

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON
REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM
LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS OF
EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 6, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), and to congratulate the recipients of the 20th Annual Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award-winning, public-private coalition formed to fight drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Through educational and innovative public outreach programs, WRAP is credited with keeping local alcohol-related death rates consistently below the national average. Its programs educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. Through the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, individuals who are impaired can request a free cab ride home. Since SoberRide was launched in 1993, 65,385 free cab rides have been provided in the Washington Metropolitan area, preventing potential accidents and deaths.

In 1982, the year that WRAP was founded, 26,173 people in the United States lost their lives in alcohol-related car accidents, and 60 percent of all traffic fatalities involved drunk driving. Due to the tireless efforts of WRAP, other organizations such as MADD and SADD, local and state police, and enforcement of more stringent anti-drunk driving laws, considerable progress has been made in decreasing the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, especially here in the Washington Metropolitan Region. According to the Council of Governments, the number of alcohol-impaired fatalities, injuries, and crashes have all decreased since 2014. However, more work still remains as 32.75 percent of all traffic fatalities in the region in 2016 were alcohol or drug related.

Since 1997, WRAP has sponsored an annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony to honor local law enforcement professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against drunk driving. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2017 Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention recipients:

Officer Wesley Vitale, City of Alexandria Police Department

Master Police Officer Dimitrios Mastoras, Arlington County Police Department

Corporal Kevin Hedden, City of Falls Church Police Department

Officer Devin White, Fairfax County Police Department

Private First Class Eliezer Calo, Town of Herndon Police Department

Deputy John Chavez, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Trooper Dennis Moguche, Maryland State Police

Officer Derrick Ferguson, Metropolitan Police Department

Police Officer II Lawrence Caldwell, Montgomery County Department of Police

Police Officer III John Romack, Montgomery County Department of Police

Police Officer First Class Richard D. Carlson III, Prince George's County Police Department
Officer Matthew Sciabica, Prince William County Police Department

Officer Benjamin Tomasiello, United States Park Police

Trooper Lucie Vajglova, Virginia State Police

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence and in recognizing WRAP for its 35 years of public service. I commend the staff of WRAP, under the leadership of President Kurt Erickson and Board Chairman Gary Cohen, for their tireless dedication to eradicating underage drinking and drunk or drugged driving. Their efforts, combined with the support of partner organizations and law enforcement agencies, have saved lives and are deserving of our highest praise and gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA AND
STANLEY JOHNSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 6, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Barbara and Stanley Johnson of Villisca, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on June 10, 2018.

Barbara and Stanley's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MELVIN T.
BURGESS, SR.

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 6, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall the excellent life of Melvin T. Burgess, Sr., who served his community in various capacities for 56 years and died June 28 at the age of 80. Mr. Burgess served for 33 years with the Memphis Police Department, the final two and a half years as Police Director. Mr. Burgess was a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School after which he joined the U.S. Air Force. He was also a graduate of Grambling State University in Grambling, Louisiana. Mr. Burgess joined the Memphis Police Department on March 12, 1962, starting off in the Beale Street Precinct as a beat officer. He rose through the ranks, working in the juvenile, robbery, narcotics and homicide units be-

fore becoming an Inspector then Director in January 1992. As Director, he assumed the command of 1,448 commissioned officers. He ran for Shelby County Sheriff as a Democrat in 1998 but did not prevail. The following year, he began working as the second in command of the Tunica County Sheriffs Department during federal corruption probe and, when the sheriff under indictment pleaded guilty to extortion and resigned, Burgess ran the department for almost a year until a successor was elected. He was commended by one federal prosecutor for "coming in and righting the ship." He also worked as chief of security for Harrah's Casino in Tunica. Mr. Burgess was a true man of character and integrity whom I grew to know and admire while I was the legal advisor to the Memphis Police Department. I want to extend my condolences to his wife of 43 years, Johanna; his son Shelby County Commissioner Melvin Burgess II and his wife Sandra; his daughter Pamela Nelson; and his four grandchildren. Melvin Burgess always did the right thing. His was a life well-lived, and he will be missed.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5587 PEER
SUPPORT COMMUNITIES OF RE-
COVERY ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 6, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5587, the Peer Support Communities of Recovery.

H.R. 5587 provides for the establishment of regional assistance centers to implement addiction recovery support services throughout an individual's treatment.

Everyday, over 100 people in the United States die from opioid related drug overdoses, while over 11.5 million people misuse prescription opioids.

In 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report cited 63,632 drug overdose deaths in the U.S., with a linearly increasing trend.

In Texas, there were 1,375 opioid-related overdose deaths and within Houston alone, there were 364 drug-related overdose deaths that happened in 2016 according to the Treatment Center.

The U.S. is going through a serious drug abuse epidemic and the resources available for recovering addicts are currently limited in variability.

Peer support services are unique in that they allow for individuals with common experiences to share their stories of recovery with the people who might be seeking help.

Through self-help and shared support, people are able to offer strength and hope to their peers, which allows for personal growth, promotes wellness, and encourages recovery.

Examples of peer support include: peer mentoring or coaching; peer recovery resource connecting; recovery group facilitation; and community building.

In Houston, we have peer support programs that exist for both adults and youth through the Houston Health Department and Houston Recovery Center.

H.R. 5587 authorizes programs, similar to the ones that are having a positive impact in

Houston, to be established across the country to serve other communities.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5587 to ensure that we are addressing substance abuse in the United States as efficiently as possible.

