

For the past ten years, the magazine has published a special edition bilingual magazine dedicated to the fight against cancer, titled "El Aviso Relay for Life." In addition, through hard work, perseverance, and dedication to the communities it serves, the magazine has raised more than \$120,000 for the American Cancer Society's Southeast Cities Relay for Life over the past ten years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in sending best wishes and congratulations to Jose Zepeda, Jessica Maes Zepeda, and their El Aviso Magazine team on the celebration of their 30th anniversary. They have played a vital role in informing Latino communities across Southern California over the past 30 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUSTAINABLE FARMLAND FOR THE FUTURE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the Farm Bill is one of the most important bills that most Americans have never heard of. It impacts our economy, environment, and what we eat. It is important that Congress gets the upcoming reauthorization right.

Today, I am introducing the Sustainable Farmland for the Future Act. This bill builds upon the progress we made in the 2014 Farm Bill to promote the long-term sustainability of farmland and better protect the environment.

In 1985, Congress enacted conservation compliance in the Farm Bill, codifying the compact between taxpayers, farmers, and landowners to provide stability through subsidies in return for responsible stewardship of farmland and the surrounding environment. The 1985 Farm Bill simply required most farm subsidy recipients to implement basic conservation practices on vulnerable farmland and wetlands. The 2014 Farm Bill improved this measure by expanding the conservation compact to recipients of crop insurance premium subsidies. While the USDA has found that the current conservation compact has successfully reduced runoff and soil erosion, Congress must do more.

The Sustainable Farmland for the Future Act would strengthen the conservation compact by requiring farmers who receive taxpayer assistance to abide by basic, common-sense conservation standards on all of their land, not just "highly erodible land" and converted wetland. By complying with these expanded standards and acting as good stewards, farmers will be honoring the commitment made to the taxpayers who provide for their farm subsidies.

I believe that the Sustainable Farmland for the Future Act is one of the 115th Congress's most important pieces of environmental legislation and should be considered for inclusion in the 2018 Farm Bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA NIESS-MAY FOR 15 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE AT SAFEHOUSE CENTER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Niess-May for her 15 years of service at SafeHouse Center in Washtenaw County. As Executive Director of SafeHouse Center, Mrs. Niess-May's leadership and expertise have impacted countless lives and greatly enhanced the Center's programming capabilities.

SafeHouse Center first opened its doors in 1978 with the hope of providing leadership and support for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence in Washtenaw County. The organization's founding mission has endured throughout the years, and SafeHouse has been able to expand its services through popular public support and a 1992 millage that funded a new facility with increased boarding capacity. Today, due to the Center's new location, over 5,500 women and children are served out of the shelter every year.

Since joining SafeHouse as Executive Director in 2002, Mrs. Niess-May has overseen the agency's daily operations and is critical to the continued growth and success of the organization. She has advocated for survivors and implemented programs to help both women and children get back on their feet by finding safe and affordable housing, employment, and childcare. Successful SafeHouse programs include a children's playroom, Teen Voice Peer Education at local schools, and four different onsite support groups. Additionally, Mrs. Niess-May works as an adjunct faculty member at Eastern Michigan University's School of Social Work and Graduate School of Criminology, bringing her real world experience to the classroom and educating the next generation of social workers. She has saved many lives, been a shelter for those desperate for a hand, and is a leader in changing the dialogue on domestic abuse. It is my hope that Mrs. Niess-May continues to advocate on behalf of domestic violence survivors and build on her lifetime of distinguished work supporting women and children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Barbara Niess-May for 15 years of outstanding service at SafeHouse Center. Her tenure at SafeHouse has greatly contributed to the organization's ability to provide important services and support to women in need.

RECOGNIZING HAZEL THOMPSON

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent, Hazel Thompson, who is celebrating her 100th birthday this month.

Ms. Thompson has spent her life serving our country and local community. Born and raised in Vermont, she has dedicated her life to helping and advocating for others. She started her career as a nurse and devoted

thousands of hours volunteering with the Red Cross where she received several awards for her selfless service. In 1972, after our area was devastated by flooding from Hurricane Agnes, Ms. Thompson once again answered the call and devoted her time to helping her community and neighbors in Elmira, New York.

