

HONORING EMMA HARTLEY, GULF  
COAST HEART WALK WARRIOR

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2018*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an impressive Gulf Coast philanthropist, Miss Emma Hartley of Gulfport, Mississippi.

My district is nicknamed "Mississippi's Fighting Fourth," earned for Mississippi's spirit and the residents who call her "home." Most Mississippians have a warrior spirit, a tenacity, a willingness to do whatever it takes to live and nurture each other with compassion and intentional care. These qualities embody one of Mississippi's youngest and most determined warriors—ten-year-old Emma Hartley.

Emma was born August 2, 2008, missing a heart valve. Less than 24 hours after her birth, Emma underwent the first of what would become many surgeries. Perhaps it was an innate fighting spirit and a purpose to persevere for the sake of loving others that brought Emma and her heart safely through that first critical surgery. Perhaps she knew then that she would need to grow strong and develop a voice to encourage others to face tough battles with a smile. Perhaps it is simply that God has big plans for this little girl. What is known is that Mississippi's Gulf Coast is blessed by Emma's heart, beating now for over 10 years, and Emma's desire to make a difference in the lives of those facing similar health challenges.

Emma has outlived the expectations of many of her doctors, and she will soon undergo her fifth surgery. Before age 18, she is likely to face several more; but, she endures each procedure with courage and grace. From an early age, Emma participated with her mom, Lisa Northrup, in fundraising efforts such as Rock Your Scar, the March of Dimes, Mended Little Hearts, and the Heart Walk for the American Heart Association. Now, with the support of family, friends, and her church, Emma champions her own efforts, working hard to raise funds, give speeches, and boost awareness of these causes in her local communities.

Crafting and creating artwork, two of Emma's hobbies, are incorporated into her philanthropic efforts, too. For one of her fundraisers this year Emma sold handcrafted wood signs, some of which were ordered from far away. Also, Emma's artwork has been reproduced in awards given to the top Heart Walk high achievers.

This year's Gulf Coast Heart Walk was on September 22. Emma offered the opening prayer to start the event. Mississippi is fortunate to have such a brave, talented, ambitious, and inspiring warrior, like Emma Hartley.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA FOR 27 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2018*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian

Issues, I congratulate Prime Minister Pashinyan and the people of the Republic of Armenia on 27 years of independence from the Soviet Union. Since this day 27 years ago, the Armenian people have lived up to their pledge to create a free and independent nation, built on strong democratic principles and a market economy.

Earlier this year, Armenia saw incredible and unprecedented change in its government as a result of the Velvet Revolution. The peaceful transition of power after the revolution is a clear indication of the will of the Armenian people, strongly demonstrating a commitment to a fairer and more democratic state. Since my first visit in 1997, I continue to be struck by the incredible progress Armenia has made towards bolstering its government transparency, strengthening its democratic institutions, and empowering its civil society. I believe it is critical for the United States to continue to deepen its ties with our regional partner at every level of government to ensure this transformation continues.

The Republic of Armenia has also consistently championed the right to self-determination of its neighbors in the Republic of Artsakh. This is a right that Artsakh continues to fight for in its steadfast pursuit of regional security and stability despite a tenuous cease fire. The United States must continue to support a negotiated end to hostilities with Azerbaijan along the lines of the Royce-Engel peace proposals, and take further action to ensure that all parties of the conflict are included.

I join with the Armenian people and the Armenian-American community in celebrating 27 years of independence. I send my best wishes on this important day and pledge my continued commitment to a strong United States-Armenia partnership.

IN TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL (RET.) ROBERT ANDREW COCROFT, UNITED STATES (U.S.) ARMY

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2018*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert Andrew Cocroft, U.S. Army veteran who passed away on September 12, 2018. He was born to Willie Tilmon Cocroft and Louise Cocroft (Gee) on November 16, 1946, in Conway, Mississippi. The Cocroft family settled in Milwaukee in 1947.

Robert received his formal education in the Milwaukee Public School system and was a fellow graduate of North Division High School in 1965. In 1966, while attending the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh on a football scholarship he was drafted into the U.S. Army but opted to attend Officer Candidate School to become an infantry officer. He was a Vietnam-era veteran who served overseas duty in the Republic of Korea. He joined the 84th Division of the Army Reserve in Wisconsin and climbed the chain of command until earning the rank of Brigadier General. At the conclusion of his military career, he was the Assistant Division Commander of Operations for the 98th Division having commanded at the com-

pany, battalion and brigade levels over his 40 years of active and reserve military service. He officially retired in 2006.

At the time of his passing, he had served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the nonprofit Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd. (CVI) for over 14 years. In addition to advocating for the needs of veterans, CVI services include housing for low-income, homeless, minority and women veterans including their families. CVI is distinguished as the largest private provider of transitional housing and permanent supportive housing for veterans in Wisconsin.

Robert served as Deputy Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs from 1994 to 2002. He had the overall responsibility for the Department's day-to-day operations, which included administration and management of 900 full-time employees, departmental administrative services, as well as, coordination and direction of strategic planning and program development.

Robert was the immediate past National Commander of the National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS) which was established in 1973, through the combined efforts of Robert Cocroft, Willie Sims, and Thomas Wynn (deceased) to advocate on behalf of its members. NABVETS currently has chapters in 80 cities throughout the United States and is certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a claims representative for veterans.

He was a life-long learner and continued his training/education while working and going to school full-time to earn a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business Management, Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Officer Candidate School, U.S. Army Paratrooper Airborne School, and the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, P. A.

