

HONORING MAYOR MIKE OCHS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Mayor Mike Ochs for his contribution to our state and the City of North Vernon.

Throughout his career, Mike has served Jennings County and the City of North Vernon with honor and integrity. From his time as a sheriff's deputy to his service as mayor, Mike has made improving the quality of life in North Vernon and the surrounding area his main priority. Our state is better off today because of his extraordinary leadership and service.

On a personal note, Mike has been a loyal friend and wise adviser during my entire tenure in Congress. I want to thank him for his friendship and support of my work. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

PULMONARY HYPERTENSION
AWARENESS MONTH**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) Awareness Month and the outstanding work of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association in the fight against this rare and debilitating disease.

PH is a type of high blood pressure that occurs in the arteries of the lungs. It reflects the pressure the heart must apply to pump blood from the heart through the arteries of the lungs. As with a tangled hose, pressure builds up and backs up, forcing the heart to work harder and less oxygen to reach the body. PH symptoms generally include fatigue, dizziness, and shortness of breath with the severity of the disease correlating with its progression. If left undiagnosed or untreated it can lead to heart failure and death.

When individuals are diagnosed with PH quickly and begin appropriate therapy, their prognosis and life-expectancy improve dramatically. However, it currently takes an average of 2.5 years to receive a diagnosis and three quarters of patients have severe PH when they are finally diagnosed. Without treatment, historical studies have shown a mean survival time of 2.8 years after diagnosis for pulmonary arterial hypertension. Patients with advanced PH cannot benefit as greatly from available therapies and often face dramatic and costly medical interventions, including 24-hour IV infused medication, increased risk for hospitalization and in some cases heart-lung transplantation.

I am proud to represent the Pulmonary Hypertension Association, which is headquartered in my district in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Association is dedicated to extending and improving the life of those affected by PH and was the first organization in the world dedicated to providing comprehensive PH patient and caregiver support, medical education, specialty care services that improve

patients' quality of life, and research funding. Thanks in large part to the Pulmonary Hypertension Association's advocacy for continued investment in medical research and sustained scientific progress, there are 14 Food and Drug Administration-approved targeted treatment options for two forms of PH. Additionally, their efforts to establish a PH Program at the CDC focusing on education, awareness, and epidemiology activities that promote early and accurate diagnosis and quality care for PH are to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing November as Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and to continue supporting federal activities that improve the lives of those with PH, including research programs at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

RECOGNIZING THE GARY CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE AND THE
11TH ANNUAL LAKESHORE CLASSIC**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize the Gary Chamber of Commerce as the organization celebrates the 11th annual Lakeshore Classic basketball invitational. In observance of this special event, the Gary Chamber of Commerce will host a celebratory corporate luncheon at the Diamond Center in Gary, Indiana, on Tuesday, November 20, 2018, followed by the basketball invitational at West Side Leadership Academy on Friday, November 23, 2018, and Saturday, November 24, 2018.

The theme for this year's Lakeshore Classic, "Step Up for Education," aims to support the importance of fostering education for the continued success of student athletes throughout the region. The Gary Chamber of Commerce has chosen Mr. LaTroy Hawkins, a Gary native and retired professional baseball player, as the keynote speaker for the luncheon. Born and raised in Gary, LaTroy graduated from West Side High School in 1991 and was drafted straight out of high school. In 1995, he made his Major League Baseball (MLB) debut, playing for the Minnesota Twins. Throughout his outstanding twenty-one-year big league career, LaTroy played for several teams and established an impressive résumé. A testament to his preparation, determination, and talent, Mr. Hawkins became only the 13th pitcher in the history of the league to record a save against every team in baseball. He also ranks 10th on the all-time appearances list having pitched in 1,042 games, placing him in special company among baseball's greats. LaTroy Hawkins retired from baseball on October 25, 2015. For his truly impressive career, Mr. Hawkins was inducted into the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame earlier this year.

Mr. Hawkins and his beloved family consistently devote much of their time to charitable efforts throughout the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond by feeding the homeless, helping students attend college, assisting victims of domestic violence, and supplying uniforms and equipment to the athletic program

at LaTroy's high school alma mater, West Side High School. LaTroy Hawkins has improved the lives of the youth in our communities, and his legacy will continue to have an unforgettable impact for generations to come.

At this time, I would like to recognize the schools participating in the Lakeshore Classic basketball tournament. These schools are dedicated to positively impacting Northwest Indiana through academic excellence and sportsmanship, and they are successful in their efforts. The participating schools include West Side Leadership Academy, John Marshall Metropolitan High School, Thea Bowman Leadership Academy, George Washington High School, Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy, Calumet New Tech High School, and Michigan City Marquette Catholic High School.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the Gary Chamber of Commerce, the organizers and sponsors of the 11th annual Lakeshore Classic, and the devoted volunteers who make this event possible. Their influence, passion, and dedication to our youth in Northwest Indiana are truly commendable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, I missed roll call vote 418, on H. Res. 1142. If I had been present for this vote, I would have voted: Nay on roll call vote 418.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this Veterans' Day week to express my gratitude to those who served our country and those who continue to serve.

Throughout our history, we have asked our brave men and women in uniform to do extraordinary things all over the world.

In return, we made a promise to provide them the best benefits, education, and health care possible.

One of the most important parts of my job is to make sure that veterans in my district get the benefits they've earned.

I've heard about the months-long delays veterans face in obtaining GI Bill benefits, and I am committed to working with my colleagues to fix the situation.

That's because our nation's leaders must honor our veterans, rain or shine.

