

Director Chris Rodriguez has served in multiple capacities in the U.S. Federal Government including serving more than a decade in the Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. Department of State. He was a crucial member of the Counterterrorism Center following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 where he collaborated with federal, state, and local levels to identify and counter potential threats to the United States.

Director Chris Rodriguez began working for the people of New Jersey in 2011 where he oversaw the Department of Law and Public Safety, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

Director Chris Rodriguez honorably served our country both at home and abroad. We owe a tremendous debt to our Veterans who have served in defense of our great nation, for their sacrifices have allowed the United States of America to serve as a beacon for the promise of liberty.

I thank Director Christopher Rodriguez for his many years of service to the people of New Jersey and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING GUAM DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION NURSES IN
HONOR OF NATIONAL SCHOOL
NURSES DAY**

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate nurses and school nurse support staff of the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) in honor of National Nurses Week and National School Nurses Day. There are currently 44 Registered Nurses and 3 Licensed Practical Nurses serving the students of the Guam Department of Education. These nurses take on the daunting task of caring for the Guam Department of Education's more than 30,000 students and nearly 4,000 employees of the Guam Department of Education. These school nurses work day in and day out to ensure the health of our island's children so they can continue their education in the classroom.

Guam Department of Education nurses join the National Association of School Nurses in celebrating the theme of this year's School Nurses Day: Healthy Nurse. Healthy Students. They also join the American Nurses Association in celebrating the 2017 Nurses Week: The Balance of Mind, Body, and Spirit! GDOE nurses have chosen to celebrate National School Nurses Day by teaching students how to conduct hands only CPR or heart health activities.

Every year the GDOE nurses serve a critical role in providing a safe and healthy learning environment for students throughout Guam's public elementary, middle, and high schools. GDOE nurses provide frontline, critical care for the most fragile children in our community and are members of health teams that support both educational and response initiatives dedicated to improving public health. Additionally, school nurses are liaisons to the school administrators, parents and healthcare providers

when it comes to attending to the physical health of our island's students.

Every school year is different and challenging for the GDOE nurses. In April 2016, the school nurses received a call from the Department of Public Health and Social Services asking them to administer 5,000 doses of TB skin test solution to GDOE students and staff who need updates. The school nurses embraced the challenge and were able to host TB clinics in almost every GDOE school for students and staff. Despite these challenges, our island's school nurses have responded to these needs with professionalism and passion for the school communities they serve.

I commend and congratulate nurses and school nurse support staff of the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) as they celebrate the 2017 National School Nurses Day and On a successful school year. I join the people of Guam in expressing our appreciation for their contributions to Guam's school communities.

**NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS MONTH**

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to May being National Mental Health Awareness month, a nationwide initiative that aims to raise awareness and fight the stigmas associated with mental health illnesses.

Nearly 44 million American adults, and millions of children experience mental health conditions each year, including depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and post-traumatic stress.

Although we have made great progress expanding access to mental health treatment with the passage of the Affordable Health Care Act, too many people still do not get the help they need.

Despite the availability of treatment, the stigma associated with mental illness continues to keep millions of Americans from getting the treatment they need.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to turn a blind eye to our citizen's mental health needs, because according to a study by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, mental illnesses cost America over \$193.2 billion in lost earnings every year.

Congress must work together to ensure people living with mental illness know that they are not alone, that hope exists, and that the possibility of healing and thriving is achievable.

We should be sure that our budget, which we will be debating in the coming weeks, includes adequate funding to help.

**RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS**

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of international students, scholars, and

the U.S. institutions of higher education they attend who have been unfairly penalized by the Trump Administration's unlawful efforts to limit travel to our country from several Muslim-majority countries.

Among many faults, the President's travel ban fails to take into account the vital contribution international students, scholars and their families make when we welcome them to this great country. This, and the many other efforts undertaken by this administration to restrict access to visas, does not make our country safer, but undermines the valuable diplomatic, economic and cultural benefits that come from creating a more welcoming and diverse nation.

International students contribute to the economic well-being of the United States. According to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, during the 2015–2016 academic year, international students and their families supported 400,000 jobs and contributed nearly \$33 billion to the U.S. economy. In my district alone, during the 2015–2016 academic year, 3,724 international students and their families contributed \$120.3 million, supporting 797 jobs.

But this is just the immediate impact—the long-term effect of bringing talented minds from all over the world to our universities, many of whom go on to live and work and contribute to the United States, is immeasurable. When we close doors to immigrants, students, scholars, and travelers from all over the world, we close doors to our future. And when we particularly target individuals based on race or ethnicity, we not only show ourselves to be afraid of the world, we weaken our own security by cultivating enemies rather than friends.

We should not back away from maintaining an open and welcoming nation and we will continue to stand for the universal principles that bring students and scholars from all over the world to study in this great nation.

A TRIBUTE TO KELLY SUMMY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Kelly Summy of Council Bluffs, Iowa. Kelly recently retired from the Board of Directors of the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation. He helped create the Foundation in 2007 and has served as Chairman since its establishment.