Robert leaves behind his beloved wife of 49 years, Jacqueline D. Cocroft to mourn his passing. Additionally he leaves a strong legacy of leadership for his children, Dianna Killins (Cocroft), Robert H. Cocroft and his adopted daughter Annette (Michael) Miller, Grandsons—Devin Tyree Cocroft, Isiah H. Cocroft, Robert T. Cocroft, Jonavan M. Cocroft, Michael A. Killins, Malik A. Killins, Mekhi A. Killins. Granddaughters—Arianna I. Cocroft, First Lieutenant Michelle A. Killins, USAR. Great-grandchildren—McKayla A. Killins and Morgan A. Killins and a host of other family and friends.

Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert Andrew Cocroft was a true servant leader, as demonstrated by his commitment to veteran affairs, as well as, serving on numerous boards and committees both locally and nationally. Robert was my friend and a Milwaukee and Wisconsin treasure. I valued his service to the 4th Congressional District, including his service as Co-Chair of the 4th Congressional District Academy Advisory Committee, his commitment to building safe transitional housing for veterans in the district, and his advocacy on behalf of low-income minority and female veterans. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in a salute to late Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert Andrew Cocroft.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER ACT

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2018*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, this month we mark the 60th anniversary of the enactment of the National Cultural Center Act, which established the institution now known as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The 85th Congress and President Eisenhower envisioned a cultural center which would present performances of dance, drama, music, opera, and poetry, develop arts programming to encourage the participation of and educate citizens of all ages, from the young to the elderly, and provide a space for civic activity.

Today, the Kennedy Center accomplishes these original mandates from 1958 to serve the nation through cultural innovation and inclusive programming. This past season, the Kennedy Center showcased 2,203 performances and reached 1,405,796 students through school and community programs. The Kennedy Center has broken ground on an expanded physical campus for civic activity and increased accessibility; the REACH (Renew, Experience, Activate, Create, and Honor) will open the week of the National Cultural Center Act's 60th anniversary.

I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking the many members of the public who over the past six decades have partnered with and supported our national cultural center.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF KALLE KÖNKKÖLÄ AND CELEBRATING HIS LIFE

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2018*

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Kalle Könkkölä, an international disability rights advocate and former member of the Finnish Parliament.

Mr. Könkkölä passed away on September 11, 2018. He served from 1983 to 1987 as the first member of the Finnish Parliament with a disability, developing key pieces of legislation on disability inclusion and independent living. Könkkölä was a fervent advocate for the ratification of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in Finland.

Könkkölä also helped to strengthen relationships between Finland and the U.S. in the area of disability policy. This relationship resulted in collaborative activities with the State Department's Special Advisor on International Disability Rights and our Embassy in Finland, including training on our Americans with Disabilities Act, joint efforts with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to advance the inclusion of disability, and discussions on conditions of disabled people in refugee camps.

Könkkölä worked tirelessly for disability inclusion worldwide. He was active in global partnerships for disability and development,

and his work emphasized the need for a robust human rights framework in disability policy. Könkkölä was instrumental in the negotiations that led to the creation of the European Disability Forum in 1996, and he founded the Abilis Foundation, an organization that promotes human rights, equal opportunities, and independent living through grantmaking to disabled people's organizations in low income countries, in 1998.

Könkkölä was a member of the Expert Group on Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. He brought a unique perspective to the working group, having firsthand experience of many aspects of political life, including running as a candidate, serving in elected office, and advocating with policymakers.

Here in the U.S. Congress, we can honor Könkkölä's life by continuing his work to empower the one billion people in the world who have a disability, especially in political and public life. In partnership with the diverse disability community, we must remove barriers that prohibit the full participation of persons with disabilities as voters and candidates. When barriers are removed, voters with disabilities are afforded their full rights as citizens.

Today, in memory of Mr. Könkkölä, I reaffirm my commitment to supporting persons with disabilities in their pursuit of equal rights. I stand with you today, and for all the days to come.

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 Tuesday, September 25, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine safeguards for consumer data privacy.

SD-G50

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine cleaning up the oceans, focusing on reducing the

impact of man-made trash on the environment, wildlife, and human health.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 3478, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive strategy for maintaining situational awareness and operational control of high traffic areas along the borders, to address the protective custody of alien children accompanied by parents, to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, to encourage Federal agencies to coordinate on research and the development of technology to combat illicit opioid importation, to establish a narcotic drug screening technology pilot program to combat illicit opioid importation, S. 3405, to reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, S. 3137, to provide for reforming agencies of the Federal Government to improve efficiency and effectiveness, S. 3208, to provide agencies with discretion in securing information technology and information systems, S. 3050, to improve executive agency digital services, S. 823, to ensure the digital contents of electronic equipment and online accounts belonging to or in the possession of United States persons entering or exiting the United States are adequately protected at the border, S. 278, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for innovative research and development, S. 3085, to establish a Federal Acquisition Security Council and to provide executive agencies with authorities relating to mitigating supply chain risks in the procurement of information technology, S. 3437, to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce, S. 3251, to require executive agencies to consider rental in any analysis for equipment acquisition, S. 3309, to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, S. 3191, to provide for the expeditious disclosure of records related to civil rights cold cases, S. 594, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, S. 3209, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 413 Washington Avenue in Belleville, New Jersey, as the "Private Henry Svehla Post Office Building", S. 3237, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 12th Street Lobby in Columbus, Georgia, as the "Richard W. Williams Chapter of the Triple Nickles (555th P.I.A.) Post Office", S. 3414, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Ferry Road in Saunderstown, Rhode Island, as the "Captain Matthew J. August Post Office", S. 3442, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 Duff Street in Macon, Missouri, as the "Arla W. Harrell Post Office", H.R. 50, to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, H.R. 2196, to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients, H.R. 1132, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a 2-year prohibition on employment in a career civil