I am happy that we will be joined in the next Congress by a new generation of veterans, including a record number of women veterans.

I look forward to working with them to fulfill the promise of Veterans' Day this week and all year long.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHIRLEY
MILLER KAY

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Shirley Miller Kay's 100th birthday. Ms. Miller Kay has served as a symbol of women's empowerment throughout her life and holds the great distinction of being the first female from Syracuse to enlist in the United States Navy.

Shirley Miller Kay was born in Syracuse, New York in 1918 to a family with deep Central New York roots. Her father owned a tailing and furring business, which Shirley assisted with upon graduating from Nottingham High School. Additionally, she was an athlete and natural leader, serving as president of her high school's drama club.

In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt created the Women's United States Naval Reserve, better known as WAVES. The program arrived in Syracuse in 1943 and Shirley quickly applied to be a part of the service. When she was approved for WAVES a few weeks later, Shirley learned from the commanding officer that she was the first recruit accepted from the Syracuse recruiting station. Upon receiving her rank of apprentice seaman, she made history by becoming the first female Syracusan enlisted in the Navy.

Shirley deployed for basic training in Iowa during April of 1943, where she took specialized courses to learn skills such as parachute rigging. She completed basic training and was officially a member of the Navy Reserves. Shirley used her opportunity with the Navy Reserves to advocate for equal pay for female members of the Navy, a movement which was ultimately successful. After World War II, Shirley moved to Maryland and continued her success in a number of professional jobs. She worked as a Counseling Manager at the University of Maryland, and then helped run a local real estate company. She lived in Maryland for 15 years before returning home to Central New York where she has resided since.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the remarkable life of Shirley Miller Kay. She continues to live a life exemplary of equality and service, two values that all Americans should strive to hold themselves to. I thank Shirley, as well as all our veterans, for their courage and dedication to our great nation.

HONORING SCOTT AND TARA
SMALSTIG

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Scott and Tara Smalstig for their contribution to our state and their community.

The Smalstigs are an institution in Delaware County and have spent their lives devoted to improving their community. I have known Scott and Tara for over 20 years, as they set Jennifer and me up on a blind date in Muncie. Scott is an executive at Meridian Health Services and spends his free time giving back to the community and coaching youth sports. Tara is an attorney at a law firm in Muncie and is continually recognized for excellence in the legal profession. She has also spent years serving on local boards and volunteering for community organizations. Without a doubt, Delaware County is better off today because of their extraordinary leadership and service.

This may go without saying, but the Smalstigs were among my earliest and most vocal supporters. I would like to thank them for their friendship and support of my work in Congress. The Messer family cherishes the time we get to spend with them, and we wish them all the best in whatever God has planned for their family.

RECOGNIZING RURAL HOSPITAL
WEEK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rural Hospital Week and in support of the critical role rural hospitals, and the health care professionals that choose to serve rural communities, play in our health care system. Roughly 1 in 5 Americans live in rural areas, and often, hospitals are one of the main economic drivers of their communities. In fact, hospitals account for 14 percent of total rural employment nationwide. In this way, rural hospitals keep not just their patients healthy, but the economies of their local communities as well.

Despite the important role that hospitals play in rural America, a disturbing trend of closures threatens the availability of care for millions of rural Americans. According to a study published by the GAO in August of this year, 64 rural hospitals closed between 2013 and 2017. This rate of closure is more than double that of the previous 5-year period, and accounts for roughly 3 percent of all rural hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and the rest of our colleagues will join me in celebrating Rural Hospital Week, as well as the talented health care professionals and hospitals that make high quality care possible. I hope you will also join me in seeking solutions that maintain the availability of this high-quality care for all Americans.

CONGRATULATING DR. GENNARO
R. PIRAINO, JR.

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Dr. Gennaro R. Piraino,

Jr., for his selection as the 2019 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year.

A Western Pennsylvania native, Gennaro earned his Doctor of Education in Administrative and Policy Studies at the University of Pittsburgh and serves as the Superintendent of Schools for the Franklin Regional School District.

A leader in both the educational and local communities, Gennaro has served on Pennsylvania's School Safety and Security Committee since June of 2018 and has been a major advocate in sculpting a well-rounded academic environment for students to flourish.

He is also an active member on various boards of local leadership groups, including but not limited to, the Board of Directors for the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, the Tri-State Study Council's Executive Board, and the Fanklin Regional Panther Foundation.

At the same time, Gennaro's focus on building strong, dynamic young leaders is unmatched. Recognizing that a student's success extends beyond the classroom, Gennaro has been instrumental in promoting students' personal and professional development by creating and expanding educational programs and partnerships.

The Superintendent of the Year award is given to those who exemplify leadership in learning, professionalism, communications skills, and involvement in the community. The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators could not have chosen a better beneficiary. Gennaro's commitment to improving opportunities for students, empowering them to dream big and encouraging them to pursue excellence in all aspects of life, rightfully deserves this award. Congratulations again, Gennaro, on receiving this prestigious award.

You have made the people of Western Pennsylvania incredibly proud.

CONGRATULATING MARCUS SMITH
ON WINNING HIS CLASS 1A GOLF
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marcus Smith, from Winnebago High School, for earning the Class 1A title for the Illinois State Championship in golf.

I would like to recognize Mr. Smith for his tremendous accomplishment. His dedication and passion for golf meant that he was determined to win gold. As a former athlete, I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to be awarded such a title. He is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Winnebago throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Marcus Smith on his title, and I join the rest of the community in wishing him every success in the future.