Ms. Thompson has been a member of the Ladies Auxiliary at the American Legion Post 443 in Elmira, New York for seventy years. She is a true patriot and has volunteered at other veterans' organizations. Ms. Thompson has been a member of the AARP for decades and has served as a Board Member for Chapter 246 and as editor for its Spotlight newsletter for years. She has also volunteered with the Girl Scouts, Food Bank and at Westminster Presbyterian Church of which she is a member.

Ms. Thompson has been a recipient of several honors and awards in recognition of her generous spirit and endless dedication to helping others. As the team captain for the AARP's annual Alzheimer's Walk team, she was awarded the Grand Champion medal in honor of her fundraising. She was awarded the Chemung County Senior Citizen of the Year in 1988, and in 2010, Ms. Thompson was awarded the prestigious Jefferson Award in recognition for her lifelong commitment to community service. She is truly an inspiration to us all.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Hazel Thompson's 100th birthday and recognizing her life-long commitment to service.

HONORING BETTY OLDS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Betty Olds. She passionately served on the Berkeley City Council for 16 years and advocated for the environment, women, and animal rights until her passing at the age of 96 on July 16, 2017.

Ms. Olds was born Betty Marion Milne in St. Joseph, Missouri on October 19, 1920, and grew up in Holt County. She attended Iowa State University, where she graduated in 1942 with a degree in Home Economics and met her future husband, Walter Olds. Together they had three children.

In 1950, Ms. Olds and her family moved to the Bay Area. While her husband was away in Okinawa for several years, Ms. Olds planted her roots in the city of Berkeley to raise her family, and became a substitute teacher at Garfield Middle School. She eventually became the Dean of Students at Willard Middle School, and was instrumental in evacuating the school and ensuring student safety when UC Berkeley protestors were tear-gassed in the Bloody Thursday riot of 1969.

After committing her time to several city commissions, Ms. Olds was elected to the Berkeley City Council in 1992 where she made an immediate impact in the creation of a new fire station in the Berkeley Hills, following the devastating Oakland Hills fire of 1991.

Ms. Olds was also a founding member of Save the Bay, a group that fights to protect

and restore the environment of the San Francisco Bay.

In 2007, Ms. Olds made national news when she protested the destruction of a grove of oak trees to construct a sports training facility next to UC Berkeley's Memorial Stadium. Although she was 87 years old, Ms. Olds, along with former Mayor Shirley Dean and Save the Bay founder Sylvia McLaughlin, climbed into an 80-foot-high tree to prevent it from being cut down.

Ms. Olds was known for her humor and lively spirit. She often made jokes to her colleagues that they referred to as "Bettyisms." She was an outspoken Council member, unafraid to take on opposing views, and was known for her pragmatic approach to local policymaking. Ms. Olds was adored by many and was greeted by a cheering crowd when she walked into the Council Chambers on the day of her retirement in 2008.

That same year, Ms. Olds was voted "Best Politician" by East Bay Express readers; and in 2014, a path in the Berkeley hills, connecting Sterling Avenue and Whitaker Avenue was named in her honor.

Today, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, it is my honor to commend the life and achievements of Ms. Betty Olds. I offer my sincere gratitude to Ms. Olds for her activism and civic leadership, and for the profound legacy she has left in the East Bay community. I also offer my condolences to Ms. Olds' family and friends as they cope with this immeasurable loss and join together to celebrate Ms. Olds' life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNUAL OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALK

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, last weekend we recognized National Suicide Prevention Week in Northern Virginia.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention National Capital Area chapter hosted their 10th annual signature fundraising event, Out of the Darkness on Saturday, September 16th in Fairfax County, Virginia. Over the past ten years, Out of the Darkness has been vital to the rehabilitation of the human spirit here in Northern Virginia, and has been an integral part of the changing attitude towards suicide prevention and mental health awareness, allowing individuals from all backgrounds and stages of grief to come together in support of each other. The success of this year's walk, bringing together over 860 attendees and raising over \$90,000, attests to the meaningful impact of this chapter in support of Northern Virginian neighbors and their families.

