to celebrate the gains made by these individuals and to further educate the American public on the transformative nature of substance use treatment and mental health services.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me and the millions of other American voices of recovery this September in support of National Recovery Month 2017.

#### NATURAL DISASTERS AND THE FEDERAL RESPONSE

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma will both go down in history as two of the most costly and destructive hurricanes in United States history. Hurricane Harvey is thought to be the most powerful hurricane to hit Texas in more than 50 years. Countless individuals, homes, and businesses across the country have been left devastated in their wake. Initial estimates suggest that Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma will have caused between \$150 and \$200 billion in damage to property, homes, and public infrastructure.

These unprecedented storms have already set new records in severity and cost to our nation as we begin to look toward recovery. A strong and coordinated federal, state, and local response is absolutely vital in these critical moments following the storm. More than

two weeks since Hurricane Harvey first made landfall in Texas, we have witnessed incredible cooperation among government agencies, individuals, charitable organizations, and others who have played an important role in the response, recovery, and relief efforts that have taken place over these past few weeks.

The intensity and frequency of these storms will only increase with time, as warmer oceans and extra heat in the atmosphere caused by climate change provide even more fuel for weather systems. Studies are already demonstrating that storms are intensifying significantly faster today than they did 25 years ago. Additional water vapor in the atmosphere is also leading to extreme precipitation. In fact, Hurricane Harvey brought more than 50 inches of rainfall to the Texas Gulf Coast, representing the greatest accumulation of rainfall ever recovered in the contiguous United States from a single tropical storm.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be taking these natural disasters and the environment more seriously. The financial and social costs to our society of these natural disasters are tremendous and the effects will only get worse. The role of the federal government in disaster response is critical to our nation's swift recovery. However, the level of coordination and resources necessary to properly respond to these historic natural disasters will grow with time as bigger and stronger natural events occur. For now, we must focus on the recovery at hand by assisting the victims and their families. Many survivors will remain unable to return to their homes for weeks, while others will be left cleaning up debris and other damage for months ahead. The federal response—and the compassion and help of others—is more important now than ever before.

IN RECOGNITION OF OAKCREST  
SCHOOL'S NEW CAMPUS IN VI-  
ENNA, VIRGINIA

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the grand opening of Oakcrest School's new campus in Virginia's 10th Congressional District on Saturday, September 9th in Vienna, Virginia. Together with the opening, the first annual Inaugural Homecoming reunited classmates, faculty and friends in celebration of this wonderful expansion. Oakcrest is an independently-owned, all-girls school, grades 6 to 12, that develops strong young women of character, inspiring these individuals to challenge, lead, and serve others through an instilled faith.

Founded in 1976 in Washington, D.C. with twenty-two students, Oakcrest has grown to serve over two-hundred-twenty-five young

women, making each student well-rounded, through their mission to educate the whole person, in intellect, character, faith and leadership. This new campus in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, will offer Oakcrest the ability to grow to 330 students and eventually 450 students when they complete the second phase of campus construction. Currently this 70,000 square foot building includes a three story Virginia manor house, housing two academic wings. Students will enjoy learning in the vibrant environments of the two science labs, two music rooms with acoustic treatments, art room, and large library with a fireplace and a media center. In addition, Oakcrest will continue to build their athletics program with a brand new natural grass and softball fields.

Inspired by the teachings of the Catholic Church and the spirituality of Opus Dei, Oakcrest School develops deep love in faith and strong learning abilities, through a rich liberal arts curriculum, character development, one-on-one mentoring and service to create an encouraging environment that graduates confident and courageous young women. I appreciate the role your educators have held in shaping the future of our nation. While teaching can be an arduous task, I know it comes with its share of fulfilling moments, both inside and outside the classroom, which now includes an annual school spirit Homecoming celebration. It is due to the tireless efforts of our educators that we are able to foster a positive and nurturing learning environment for our children, and this year, able to come together as an entire Oakcrest community in celebration of our past and future achievements. More than 1,200 friends, families, current and former faculty and alumnae joined to celebrate this exciting chapter in Oakcrest's history in bringing together the largest group of Oakcrest alumnae with over 120 graduates in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Head of School, Mary T. Ortiz and the entire faculty, student body and alumnae at Oakcrest School for opening their new campus and working to unite Virginia's 10th Congressional District through this lifelong sisterhood. I wish Oakcrest a joyous year in support of lifelong faith, friendships and learning.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2017*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Chair, my amendment would prohibit funds from being used to implement a misguided and harmful rule from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration regarding occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica.

This destructive rule was first proposed in 2013 and significantly threatens jobs in a number of industries around the country including: construction, foundries, aggregates, oil and gas, brick manufacturers, maritime as well as several other industries.

The limits set in this rule are simply unworkable, without extraordinary costs to both workers and job creators in my district and manufacturing centers across America. We are talking about the loss of thousands upon thousands of American jobs.

Furthermore, even if these companies were able to meet this unreasonable requirement without putting hardworking Americans out of work, commercial laboratories have not been able to measure workplace silica levels with any accuracy or consistency making it nearly impossible for employers to determine if they are in compliance.

We are in the midst of strong economic growth, but burdensome regulations like this threaten our economic well-being. In fact, the cost of compliance for the construction industry alone has been estimated to be nearly \$5 billion per year.

This rule's impact on the Foundry industry would also be catastrophic. Independent analyses show it would cost the industry \$2.2 billion annually, which represents 9.9 percent of the industry's revenue and an astounding 276 percent of its profits.

Another key industry that will suffer under this regulation is hydraulic fracturing which uses tremendous amounts of sand. The American energy sector has boomed in recent years—increasing economic prosperity and creating thousands of jobs across America. Hydraulic fracturing is also a major reason why our nation has become more energy independent and allowed us to help our allies in Europe while countering countries such as Russia and Iran.

The deadline for the construction industry to comply with this rule is September 23.

We cannot stand by while another burdensome and unworkable regulation is piled on job creators that are finally starting to see growth. We need to act now to protect American Jobs. I encourage you to join me in voting for this amendment to stop this job-destroying rule.