

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DAVID JOHNSON

**HON. LYNN JENKINS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2017*

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate David Johnson of Lawrence, Kansas, for his commitment, leadership, and service to the State of Kansas and people struggling with mental illnesses everywhere.

As his tenure as CEO of the Bert-Nash Community Mental Health Center nears its end, and we reflect on his sixteen years serving as CEO, we celebrate the work he has done to positively impact the Lawrence community, Douglas County, the State of Kansas, and beyond.

David demonstrated national leadership as the CEO of a community mental health center by continuing to serve the ever-growing community of Lawrence, while facing the challenge of decreased funding. David has championed initiatives for mental health care such as the Mental Health First Aid grant program and was the person who first brought that program's need and impact to my attention. David has been such an effective national voice for this program that he was invited as a Congressional witness in 2014 to share with Members of Congress the need for the Mental Health First Aid Act of 2013.

As one of the original fourteen people trained as Mental Health First Aid instructors in the country, David undoubtedly encouraged and inspired more people to get that training so they could help their family, friends and neighbors in their time of need.

David is willing to boldly lead on the issue of mental health care and advocate for the millions of Americans hiding in the shadows struggling with mental illness.

When it comes to our home State of Kansas, David has made his imprint through undertaking statewide efforts that help create new opportunities for people with mental illness and their families. These initiatives allow more people to discover and receive the care they need while their families are educated on ways to help their loved ones.

I extend my deepest appreciation to David Johnson for his service and commitment to the State of Kansas and while I am sad to hear of his retirement, I wish him and his family all the best in the years ahead.

HONORING LGBTQ LEADERS IN  
THE TWIN CITIES

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2017*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the transgender, queer, lesbian, bisexual, and gay members of my community as

we begin celebrating Pride. Every year, Twin Cities Pride recognizes individuals and organizations who have devoted their lives to equality. This year, the Grand Marshal is Jana Shortal, and the Community Champions of Pride are Clare Housing and the Avenues for Homeless Youth GLBT Host Homes Program.

Jana Shortal is a journalist, public figure, and co-anchor of KARE 11's Breaking the News, one of the Twin Cities' most popular evening news programs. Jana has garnered a lot of attention across our city—accolades for her coverage of a mom dying of cancer, criticism in the Star Tribune for wearing skinny jeans, and national awards for telling stories about race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity. Throughout her career, Jana has been guided by an overarching goal: telling the story. Like she's said herself, "The average person's completely-not-average story motivates me." Often times we get lost in statistics or politics and forget to talk about how it's actually impacting people's lives. Jana's drive to humanize the news is more important now than ever—we can't let elected officials control the narrative just because they dislike the facts. I thank Jana for her service to our community, for her realness on screen, and for her devotion to telling the story.

Clare Housing and Avenues for Homeless Youth provide something that can mean the difference between life and death for LGBTQ folks: a place to live. For 30 years, Clare Housing has provided housing for hundreds of people with HIV or AIDS. They manage multiple apartment buildings for people who are independent, as well as nearly a dozen family homes where people can eat regular meals and have a caseworker assist them with doctor's visits and medicine. We have made tremendous progress on HIV treatment, and it is unacceptable that a lack of access to housing or healthcare means it can still be a death sentence. Thanks to Clare Housing's leadership, HIV positive individuals can get the housing stability they need to keep their bodies healthy.

Avenues for Homeless Youth's GLBT Host Home Program is a national model for community and volunteer-driven efforts to end LGBTQ youth homelessness. Nearly 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ, and many of them were pushed out of their homes due to their gender or sexuality. This program provides not only a roof over their head, but an environment where their identities are validated and supported. Over their 15 year history, the GLBT Host Home Program has helped hundreds of kids grow into happy and healthy adults. No one should be forced into a life of economic struggles simply because their parents are closed minded. The Host Home Program is a tremendous example of what "It takes a village" looks like in practice.

If the last five months have taught us anything, it's that we still have so much work to do. We can't sit back and watch our federal government walk back protections for trans kids, or school districts lead the charge to be-

little and exclude them. We can't accept the talk that we have to wait because there are more important or less divisive issues. LGBTQ equality is deeply connected to economic inequality, racism, sexism, and every other -ism we're fighting against. We must fight for both social and economic equality, because if we don't fight for both, we won't get either. My deepest thanks to these leaders in our community who are showing how we advance equity on all fronts.

RECOGNIZING OSCAR AMEZCUA

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2017*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mariachi Legend Oscar Amezcua who, from his humble beginnings in Jalisco, Mexico, immigrated to San Diego in 1945 and quickly became an icon in Hispanic culture. Oscar's skills earned him a spot on the renowned Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, which was just the start of his distinguished career. Oscar would go on to establish his own group, Mariachi Guadalajara, all while raising his three sons Carlos, Oscar, Alex, and his daughter Lucia with his wonderful wife Gloria.

Oscar Amezcua has dedicated his life to creating and providing us with music that has made significant contributions to San Diego's music and culture and is credited by many with bringing Mariachi music to San Diego. Recently, at the age of 87, Oscar celebrated this past Cinco de Mayo celebration by performing at a special concert in San Diego's famous Balboa Park and was recognized by San Diego Mayor Kevin Falconer, who declared May 5, 2017, as "Oscar Amezcua Day—The Father of San Diego Mariachi Music."

