

U.S. President Jimmy Carter; and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González Márquez.

"The People First!" (La gente primero) was a mantra that Dr. Peña Gómez personified. He never relented in furthering himself and others from the Dominican Republic. His passion for public service in government was a result of his political activism with the Dominican Revolutionary Party and lived experience as an Afro-Latino. As an activist, he loudly voiced his opposition to military intervention in the Dominican Republic; was a fierce proponent of free speech; and denounced unfair elections practices that undermined democracy. Dr. Peña Gómez worked feverishly to advocate for dual-citizenship for Dominican nationals living abroad. He was a global advocate for the indigent and his fervent condemnation of civil and human rights violations in the Dominican Republic never waned.

From his lifetime of service, Dr. Peña Gómez will, without question, be recorded in history as a civil rights icon and advocate for the poor in the Dominican Republic. He was never afraid to speak out against racism and invective directed towards him. He rose above the racism and hatred and in his own words said, "I am a human being who has experienced many vicissitudes . . . I was born in an era of conflicts. I have two sets of parents and two families. One is by blood, and the other is the result of cohabitation. But both are dear to me." It is my pleasure and great honor to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. José Francisco Peña Gómez with his family and those who fondly remember his model and standard.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE RASMUSSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bruce Rasmussen of Council Bluffs, Iowa for receiving the 2018 Mercy Heritage Award for Business, sponsored by CHI Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs. The Heritage Award was created to show special recognition to volunteers who have enriched our community and helped established a legacy for the future.

Bruce is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs and Iowa State University with an engineering operations degree. After college, Bruce returned to Council Bluffs to help his father establish the family heating and air conditioning business. Today, Rasmussen Mechanical Services has operations in seven midwestern states with over 200 team members. Bruce's business experience goes beyond the family-owned heating and air conditioning business. He has owned a boat hoist manufacturing business, a fitness and wellness center, and helped develop a retail outlet center called Power Plaza. He recently purchased the old Bingo King building in Council Bluffs and is in the process of renovating the structure to be used as the corporate headquarters for Rasmussen Mechanical Services. Bruce has taken an active role in his community, serving in leadership roles with the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, Optimist Club, Lutheran Family Services, and Pottawattamie County Foundation. He is a youth basketball and baseball

coach and is an active member at St. John's Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Bruce Rasmussen on his selection for the CHI Mercy Hospital Award for Business. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Bruce and wishing him nothing but continued success in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESKATON

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Eskaton, the largest nonprofit community organization serving senior citizens in the greater Sacramento area. As team members, clients, and families celebrate Eskaton's 50th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Eskaton and its team members for their tireless commitment to ensuring that the needs of our Seniors are met.

For the past five decades, Eskaton has been defined by the compassion their staff shows towards their community members and the partnerships they have developed. Eskaton has been part of the growth of our region, enhancing the lives of our Seniors by providing innovative health, housing, and social services to nearly 14,000 people that live in their communities. Eskaton not only serves those living in their facilities, they also provide compassionate support options to those who choose to remain in their own homes. The Center offers important programs that assist Seniors in their daily lives, such as Telephone Reassurance, the Adult Day Health Center, and Eskaton Kids Connection.

Eskaton serves the greater Sacramento community and our residents proudly. I extend my appreciation for the efforts of this outstanding organization and the individuals who work tirelessly to provide valuable health initiatives and benefits to the region's Seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I stand to pay tribute to Eskaton and its staff for fifty years of serving Seniors in the greater Sacramento region. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their exemplary work on behalf of Seniors, as well as their ongoing dedication to their mission of serving the community.

SHARING STUDENTS' 'MARCH FOR OUR LIVES' REMARKS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, I came to the Floor and spoke about the March For Our Lives on March 24 and the nine extraordinarily poised students in Morristown, New Jersey, who spoke at the rally there, which I attended. I include in the RECORD remarks by Raniya Madhi. I hope my colleagues will read them and internalize the sense of fear in which our nation's students are living every day—and our responsibility as Members of

Congress to do something to address this crisis of gun violence.