We have lost 1,122 precious lives, perhaps more, due to suicide in the last 12 months in Virginia, including children and veterans. The National Capital Area chapter's extensive work in providing community resources, including crisis numbers for the Veteran Combat Call Center, Veteran's Crisis Line, Suicide Prevention Line, and a texting option, have im-

mensely benefited those who are seeking immediate assistance and support. These services are crucial, and especially helpful to those who are fearful in seeking assistance, and I thank you for all your efforts in supporting these programs.

Out of the Darkness was supported by a variety of partners in prevention from across Fairfax County that shared resources to people and their families in various stages of grief, including the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid and the Department, INOVA Fairfax Hospital, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Virginia Professional Firefighters & Paramedics—IAFF Local 2068, IAFF Financial Corporation, Fairfax County Employee Advisory Council, Fairfax County Live Well Program, Interstate Van Lines, Shirley Contracting, 29 Diner Restaurants, JV's Restaurant, Austin Grill, Everymind.org, Trevor Project, Divine Elements Healing Home, Virginia Academy of Clinical Psychological Services, Abiding Hope Counseling Services, Yava Yoga, David J. Cobb Foundation, Youth for Tomorrow and many other local community businesses and elected officials.

I thank them again for working to support the lives of Fairfax County families as well as those in the surrounding region. I am pleased to represent the National Capital Area chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and its partners in the 10th District, and I wish them the best as they continue to bring awareness to suicide prevention and behavioral health.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Virginia's Tenth Congressional District, I ask that you join me in recognizing the positive impact of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention National Capital Area chapter Out of the Darkness Community Walk these past ten years.

HONORING MR. JOE PICARD

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe Picard for his service in the 65th Infantry Regiment, the "Borinqueneers." The 65th Infantry Regiment was the largest and longest-standing segregated Latino military unit in our country's history, and the Borinqueneers service in the face of discrimination led Congress to award these veterans the well-deserved Congressional Gold Medal in 2014.

The Borinqueneers trace their history to 1898, when Congress authorized the creation of a military unit in Puerto Rico. For more than a century, members of the 65th Infantry Regiment served honorably in our Armed Services, displaying valor and distinction in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. In fact, the Borinqueneers are credited with firing the first American shots in the First World War after stopping a German supply ship from leaving San Juan Bay in 1915.

Throughout both World Wars, the Borinqueneers defended the Panama Canal

Zone, and some members of the regiment served in North Africa and Central Europe during World War II. The regiment became a key force during the Korean War after distinguishing itself during the Operation PORTREX military exercise. Over 2,700 Borinqueneers earned Purple Hearts during the Korean War, and some Borinqueneers led the last regimental bayonet assault in U.S. military history.

Despite their honorable service by thousands, the Borinqueneers faced segregation and regular discrimination in the Armed Forces. Our country owes these veterans our thanks, and we must remember the story of the Borinqueneers as role models for national service.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Picard served our country in the 65th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War despite the danger and discrimination that the Borinqueneers faced. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING KEMAL PASAMEHMETOGLU FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AT THE IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Kemal Pasamehmetoglu for his leadership at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). For the past five and a half years, Dr. Pasamehmetoglu has served as the Associate Laboratory Director for Nuclear Science & Technology at INL.

Dr. Pasamehmetoglu has been instrumental in supporting the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy in developing the roadmap and setting national research and development priorities. His vision and passion for nuclear energy has been a huge asset to INL, the Office of Nuclear Energy, and the nation.

During his tenure, Kemal traveled the globe serving in leadership positions in multi-national collaborative efforts. He enhanced INL's reputation nationally and internationally as a groundbreaking laboratory for nuclear energy research and development.

Most recently, Kemal led the national effort to develop the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) initiative and served as its first National Director. The GAIN initiative provides the nuclear community with access to the technical, regulatory, and financial support necessary to move innovative nuclear energy technologies toward commercialization while ensuring the continued safe, reliable, and economic operation of the existing nuclear fleet.

Kemal has accepted a new position at INL as the Executive Director of the Versatile Fast Neutron Source Research and Development Initiative. A fast reactor would be groundbreaking in providing next generation nuclear fuel testing capabilities.

Kemal holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Central Florida and has more than 30 years of research engineering experience within the national laboratory system.