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing Oscar's contributions to San Diego's music and Hispanic culture and I look forward to his continued involvement for years to come.

AMANDA ALVARADO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amanda Alvarado for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Amanda Alvarado is a student at Molholm Elementary School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Amanda Alvarado is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Amanda Alvarado for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### RECOGNIZING JORDAN COFFMAN

##### HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2017*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jordan Coffman, an Air Force Academy Appointee from Colorado's Fourth Congressional district I believe our greatest assets are America's brave men and women in uniform. Jordan is making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserves our utmost support for her service. It is with great pleasure that I give her my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Jordan has served in a variety of leadership roles from Co-President of the National Honor Society to Senator-at-Large of the Student Government Association at her school. In addition to her service roles, Jordan has excelled in athletics, receiving the Hoehne Female Athlete award and placing first in several Track and Field races.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom and liberty. I commend Jordan and her family for their commitment. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Jordan.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Jordan Coffman as an appointee to the Air Force Academy for her commitment to protect and serve our nation.

#### RECOGNIZING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: HEY, WHITE HOUSE: LEAVE D.C. ALONE

##### HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2017*

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share an excellent Letter to the Editor, urging the Trump administration to respect the political autonomy of American citizens living in Washington, D.C., written by David Jonas Bardin to the Washington Post.

In "Hey, White House: Leave D.C. Alone," David writes:

"The May 28 editorial 'More meddling' said that the White House has joined Congress "in trying to block the District's Death with Dignity law." President Trump's proposed budget would unconstitutionally forbid implementation of that law in the 2018 fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1. The Constitution established federal legislative power over a future federal district as well as future federal installations outside the District of Columbia, such as Fort Bragg, N.C., to safeguard legitimate federal government interests there. The Bill of Rights imme-

diately limited those powers in order to block tyranny.

"Even before statehood and even without D.C. voting rights in Congress, it is high time to recognize that Americans living in the District count as 'the people' under the 10th Amendment, which says: 'The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.' Power to allow, forbid or regulate physician-assisted suicide was never delegated to the federal government.

"Mr. Trump should heed President William Henry Harrison's wise words: 'The people of the District of Columbia are not the subjects of the people of the States, but free American citizens.'"

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ARTHUR SMITH

##### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Arthur Smith of Chester County, Pennsylvania for his 48 years of service to our community. Dr. Smith will be retiring at the end of this year after an astounding 48 years of service to the Ridley, Delaware County School District.

Dr. Smith has for decades been a fixture in Ridley's schools, serving in both teaching and administrative capacities. It's not uncommon today for Ridley Middle School's "Parents Night" to be packed with parents of current students who themselves had taken classes taught by Dr. Smith years or decades ago.

Dr. Smith brought to his teaching an unmatched commitment to his students and an unwavering desire to see them succeed. But his day as an educator didn't end with the final bell each afternoon. He then drove to West Chester University, where for years he's taught evening classes. His typical days began before 5 a.m. and ended after he got home at 10:30 that night.

Forty-eight years, 9,227 middle school students, 6,700 college students and countless hours spent helping each of them succeed—that's Dr. Smith's legacy. On behalf of our entire community, I thank him for his service and wish him the best in his retirement.

#### ADALYN LUKOWICZ

##### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adalyn Lukowicz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Adalyn Lukowicz is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adalyn Lukowicz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all

levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Adalyn Lukowicz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### RECOGNIZING VICTORIA BERNABEI

##### HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2017*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Victoria Bernabei, an Air Force Academy Appointee from Colorado's Fourth Congressional district. I believe our greatest assets are America's brave men and women in uniform. Victoria is making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserves our utmost support for her service. It is with great pleasure that I give her my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Victoria served as Honor Guard Commander as well as Cadet Captain of the Civil Air Patrol for which she received the Earhart Award. She has also received various Academic All-State honors. Additionally, she volunteers as a soccer coach in her community, demonstrating exemplary leadership skills and a heart for service.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom and liberty. I commend Victoria and her family for their commitment. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Victoria.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Victoria Bernabei as an appointee to the Air Force Academy for her commitment to protect and serve our nation.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF AUBURN HILLS CITY CLERK TERRI KOWAL

##### HON. DAVID A. TROTT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2017*

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate City Clerk Terri Kowal of Auburn Hills, Michigan, as she receives the prestigious Quill Award from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Recognized for her outstanding contributions in her profession, Clerk Kowal was selected as one of only two recipients for this unparalleled recognition, an incredible honor considering the thousands of municipal clerks across the United States and Canada. With this achievement, Kowal is proclaimed an international champion of her craft.

Having dedicated her life to helping the City of Auburn Hills and her community, Kowal has built her career on serving others. Understanding the responsibility and ethics required to be a municipal clerk, she did not waver in taking on this important task and great responsibility in service of her fellow citizens.

Receiving this award is not only a great honor for Clerk Kowal and a testament to her