Kelly's commitment to the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation from its early years to its legacy of today will stand out for generations to come. His leadership will have a lasting impact on the Foundation and the Pottawattamie County community. When Kelly is not volunteering his time in his community, he serves as President of Midwest Ag Services of Council Bluffs.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Kelly for his many years of dedicated service to the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation and Pottawattamie County, Iowa. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kelly on his many accomplishments and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING LAVERA ETHRIDGE-
WILLIAMS IN CELEBRATION OF
HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Mrs. LaVera Ethridge-Williams' 90th birthday. Ms. Ethridge-Williams is a celebrated entrepreneur and community advocate, who has been a staple in the West Fresno community for more than fifty years.

LaVera Ethridge-Williams was born in Boley, Oklahoma to John and Alberta Ethridge. She was raised in Wewoke, Oklahoma where she received her early education. In 1945, Mrs. Ethridge-Williams moved to Fresno and continued her education at Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno.

Mrs. Ethridge-Williams married Lonzell Williams and together they were parents to three children. They've also been blessed with five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Ethridge-Williams made child care her life's passion and lifelong career. She often cared for her younger siblings growing up and cared for her own children, in addition to those of family members and friends. In 1968, she attempted to open her first child care center in Fresno. Although the banks turned her loan requests down numerous times, she continued her persistence. Eventually through private funding, Mrs. Ethridge-Williams secured funding to open her first infant child care center. After four years of working with the California State Department of Social Welfare and Department of Health and Welfare, Mrs. LaVera Ethridge-Williams' dream became a reality, with the opening of her first childcare center in West Fresno. Not stopping there, Mrs. La Vera Ethridge-Williams opened a chain of daycare centers for infants and young children in Fresno. LaVera's Infant Nursery and LaVera's Educational Center provided desperately needed childcare for working parents in the area.

Mrs. Ethridge-Williams has been rightfully honored by numerous local officials and organizations throughout her career. These include, the city of Fresno, Fresno Unified School District and the Phi Lambda Society.

Outside of her work, Mrs. Ethridge-Williams enjoys spending time with her family and several hobbies. These include traveling, fishing and attending church, where she is an active member.

She has always believed that personal success comes with a responsibility to touch the lives of others through good deeds. Today, she works to provide shelter for the homeless.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. LaVera Ethridge-Williams as she celebrates her 90th birthday. She is an inspiration for us all, having lived her life to serve others. I ask that you join me in wishing her and her family continued happiness.

SUGAR LAND REALTOR NAMED
PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE WOMEN'S
COUNCIL OF REALTORS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jo Ann Stevens of Sugar Land, TX, for being named the 2017 President-elect of the Women's Council of Realtors, an affiliate of the National Association of Realtors.

The Women's Council is a network of realtors working to advance women as professionals and leaders in their businesses, industries and communities. Jo Ann has been a licensed realtor for over 30 years and joined the Women's Council in 1986. She's held several leadership roles in the Women's Council, such as: Local Network President, District Vice President, Governor, President of the Texas Network, and Regional Vice President for Region 9. Jo Ann has been named "Member of the Year" twice for Texas and will be sworn in as president on November 4, 2017. She's currently working for the Lane Real Estate Team.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Jo Ann for being named President-elect of the Women's Council of Realtors. This is an amazing accomplishment and we know she will be a great leader.

WELCOMING INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a globally-engaged and welcoming United States. Historically, hosting international students and scholars at our colleges and universities has been one of the most important ways America reinforces those values. I urge my colleagues and the administration to recognize the vital contribution international students, scholars, and their families make to the United States.

The cross-cultural partnerships formed through international education and exchanges offer widespread benefits for the United States. Students and their families supported 400,000 jobs in the 2015–2016 year, contributing nearly \$33 billion to our national economy. Their financial and academic contributions allow universities to offer more advanced courses—often in STEM subjects—to American students. These students, the vast majority of whom do not study abroad, gain invaluable knowledge towards succeeding as global citizens through cooperation and interaction with their international peers.

As co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on International Exchange and Study and as a student who studied abroad, I recognize the enormous benefits offered by a cross-cultural education. May is a critical month on the college calendar, a time when college seniors graduate and enter the global world while high school seniors finalize their choice on where to study in the fall. The new administration's immigration policies, specifically the Travel Ban Executive Order, harvest uncertainty for students making these decisions.

Our nation's security must remain our top priority, but we must balance that with the need to remain open, welcoming and committed to driving future economic growth and opportunity. We must reassure international scholars who may be unsure about coming that their contributions are valued and that they are welcome here.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT BILL
BATES

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Special Agent William Bates of the U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, after 32 years of dedicated government service.

Special Agent Bates' grew up in Buffalo, New York, and attended the SUNY Fredonia. Upon graduating, he served in the U.S. Army as a Veterinary Food Inspector and then worked as a Treasury Agent for the Internal Revenue Service.

In 1989, Mr. Bates joined the Defense Criminal Investigative Service where he has served as a Control Tactics Instructor and Health and Wellness Coordinator for the Syracuse, Buffalo, and Pittsburgh offices.

Throughout his esteemed career, Special Agent Bates' work includes assistance in the recovery efforts in New York City immediately following the terrorist attacks on our country on September 11, 2001 as well as the investigation of Lynx Machine Total Corporation which brought to light false testing certifications on U.S. military products. He has received several commendations during his esteemed career, and is a member of the DCIS's prestigious Million Dollar Club.

It is my honor to recognize Special Agent Bates and to congratulate him on his retirement after 32 years of devoted service to keeping our great nation safe. I wish him the very best in his retirement.