

sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman: Nancy Weiss, of Santa Barbara, California.

After graduating from Boston University, Nancy attended the Culinary Institute with the hope of becoming one of the nation's best chefs. Soon after graduating from the Culinary Institute, she went to work for chef Gabino Sotelino. Nancy quickly became the head chef of a restaurant in Arizona, but wanted to create a place of her own. She opened an upscale pizzeria called Pop's, and two years after the opening her restaurant was featured on a PBS television special titled "Great Chefs of the West."

Now, Nancy is the Director of Food Services for the Santa Barbara School District (SBUSD), and she has revolutionized food service for our students to an incredibly high standard. She has eradicated fried foods, high fructose corn syrup, and frozen entrees from the menu to give students the healthiest choices for their daily meals. Nancy has also made an enormous mark on making public school cafeterias more environmentally friendly by banning Styrofoam trays.

Nancy is dedicated to the health of her students, and guarantees that every fruit and vegetable are sourced from local Santa Barbara farmers. Nancy has also enlisted a fleet of six food trucks to serve students at elementary schools without a cafeteria, and two preschool sites without meal programs. Nancy wants to ensure that our students can eat well during the summer months, and has expanded her responsibilities to include serving Santa Barbara's kids over school vacations.

She has gone above and beyond the call of duty and has led the way for current and future Food Service Directors. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Nancy Weiss, for her incredible service to her community.

DUNK CITY

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Florida Gulf Coast University with their return into March Madness for a second year in a row. The Eagles scored a big win against the No. 3 seed North Florida on Sunday. This is the third NCAA Tournament appearance for the Eagles since 2013.

I applaud the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles and Head Coach Dooley for their victory. There is a reason why FGCU is known as Dunk City—now go shut down more shot clocks.

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND ITS IMPACT IN THE THIRTIETH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the National Endowment for the Arts was established in 1965 as an investment in our shared culture as a nation. President Lyndon Johnson at the signing ceremony for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act stated that "In the long history of man, countless empires and nations have come and gone. Those which created no lasting works of art are reduced today to short footnotes in history's catalog." I could not agree with this statement more.

Over the past five years, the NEA has provided grants totaling more than \$1.4 million to local artists and organizations within the thirtieth district of Texas. In return, these artists and organizations have shared their unique forms of expression throughout the region by creating programs focused on uniting communities around art, bringing arts awareness to underserved areas, and strengthening arts education programs in our local schools.

In his first budget request, the President has proposed to eliminate the NEA. I believe the elimination of this agency would be a grave mistake that would have a negative economic, educational, and cultural impact on countless urban and rural communities across the country.

Programs such as the Dallas City of Learning, which provides a summer education program for more than 35,000 students, would not be as successful as they are today without support from the NEA. Countless performances, exhibitions, and festivals would be affected by this disastrous policy proposal.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose the President's budget proposal which calls for eliminating funding to the National Endowment for the Arts. We must ensure that arts programs across the country are funded so that future generations will understand the culture of our time instead of this great period being a mere footnote in history.

HONORING MILFORD "BUDDY" BOSTICK

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Milford "Buddy" Bostick of Waco, Texas, who passed away on January 4, 2017.

Buddy Bostick selflessly served our nation and Central Texas in so many ways, and he will be missed greatly.

Buddy was born on May 18, 1918 in McLennan County, Texas. He graduated from Moody High School and later attended Baylor University, where he started his journalism career as a radio announcer for WACO Radio. Here Buddy planted the seeds of what would become a successful career in media broadcasting.

Upon graduating, Buddy worked as a radio announcer in Tennessee and Arkansas before eventually returning to Texas. He served his country during World War II as part of the Army Air Corps and upon returning home he continued to pursue his goal of owning his own radio station. He would ultimately do so much more. In 1955, Buddy obtained a license to launch KWTX-TV in Waco and two years later he launched KBTX-TV in Bryan. Since their founding, these two CBS affiliates have provided news and entertainment to hundreds of thousands of families throughout Central Texas. In fact, KBTX was one of the first stations capable of color transmission, and was the first in the Brazos Valley to use color news film.

