

tenure in Congress, I have fought to improve women's healthcare, advance pay equity, and make sure girls have access to every educational opportunity that is available to boys.

With the Trump administration now in the White House, I am very concerned that the significant progress made to improve women's lives are under threat of being diminished, rolled back or extinguished. I remain fully committed to standing up, speaking out and championing the rights of women and girls.

This past weekend I attended an event hosted by the International Institute of Minnesota (IIM) to celebrate International Women's Day. It was a tremendous honor to receive IIM's 2017 Olga Zoltai Award for Service to New Americans. Special thanks to Jane Graupman, IIM's amazing executive director, and Kitty Gogins, IIM's board chair and daughter of Olga Zoltai. IIM's staff works hard doing the important work of resettling refugees. Their work builds a strong foundation for new American families that helps them achieve success and self-sufficiency.

Unfortunately, the anti-immigrant executive orders issued by the Trump administration, especially the refugee ban, can only be called a betrayal of our values as Americans and the core beliefs that make this a great country.

As I said in my remarks upon receiving this special award, "There is amazing strength and perseverance in each and every refugee story. The millions of women, men and children who have found their way to America have made this country better. Their courage must now be our courage as we resist isolationism, bigotry, and the scapegoating of good people seeking freedom and a new life in America."

I include in the RECORD my full remarks and a brief biography of Olga Zoltai who was truly an amazing woman.

Throughout my career in Congress I have made the rights of women and girls a priority.

We want a more peaceful, prosperous world, a world where children are healthy and families are strong, then let us invest in women and girls.

The United States is the wealthiest nation on Earth. We must be investing in women and girls, not cutting funding and assistance that saves lives, protects the vulnerable and builds better futures.

Empowering women and girls is not controversial, it is essential. It means giving every girl the opportunity she deserves—the right—to go to school and receive an education. It means eliminating discrimination, exploitation and violence against women and girls—whether it be trafficking, forced marriage of girls, or pay discrimination right here in the United States.

Empowering women means access to employment, healthcare, and safe childcare. And, empowering women means asking a room full of women to think about standing up and be leaders—maybe running for elected office one day—for school board, city council, mayor, the state legislature, or the even the U.S. Congress.

I am sure that each of us here today is very concerned about new policies that are coming out of this White House that impact refugees. In my view, these policies are a betrayal of America's values and the core beliefs that make this a great country.

We must resist these close minded and harmful policies. We must resist in Congress, in the courts, and in our communities. But it is

also critical to continue to be welcoming, caring and embracing of all New Americans. It is more important than ever.

There is amazing strength and perseverance in each and every refugee story. The millions of women, men and children who have found their way to America have made this country better. Their courage must now be our courage as we resist isolationism, bigotry, and the scapegoating of good people seeking freedom and a new life in America.

Olga Zoltai was a refugee who dedicated her life to welcoming refugees. Olga's work is now our work and must continue this important work the same passion and commitment.

Thank you for this very special award—I will treasure it. And, I will carry Olga in my heart as we fight to keep America a country that welcomes refugees and strives to offer hope, opportunity and freedom to all people.

Thank you, Kitty. Thank you, Jane. And, thank you to everyone here today.

OLGA ZOLTAI, PATRON SAINT OF IMMIGRANTS

On Thursday, June 9, 2016, former Institute staff member Olga Zoltai passed away. Olga was a tireless advocate for refugees and immigrants. Her tenacity and dedication improved the lives of thousands of New Americans in our community. A refugee herself—at the age of 13, Olga and her family fled her hometown of Sopron, Hungary as Soviet forces invaded—Olga worked at the International Institute of Minnesota from 1971 to 1993. During her years at the Institute, Olga designed innovative programs that responded to the needs of New Americans, transforming and strengthening our community.

When Olga heard that a new federal program to resettle refugees was beginning in 1974, she knew the Institute had to do this work. The Institute's Executive Director was on his honeymoon in Thailand when Olga heard about this opportunity. No one knew exactly where in Thailand he was honeymooning, but they did know he would not be back until after the application deadline had passed. Not to be deterred, Olga began calling hotels to see if a guest matching his description was staying there. She eventually found him, received his approval, and applied. Thanks to Olga, the Institute has welcomed more than 25,000 refugees to our community.