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

(By Raniya Madhi)

Hi everyone, my name is Raniya Mahdi, and I'm a junior at Ridge High School in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and I'm participating in this march to honor the lives lost at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where we lost seventeen of our school companions and teachers to yet another mass shooting in this country.

Today is March 24. Millions of people are marching for their lives across the country to demand change so that no student, teacher, or parent has to fear for their or their loved ones life while they are receiving an education at school. When I heard about this shooting, I had mixed emotions. I was shocked, shocked, that we had to lose seventeen more innocent kids to another senseless killing, and yet some of us haven't even addressed this issue that is killing our kids day after day. I was upset, upset to think about how their families must be feeling, that they will never get to kiss their kids goodbye ever again. They will never ever be able to see their loved ones, maybe in another world, but not this one. This world, this country, has made it impossible for us to be able to feel safe in our own schools. We should never have to think about the possibility of being shot by someone who can easily break through our defenseless walls and enter our school like an ordinary person, until they whip out their AR-15 and start firing at students and staff without a care in the world. The ones who we lost should not have been taken away. Why did they need to suffer because of the inaction and stagnance of our congressmen? I thought to myself: These innocent kids came to school, on Valentine's Day, like any normal school day, yet they did not live to see their families and friends the next day. This is horrifying to me, that countless school shootings like this have happened over the years, but no change.

Picture this: A nineteen-year-old walks into a liquor store and lawfully be denied any sort of alcohol. Now picture how is it that a nineteen-year-old cannot legally buy a beer but can legally buy an AR-15 assault rifle at this age? And how can our country allow a person to take the lives of fourteen fellow students and three teachers? We have to unite as one and urge our congressmen to take action. This is why we are participating in this peaceful protest, to pressure our congressmen, senators, representatives and the President to make changes to the existing laws. Ban bump stocks! Ban assault rifles! Increase background checks! We deserve to feel safe in our schools! We may just be students, but this kind of revolution has never happened before, where us kids are taking the reins. Look around you. Look at how many empowered students there are standing up here and around you. This is what determination and unity looks like. With these two things, we can be the generation that ends gun violence.

Most of us here are just teenagers. We should be worrying about doing well on our AP tests and finals in the end of the year, not about being shot by someone who can enter our schools. There have been eighteen school shootings this year alone, and we are only in March. This country's problem is that we do not learn from our mistakes. In Australia, there was a mass shooting in 1996, when a gunman killed thirty-five people in Port Arthur. Only weeks after the tragedy, Australia banned all rapid-fire guns and offered to buy the remaining weapons that some individuals possessed. Since that day, there has not been a single mass shooting. Not one in the past twenty-two years.

Whereas America? After Columbine, Sandy Hook, San Bernardino, Orlando, Vegas and endless others, this country remains numb to any shootings of any kind, no matter how extreme the death tolls are, this country has made it seem like those who died and those who are living aren't even worth putting any sort of restrictions on the weapon that brutally ended their lives and a weapon that could potentially end ours if we do not do something about it.

America needs to wake up and address the major problems here: gun violence and school security. We cannot let more innocent lives be taken away. Again, we may not be able to pass legislation, but we have a voice and we are strong and will continue to use it until something is done. Let's unite as one and support the brave survivors in Parkland that are speaking out for their rights and let's stand together and fight through this hell of an uphill battle. This is not the end of our fight, it's only the beginning.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
LEWIS A. OPLER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Lewis A. Opler, a doctor who dedicated his life to the care of others. He passed away Thursday, April 12th at the age of 69 in New York City.

Dr. Opler was born in 1948 in Los Angeles but spent the majority of his childhood in New York. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biochemical Sciences. He went on to receive a Ph.D. in Pharmacology in 1975 as well as a Medical Degree in 1976 from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University.

For 20 years, Dr. Opler served at the New York State Office of Mental Health where he'd go on to become the director of the research division and chief medical officer. Dr. Opler served on the faculties of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York University School of Medicine and Long Island University.

Dr. Opler's dedication to his work and helping those with mental illness made him one of the most distinguished professionals in his field. He helped to develop the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale, which became the gold standard measure of symptoms in patients with schizophrenia. He spent his career treating and researching post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia and other brain disorders. His work revolutionized the field and went on to be used in countless research studies and resulted in hundreds of research papers, books, and presentations.