Buddy would go on to establish other television and radio stations across Texas and even into Louisiana. Then, in the 1970s he and a business partner purchased a controlling interest in the local Bellmead State Bank, changed the name to American Bank, and expanded it to a second location.

Buddy took a risk at the time when he chose to establish a television station in a town with a population of just 20,000. The media landscape in the 1950's was dominated by radio and newspapers. Yet Buddy had a vision and the desire to invest in a new form media to serve the public. In this endeavor, he was the epitome of a businessman and entrepreneur. Above all, he was a family man. He met his wife, Virginia, while attending Baylor University, and they were married for 74 years before she passed away in 2014. They are survived by their two daughters, Ellen and Martha, and ten grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Buddy was often quoted saying, "nothing lasts forever." Though I am confident that one thing will—Buddy Bostick's legacy will have an impact for generations to come.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the entire Bostick family. We also lift up the family and friends of Buddy in our prayers.

As I close, I ask that all Americans continue to pray for our country, for our military men and women, who protect us abroad, and for our first responders, who protect us here at home.

TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE CURTIS—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we dedicate the month of March to give special recognition to the accomplishments and sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman: Suzanne Curtis, of San Luis Obispo, California.

Suzanne is one of the quiet heroes of her community by selflessly contributing her time and resources over several years to the local American Red Cross and victims of fires. She is a Volunteer Coordinator of the San Luis

Obispo chapter of the American Red Cross, and is tirelessly working to aid victims of natural disasters. Last year, San Luis Obispo County faced a devastating fire that consumed nearly 4,000 acres and forced residents to evacuate their homes. During the Chimney Fire, Suzanne was instrumental to securing people shelter and ensuring and assisting in their recovery from the disaster.

She continues to help natural disaster victims by serving as the local Red Cross Disaster Action Team dispatcher. In this capacity, she aids community members affected by house fires, earthquakes, and flooding. Her dedication to San Luis Obispo County's disaster victims is volunteered, and Suzanne gives most of her free time to working on behalf of others and protecting her fellow community members' safety.

As a retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer, Suzanne continues to be a passionate supporter of our troops and local veterans. She is always willing to extend a helping hand to those who need it. She set up a scholarship specifically for women veterans at Cuesta College, which is the sole funding available for them.

Suzanne has been a champion for natural disaster victims and selflessly works for those who need it most. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Suzanne Curtis, for her incredible service to her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF HENRI
LANDWIRTH, FOUNDER OF DIG-
NITY U WEAR

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing an extraordinary leader, Mr. Henri Landwirth, for the incredible impact he has had on countless individuals not only in Jacksonville but also across the country.

Born March 7, 1927, in Belgium, Henri Landwirth, along with his family, was arrested for being Jewish. He spent five years in a concentration camp and survived the Holocaust. At 18, Henri immigrated to the United States with only a Torah and a little money. Soon after his arrival, he joined the United States Army and served during the Korean War.

Following his military service, Landwirth used his G.I. benefits to take a course in hotel management and began work in a New York City hotel. He used every opportunity to work hard and advance through every job in the business and eventually moved to Florida to own his own hotel.

He enjoyed a successful career in the hotel industry and became a philanthropist starting the Fanny Landwirth Foundation in 1985 in memory of his mother. The mission of the Fanny Landwirth Foundation is "to enrich, educate and empower underserved children and families" by supporting basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and education.

A trip to Jacksonville's Sulzbacher Center for the homeless and his memory of having no clothes when he was incarcerated at Ausch-

witz led him to found Dignity U Wear, which to date has provided over 9 million pieces of clothing valued at over \$160 million to those in need.