Olga was the caseworker who welcomed the first Hmong refugees to Minnesota in February 1976. She got the call of their arrival the night before the family's 6 a.m. arrival. The youngest child arrived wearing just a t-shirt, but Olga and the church sponsoring the family brought blankets to the airport.

Olga Zoltai with her three children Kitty, Lili, and Peter (left to right).

It is now common for refugee resettlement agencies to have caseworkers who are from the communities they serve, and it was Olga who hired the first bi-lingual case manager in Minnesota.

Olga founded the Nursing Assistant Training Program in 1991 to provide New Americans access to entry-level jobs in healthcare. In the program's 25 years, more than 1,900 nursing assistants have been employed. At a recent Nursing Assistant graduation, the class speaker declared: "Today is the greatest accomplishment of our lives. Today, we begin our lives as caregivers. You are changing not just our lives, but our family's lives as well."

Additionally, Olga worked on hundreds of political asylum cases and was known to be a unwavering advocate for those the most complex cases.

"I was so lucky, you know?" Olga said when she reflected on her life's story. When her chance came, "I was able to help."

Olga was awarded the eponymous "Olga Zoltai Award for Outstanding Service to New Americans" at the Institute's International Women's Day Tea in March 2016.

TRIBUTE TO MAURICE L. "MAURI" WILLIAMSON

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a prominent Hoosier leader and my dear friend, Mr. Maurice L. (Mauri) Williamson who passed away on January 30, 2017 surrounded by his loving family.

Mauri was born in Economy, Indiana and spent his childhood participating in 4-H. He served in the Navy Medical Corps until 1946, after which he received his undergraduate degree from Purdue University in 1950. He was known throughout the state as the executive secretary of the Purdue University Ag Alumni Association, a position he held for 37 years. During his Purdue career, Mauri helped found the National Ag Alumni Development Association (NAADA) and started the Ag Alumni Fish Fry.

Mauri put a lot of care and dedication into his work. After graduating from Purdue, he returned to the family farm, but he soon found he was better suited spending his time with people rather than with plants and animals. In 1961, he founded the Pioneer Village at the Indiana State Fair to preserve and display the history of Indiana agriculture. Mauri held court there each summer, visiting with his ever-expanding legion of friends acquired through his lifetime commitment to Purdue and to agriculture. He had a deep love for the Indiana State Fair and only missed attending while serving in the Navy during World War II.

I was first introduced to Mauri when I served as Indiana's Secretary of State. He made it clear to me, in the way only he could do, the importance of farming and agriculture community to the past, present and future of Indiana. Even today, my family, and especially my two young sons, enjoys the fruit of his labor each August when we visit the Pioneer Village at the best State Fair in the nation. As a member of Congress, I continue to keep our past conversations in mind when voting on agriculture issues.

Mauri leaves June, his beloved wife of 68 years, two children, three grandchildren and five great grandchildren to carry on his legacy of service to fellow Hoosiers. I believe this world is a better place because of his compassionate service to our community, state and nation. Rest in peace, Mauri. He will not be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Michigan State Police as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary. We

Michiganders are so grateful for Michigan State Police's century of law enforcement excellence, selfless service, and tireless dedication to communities across Michigan.

Originally organized as a temporary, war-time emergency force to provide domestic security during World War I, the force was formally reorganized two years later as the Michigan State Police. In April of 1917, a small band of 300 mounted men became the first Michigan State Police troopers, and over the last 100 years, they have become a world-class, professional law enforcement agency with over 2,900 members. In the First District, we are grateful to have ten Michigan State Police posts serving men and women in every community.

From Alpena to Iron Mountain and Traverse City to the Soo, each Michigan State Police trooper takes on the sacred oath to serve and protect our families and homes when he or she puts on the uniform. You do more than protect, you inspire and build relationships in our communities through creative partnerships and programs ranging from direct engagement with Community Service Troopers to Teen Safe Driving programs that keep our most precious resource, our children, safe. It's your commitment to integrity, excellence, and courtesy that has led to real results in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Michigan State Police for 100 years of service. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing that Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula are better and safer places thanks to the work and dedication of the Michigan State Police. On behalf of my constituents and residents across the State of Michigan, congratulations, Michigan State Police, on 100 years of exceptional service.

SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE'S MIG TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP 4 YEARS IN A ROW

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Southeastern Illinois College's Model Illinois Government team's success at the 2017 Model Illinois Government competition. Southeastern's team won the Outstanding Large Delegation Award, earning its tenth Outstanding Delegation Award in 14 years, and fourth in a row.

Southeastern is the smallest school in terms of enrollment at the simulation and not only defeated much larger community colleges, but also Universities including the University of Illinois at Springfield, Eastern, and Western Universities. Southeastern led all schools in total points, leadership positions, and controlled both the House Democrat and Senate Republican caucuses. Southeastern set new school records for floor leadership positions (six) and total points (sixteen). Tracy Stokich and Casper Johns won the Award for Outstanding Original Legislation, while William Tippet was named Outstanding First Year Delegate, and Morgan Denbo won the Outstanding Member of the House of Representatives Award.

Team members were elected to 4 committee spokesperson positions, two committee

chairs, while Evan Doughty was elected House Majority Leader, and Ryan Dennison was elected Senate Minority Leader. William Tippet and Grant Loudy were also elected as Assistant Leaders in their respective chambers, while Dana Hooven and Chloe Brandon were elected as floor whips.

The Southeastern Model Illinois Government team, coached by Matt Lees, consists of Chloe Brandon, Ryan Dennison, Morgan Denbo, Evan Doughty, Reagan Gray, Dana Hooven, Stephanie (Casper) Johns, William Johnson, Granton Loudy, Braden Scroggins, Tracy Stokich, Nolan Sutton, and William Tippet.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the continued success of the Southeastern Model Illinois Government team, and I extend my best wishes to them for another outstanding season next year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on H.R. 1362, To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Pago Pago, American Samoa, the Faleomavaega Eni Fa'aua'a Hunkin VA Clinic, on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. I had intended to vote "yes" on Roll Call vote 127, and "no" on Roll Call vote 128.

HONORING JUDY TABAR, PRESIDENT & CEO OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in extending my deepest thanks and appreciation to my good friend, Judy Tabar, as she marks her retirement as President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. Under her leadership over the last two decades, PPSNE has stood at the forefront of every major effort to expand the organization's role in health care and education. Though she will most certainly be missed, she leaves a strong foundation on which PPSNE can continue to build.

Nearly five decades ago, Judy first joined Planned Parenthood as a physician assistant, providing direct patient care. Through her work with patients, she developed a deeper understanding of their needs and how Planned Parenthood could better meet. She soon became Associate Director of Planned Parenthood New England and twenty years ago took on the mantle of President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. In addition to her work throughout Southern New England, Judy has served in numerous leadership roles within the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), and currently serves on the PPFA Board of Directors.

As President and CEO, Judy has overseen PPSNE's eighteen health centers, managed its \$30 million annual budget, and guided it through a 42 percent patient increase over the course of her tenure. It has been through Judy's vision and unwavering dedication that PPSNE has expanded its services to include primary care as well as a clinical research program. Under her leadership, PPSNE has focused on reducing teen birth rates and reducing racial and ethnic health disparities by removing barriers to services and information. Today, PPSNE serves nearly 70,000 patients with preventative care making up 90 percent of the services provided. A visionary by any definition, Judy has placed PPSNE on the cutting edge of reproductive health care service expansion.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to extend a special note of thanks to Judy for her friendship and support over the years. She has been an invaluable resource to both myself and my staff. I am confident that I speak for everyone who has had the opportunity to work with Judy over the years when I say her passion, compassion, tenacity, and commitment will be deeply missed.

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England stands as a model for affiliates across the country and that is in large part because of Judy Tabar. She has left an indelible mark on this outstanding organization and a legacy that will continue to inspire others to ensure that everyone has access to the affordable, quality reproductive health care they need and deserve. I am honored to stand today to extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Judy Tabar, for her outstanding leadership and good work, as well as my very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness as she enjoys her retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED MARCH 14

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on information surrounding the Marines United website.

SR-222