Dr. Opler was also an active member of NAIM-NYS, New York States National Alliance on Mental Illness. His actions there went well beyond that of the average doctor. He devoted countless hours to consoling individuals living with mental illness as well as their family and friends. He wrote a column for NAIM-NYS newsletter and for 30 years was an active participant in their fall educational conference.

Among other titles, Dr. Opler was an accomplished writer and musician, he co-wrote the books "Resurrection and Redemption: Overcoming Mental Illness and Regaining Dig-

nity," with Harryet Ehrlich and "Prozac and Other Psychiatric Drugs" with Carol Bialkowski. Additionally, Dr. Opler worked as the medical editor for the book the "Complete Pill Guide."

During the Vietnam War, Dr. Opler was an outspoken member of the anti-war movement and performed many classic protest songs as well as his own songs during rallies. He was a classically trained violinist and knew how to play the harmonica, banjo, guitar and mandolin. Dr. Opler was a lifelong defender of labor rights, once leading a walk out for the rights of hospital residents.

Dr. Opler's dedication and spirited empathy has left behind a legacy of generosity, kindness and loyalty. His memory will live on in his family, colleagues, peers and community. He was an honorable man who made this world a better place. I offer my sincerest condolences to his wife, Annette; his sister, Ruth; his children, Mark, Daniel, Michelle and Douglas; their spouses Stacy, Yamuna, Paul and Angela and his seven grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Dr. Lewis A. Opler's colleagues, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, in recognizing Dr. Lewis A. Opler's remarkable life of service.

CONGRESS OF FUTURE SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrea Flores, who was chosen by the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the State of Colorado as Delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders.

The Congress is an honors-only program for top students in our country who aspire to work in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) fields. These students are nominated by their teachers or the Academy based on their leadership ability, academic achievement, and dedication. This program is designed to inspire young people to go into STEM fields and provides a path, plan, and mentoring resources to help them reach their dreams. During the Congress, the students will have the chance to learn from luminaries of the STEM field including top scientific university deans, leaders from government and the private sector, and even Nobel laureates.

This student's acceptance to this prestigious program is an incredible feat, and it is my honor to rise today and recognize the outstanding accomplishment of this future leader. Our nation greatly benefits from the achievements of scientists and technologists, and it is important that we continue to inspire younger generations to pursue careers in the STEM fields.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my congratulations to Andrea Flores and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LOGAN SCHUMACHER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Logan Schumacher for winning the Class 1A, 182 pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament earlier this year.

Logan is a senior at Martensdale-St Mary's High School. He wrestled at the state tournament during his entire high school career and was also nominated for the Class A 2018 Dan Gable Wrestler of the Year Award.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Logan Schumacher and his family in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Logan on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his education and wrestling career.

IN HONOR OF MARY GRADY
BURNETTE KOONCE

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Mary Grady Burnette Koonce.

Mary Grady was born in Raleigh on January 4, 1935. She graduated from Saint Mary's School in Raleigh in 1954 and went on to receive a degree in Journalism in 1956 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority. She worked in public relations for Meredith College and then at the Raleigh Times as a court reporter.

Mr. Speaker, in 1957, Mary Grady won the North Carolina Press Women First Place Award and also received the Tar Heel Writers Roundtable First Place prize for juvenile fiction. She enjoyed freelancing as a journalist, writing short stories and poetry.

When not writing, Mary Grady was actively involved in her community. She was a North Carolina Museum of Art docent, Bal de Mer Co-Chair, Treasurer of the Guild; and also Saint Mary's School Parents' Council Vice Chair and Vice President of the Friends of the Library. She was a member of the Raleigh Fine Arts Guild, the Junior League of Raleigh, Hayes Barton United Methodist Church Chancel Committee, and North Carolina Museum of History Associates Wake County Committee.

Regrettably, Mary Grady Burnette Koonce passed away on April 25 this year in Raleigh at the age of 83. She was a kind and graceful wife, mother, daughter, grandmother, and friend who loved time with her children and grandchildren. And she will be missed.