

While disagreements exist regarding potential longer-term changes to our higher education data regime, this bill is a key step that would improve students' access to data that already exists. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

MIDNIGHT CIRCUS IN THE PARKS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an initiative launched to raise community funds and to rebuild parks—Midnight Circus in the Parks.

The program is presented in part by the Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parks, which brings over 1,000 cultural events to neighborhood parks each year. The program is in its 5th year and the Night Out in the Parks series has brought more than 1,000 events to neighborhood parks throughout the City of Chicago, making community parks safe havens and hubs of cultural activity.

Jeff Jenkins, founder and executive director of Midnight Circus in the Parks, envisioned a perfect opportunity to bring his circus to the community and raise money for park improvements. Midnight Circus tours Chicago parks every year bringing over 15,000 people together in their park to celebrate and make a difference. This venture is a true family collaboration; Jeff's wife, Julie, is the artistic director; their son, Maxwell, is an acrobat and musician in the show, and their daughter, Samantha, does the trapeze. Their rescued pit bull also performs. Every year, they add new and incredible artists.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Jenkins Family for launching Midnight Circus in the Parks, and the Chicago Park District for having the vision to bring a circus to the Chicago communities and for all their countless hours of volunteer efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF LT. KEN HOBBS FOR BEING NAMED YPSILANTI'S 2017 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Ken Hobbs for being named 2017 Firefighter of the Year by the Washtenaw 100 Honors' Board of Membership. He has distinguished himself through his outstanding public service and advocacy on behalf of the Ypsilanti Fire Department and community.

Since joining the Ypsilanti Fire Department in 1986, Lt. Hobbs has worked tirelessly to protect Ypsilanti residents and promote a positive relationship between the department and city at large. The City of Ypsilanti Fire Department is a full-time department that provides prevention and protective fire services to Ypsilanti and the Eastern Michigan University campus, and Lt. Hobbs is well regarded by the more than 40,000 constituents served by the

department. Throughout his career, he has made it a priority to give back to the community he serves by holding community fire prevention and education workshops and attending various fundraisers throughout the year.

In addition to being recognized as Washtenaw 100 Honors' Firefighter of the Year, Lt. Hobbs has served as President of the Ypsilanti Firefighters Union for many years and has received widespread acclaim for promoting unity between the union and fire department. Additionally, he has played a key role in securing grants for the department through the Department of Homeland Security, which has allowed for increased firefighting staff and much-needed equipment. Their success in securing federal grants over the years speaks to the quality of their applications and the great work being done by Lt. Hobbs and his fellow firefighters. Lt. Hobbs has also been instrumental in fostering greater diversity at the department and advocated for hiring a female firefighter with a 2014 Department of Homeland Security grant. His dedication and efforts on behalf of the city of Ypsilanti are worthy of commendation, and I know that Lt. Hobbs will continue his diligent work on behalf of the area residents in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lt. Ken Hobbs for being named Ypsilanti's Firefighter of the Year. His advocacy and service on behalf of the citizens and firefighters of our community are worthy of public acclaim.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFF CARROLL'S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE ON MY STAFF

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor my longtime Chief of Staff and the current Staff Director for the Energy & Commerce Committee Democrats, Jeff Carroll, on 20 outstanding years serving on my staff.

My office, the Energy & Commerce Committee, the Congress, and the entire state of New Jersey have benefited enormously from Jeff's steady leadership, strategic guidance, and commitment to achieving meaningful progress.

Jeff is known on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Capitol for his candor, negotiating skills, and boisterous laugh. He is a diehard fan of the Mets, Giants, Bruce Springsteen, and the vaunted pork roll. He's a Jersey guy, through and through.

A native of Lyndhurst, N.J., Jeff joined my office as an Executive Assistant in 1997 after graduating from George Washington University and briefly serving as a Staff Assistant to Senator Robert Torricelli. Within six years, he became my Chief of Staff, serving with distinction the people New Jersey's Sixth Congressional District for 12 years. In 2015, when I was elected the Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Jeff became the Democratic Staff Director.