Henri once said, "From the darkness of concentration camps grew many compassionate courageous and generous souls." Henri Landwirth's vision to become a courageous and generous soul has been proven true in the thousands of people he's helped over the years. His unwavering commitment and dedication to his community is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Henri Landwirth for his strong leadership and unyielding commitment to philanthropy and our community.

VETERANS 2ND AMENDMENT
PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two letters from the National Disabilities Rights Network and the National Rifle Association in support of H.R. 1181:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA,

Washington, DC, March 7, 2017.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROE: I am pleased to write on behalf of the National Rifle Association in support of H.R. 1181, the "Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act."

This bill would address an ongoing problem over the past 12 years in which veterans and veterans' family members for whom fiduciaries have been appointed by the Department of Veterans Affairs are deemed to have been "adjudicated as . . . mental defective[s]" and prohibited from possessing or receiving firearms. Such an appointment is not necessarily based on any finding that the veteran is a danger to himself or herself or to others.

Fortunately, the NICS Improvement Amendment Act of 2007 provided these individuals with the opportunity to seek relief from that legal disability. However, your bill goes one step further in protecting the rights of veterans and family members, by ensuring that no VA proceeding going forward will prevent a person from exercising his or her Second Amendment rights unless a judicial authority has found that the person's mental incapacity or disorder actually makes him or her dangerous.

We wish you success in moving forward with this important protection for the rights of those who have served our country. Please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

JASON M. QUIMET,
Director of Federal Affairs.

NATIONAL DISABILITY
RIGHTS NETWORK,
Washington, DC, March 17, 2017.

Re National Disability Rights Network letter of support for H.R. 1181, the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act

HON. PHIL ROE,
Chairman, House Veterans' Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROE: The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) writes in support of H.R. 1181, the "Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act". We appreciate your strong advocacy on this important topic.

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) is the non-profit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) and Client Assistance Program (CAP) systems for individuals with disabilities. The P&As and CAPs were established by the United States Congress to protect the rights of people with disabilities and their families through legal support, advocacy, referral, and education. P&As and CAPs are in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Virgin Islands), and there is a P&A and CAP affiliated with the Native American Consortium which includes the Hopi, Navaho and San Juan Southern Paiute Nations in the Four Corners region of the Southwest. Collectively, the P&A and CAP Network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.

H.R. 1181 prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs, from considering a veteran to be adjudicated as "mentally defective" for purposes of the right to receive or transport firearms without the order or finding of a judicial authority that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others. We oppose the reporting of names without full adjudication for a number of reasons, including:

The damaging message of a policy that focuses on reporting individuals who, for example, receive assistance in managing their benefits to the NICS gun database. The current public dialogue is replete with inaccurate stereotyping of people with mental disabilities as violent and dangerous, and there is a real concern that the VA policy will reinforce those unfounded assumptions.

The absence of any data suggesting that there is any connection between a beneficiary who is assisted by a fiduciary and a propensity toward gun violence.

The absence of any meaningful due process protections by not requiring an adjudication by a court of competent jurisdiction. Although the NICS Improvements Act of 2007 allows agencies to transmit the names of individuals who have been "adjudicated" to lack the capacity to manage their own affairs, VA's process does not, without a decision of a judicial authority, constitute an adjudication. Veterans should not lose the Constitutional rights they have fought to protect and defend without proper due process.

We urge Congress to act, through passing H.R. 1181, to prevent the damage the current VA practice to report names of veterans with disabilities to the NICS background check system without proper adjudication is causing on veterans with disabilities.

Please contact Amanda Lowe, Senior Public Policy Analyst with any questions.

Sincerely,

CURT DECKER,
Executive Director.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I voted, I would have voted "no" on passage of H.R. 1259, the VA Accountability First Act of 2017 (Roll Call No. 168). This bill contains provisions that infringe on the collective bargaining and due process rights of Veterans Affairs' employees. Should this legislation become public law, it would have a damaging effect on patient care and VA recruitment, limiting the agency's efficiency.