RECOGNIZING TROOPER II BRANDON WEST AS THE 2018 PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR RECIPIENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 6, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend 2018 Bronze Medal of Valor Trooper II Brandon D. West for his extraordinary service and superior dedication to public safety he displays on a daily basis.

For the past 32 years, the Prince William Chamber of Commerce has paid tribute to our police officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel for their extraordinary service. Each year, we gather to recognize the remarkable heroism and bravery above and beyond the line of duty exemplified by our public safety and law enforcement professionals.

In 2014, Trooper West received the Virginia State Police Superintendent's Award of Honor, the American Red Cross Lifesaving Award, and the Prince William Chamber of Commerce Silver Medal of Valor Award for his bravery, selflessness, and quick action in rescuing an individual and his dog before their disabled vehicle was engulfed in flames. These are just a few of the honors and awards bestowed to Trooper West in recognition of his dedication to public safety.

During a shift in 2017, Trooper West was stationary on Interstate 95 northbound at the Occoquan Bridge when he saw a Dodge pickup truck with a large trailer pull to the right shoulder of the bridge. Trooper West proceeded to the location. Fairfax Communications sent out a call for a safety service to respond and informed Trooper West that an additional request for rescue services had been dispatched. Upon his arrival to the scene, a passenger informed Trooper West that the driver was injured. Trooper West found the driver pale and in possible shock. Seeing a large amount of blood on the floorboard, Trooper West realized a broken drive shaft had come through the floor of the pickup, striking the driver and severing part of his leg. Trooper West applied a tourniquet to the driver's leg to slow the loss of blood. The tourniquet kept slipping, so Trooper West held the tourniquet in place until rescue services arrived and applied a second tourniquet. Ultimately, the driver was flown from the scene in good condition, thanks to Trooper West's rescue efforts.

In recognition of his act of valor, extraordinary dedication, and outstanding performance under unusually difficult circumstances, it is my honor to include in the RECORD Bronze Medal for Valor Award recipient, Trooper Brandon D. West of the Virginia State Police. Trooper West has exemplified the noble mission of all law-enforcement officers: to protect and serve in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in recognizing Trooper II Brandon D. West and in

congratulating him on receiving the 2018 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Bronze Medal of Valor Award. The selfless act of heroism by Trooper West merits our highest praise. I thank Trooper West, as well as all Virginia State Police law enforcement professionals, for their dedication and commitment to the protection of our communities.

TRIBUTE TO NORMA AND KENNY ARCHER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 6, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Norma and Kenny Archer of Honey Creek, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on June 9, 2018 at the Archer Farm in Honey Creek.

Norma and Kenny's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING SRI VIJAYESHWARI DEVI

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 6, 2018

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sri Vijayeshwari Devi, known to her many admirers as Amma Sri Karunamayi or "Amma," for her exemplary efforts in bringing peace and understanding not only to the people of India, but to all nations.

Amma was born in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. As a child, she was drawn to a spiritual existence, and spent most of her young adult life absorbed in prayer and meditation. After a period of intense reflection, Amma began a life of advocacy for the poor and disenfranchised, publicly speaking throughout India on the issues of nonviolence, equality, and respect for all people regardless of gender, religion, race or social status. Her teachings have led her across the globe, speaking to countless followers and performing humanitarian work wherever the need is greatest.

To realize her vision of a more just world, Amma and her organization offer a host of services to underserved men, women and children in the United States, India and Africa. These services include organizing and providing, among other things, free medical care, clean water, free education, free food, leprosy care, and wheelchair distribution. Amma believes in pursuing sustainable development that enable families trapped in poverty to give a better future to their children.

Amma is beloved by many as a Hindu saint, and has a large following in my district. Her humanitarian efforts have been recognized and celebrated by, among others, Congressman DANNY DAVIS, Congressman BILL FOSTER, Governor Pat Quinn, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and President Jimmy Carter.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Amma's selfless and compassionate devotion to all people, and her work to bring peace and understanding to our world.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5197 ALTERNATIVES TO OPIOIDS (ALTO) IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 6, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5197, the Alternatives to Opioids in the Emergency Department Act, or the ALTO Act.

Mr. Speaker, our nation faces an opioid crisis.

H.R. 5197, the ALTO Act, directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a demonstration program to test alternative pain management protocols to limit the use of opioids in hospitals and emergency departments.

Opioids contributed to the deaths of more than 42,000 people in 2016, more than any year on official record.

Forty percent of all opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid.

The economic burden of prescription opioid misuse in the United States is estimated to be \$78.5 billion dollars per year.

This figure includes costs stemming from health care, including addiction treatment, lost productivity, and criminal justice involvement.

Over 200 million opioid prescriptions are written in the United States each year, and 2 million Americans have the symptoms of substance use disorder.

Approximately 21 to 29 percent of patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse them.

In Texas, 4 percent of the population reports using pain relievers for non-medical purposes.

Harris County, which contains my home district, has a pain medication misuse rate of 3.91 percent.

The time for action is now.

H.R. 5197, the ALTO Act, directs Health and Human Services to carry out a 3-year demonstration program which awards grants to hospitals and emergency departments to develop, implement, enhance, or study alternative pain management protocols and treatments that promote the appropriate limited use of opioids.

Emergency departments in several States, including in New Jersey and Colorado, have developed innovative programs to more widely utilize non-opioid pain treatments to reduce the use of opioids.

We must learn from these attempts and initiate a national program to limit the overuse of opioids in emergency settings.

However, it is important to realize that some groups, such as African Americans, are underprescribed pain management medications.