Jeff has been by my side through my greatest trials and achievements in office, relentlessly pushing forward and always holding himself and my staff to the highest standards. He is my most trusted advisor, and I thank

him for his unwavering commitment and immeasurable contributions over the years.

I also want to acknowledge the support provided to Jeff by his wife Shannon, daughter Lizzie and son Ryan, who share this dedicated husband and father with the House.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have benefited from Jeff Carroll's 20 years here in the House. I look forward to our continued work together in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MOTHER GENEVA GREEN RUSSELL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Geneva Green Russell of Boynton Beach, Florida, who passed away at the age of 100 on May 6, 2017. Georgia-born and Florida educated, Mother Russell received her primary education in Delray Beach public schools.

Mother Russell spiritual life began at the young age of twelve. She was one of the charter members of the then, newly established Church of God in Boynton Beach and served over the years in numerous capacities, including church secretary, musician, and the Women's Ministries President. On June 21, 1936, Mother Russell married Bishop Milton Russell of Abacoa, Bahamas, and alongside him ministered to the needs of her church, family, and community.

She was also a passionate philanthropist, serving as past president of the Parent Teacher Association and distinct member of the Senior Citizens Community Help Club. During this time, she provided medical transportation for sick and elderly citizens and amongst her friends and neighbors, became the "Designated Driver" for her group known as the "Golden Girls."

Mother Russell led her family by example as a strong Christian loving mother, and endlessly server of her community. Fond memories of her will forever remain with her seven children: Milton Jr., Jean, Joyce, Marjorie, Bernard, Evelyn and Stanley; fifteen grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and twelve great-great-grandchildren, along with many relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Geneva Green Russell will be remembered by the many people she touched in her 100 years of life. She was truly a shining star of the Boynton Beach community. I am so pleased to honor her life and legacy. She will be dearly missed.

HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY FORT STOCKTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Fort Stockton Independent School District, a premiere public school district dedicated to the education of students in West Texas.

Fort Stockton Independent School District was approved in the 35th state legislature on May 17, 1917. It is now home to five public schools and over 2,500 students, teachers, and staff. Over the past two-and-a-half years, I have visited Fort Stockton Independent School District on numerous occasions. In fact, I was able to participate in the Coin Toss at a Panther football game this month.

Today I applaud the graduates and countless faculty and staff members who have helped spread the knowledge, skills, and values they learned at Fort Stockton Independent School District with Texas, the United States, and the entire world. The positive impact of this public school system resonates across Texas' 23rd Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HORSE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACT OF 2017

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Horse Transportation Safety Act, a bill I introduced earlier today along with my esteemed colleague, Rep. JONES from North Carolina, to ensure the humane and safe transportation of horses.

The Horse Transportation Safety Act seeks to end the exploitation of a regulatory loophole designed to ban the transport of horses in double-deck trailers, whereby drivers have an incentive to inhumanely transport horses to assembly points, then reload them into single level trailers just outside their final destination.

The practice is dangerous and inhumane not only to the horses, it poses a threat to the travelling public.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "double-deck trailers do not provide adequate headroom for equines, with the possible exception of foals and yearlings. We do not believe that trailers that have two or more permanent levels that are not collapsible can be adequately altered to accommodate adult equines, especially tall equines."

The legislation is strongly supported by agricultural interests and animal protection groups alike. Among the organizations endorsing the bill are the Humane Society of the United States, the Animal Welfare Institute, the National Black Farmers Association, and Return to Freedom Wild Horse Conservation.

Moreover, in 2010 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure unanimously adopted this bipartisan legislation.

This is common sense legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the swift passage of the Horse Transportation Safety Act.

HONORING THE HARRIET TUBMAN PRESS IMPRINT

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Harriet Tubman Press on the occasion of its first publication.

The Harriet Tubman Press, an imprint of Tsehai Publishers, is an important new publishing platform based in Los Angeles, California. It is named after one of the great icons of American history, and it is one of the only imprints in the country dedicated to providing a platform for the voices of today's African-American scholars and writers.

The Harriet Tubman Press is housed in the Marymount Institute for Faith, Culture, and the Arts at Loyola Marymount University, which is one of the centers of higher learning in my congressional district—the 43rd District in California.

The first publication of the Harriet Tubman Press will be *Voices from Leimert Park Redux*, a diverse collection of poetry that beautifully captures the heartbeat of the Leimert Park community. For decades, this Los Angeles neighborhood has been a thriving beacon of African-American activism, culture, and the arts. At a time when gentrification and displacement threaten neighborhoods across Southern California, the preservation of African-American cultural heritage in Leimert Park could not be more important.

I congratulate Loyola Marymount University, Tsehai Publishing, the Harriet Tubman Press, and all the members of the South Central Los Angeles community that worked so hard to make this first publication possible. Your dedication and fortitude is necessary to the preservation of the African-American voice. I'd like to further thank the artists, authors, and poets who stand up and propel that voice into our country's consciousness. Your voices are the only currency that can never be taken from you.

May the first publication of the Harriet Tubman Press signal the birth of a new force devoted to propelling, celebrating, and highlighting African-American culture through literature.

RECOGNIZING RUBY'S PLACE ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ruby's Place on the celebration of its 45th anniversary, to take place on Thursday, October 19.

Ruby's Place is a nonprofit organization founded in 1972 in Hayward, California. It was a pioneer in California in recognizing the need to provide shelter to victims of domestic violence.

Ruby's Place today provides services and shelter to homeless individuals and families, with a focus on helping victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. These services include a 24-hour crisis hotline, case management, mental health treatment, and children's programming. As this shows, Ruby's Place helps people both in their time of immediate need and provides assistance so they can get back on their feet.

Just as one example, during the 2015–2016 fiscal year, the counselors at Ruby's Place answered over 4,500 calls on its crisis hotline and provided 724 individual counseling sessions. One hundred seventy of these sessions were with children who have been affected by domestic violence.

I had the honor of recognizing Ruby's Place on the House Floor in October 2013, in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I am committed to continuing to fight domestic violence and working with organizations on the front lines, like Ruby's Place.

Over an amazing 45 years, about 6,000 adults and children have benefitted directly from Ruby's Place. I am incredibly grateful for its commitment to securing stable housing and supportive services for those in need, and I am honored to represent it in Congress. Our community is better and stronger for its tireless efforts.

I want to congratulate Ruby's Place on stabilizing the lives of individuals and families in the Bay Area for the last 45 years, and I wish it continued success in the future.

HONORING THE HALL COUNTY REACT PROGRAM AND THE NEW WELDING SHOP

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the grand opening of the Hall County Correction Institute's welding shop—a new addition to Hall County's Re-entry Accountability Court Transition program—which will equip inmates with skills that they can take with them as they re-enter society.

Since 2014, the local accountability court program has assisted offenders by providing vocational resources that can help deter recidivism and restore these individuals as productive members of the community. By allowing program participants to obtain state certifications in welding, the program will help people who will soon be released to find job security upon their departure.

Criminal justice reform is a priority for northeast Georgia as it is for me in Washington, which is why I introduced the Prison Reform and Redemption Act to help lower recidivism rates among federal prisoners through vocational training and other evidence-based programs.

Mr. Speaker, every person has value, and efforts like the Hall County Correction Institute's welding shop recognize and seek to magnify that value and potential. Investing in all of our neighbors—even those who have broken the law—can pave the way for stronger, safer communities for every man, woman, and child.

I thank Sheriff Couch and the Hall County Sheriff's Department for their commitment to improving the lives of inmates, and look forward to seeing the impact that the welding initiative will make on northeast Georgia.

HONORING THE CARDOZA FAMILY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, family reunions are a great way of staying connected, strengthening bonds and recognizing heritage.