

have worked and labored to empower their families and Mount Vernon Baptist Church into a spiritual force serving the Durham community.

I am grateful to these remarkable women for their love of humanity and contributions to their community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing these three great Americans our very best wishes as they each celebrate 100 years of life.

#### SUSTAINABLE CONTROL OF THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to one very remarkable young woman. Earlier this year, I had the honor of meeting Masedi while visiting Botswana as part of a delegation trip.

Sadly, Botswana is still struggling with HIV/AIDS. Every year, there are 14,000 new infections, and 1 in 5 adults in the country has HIV/AIDS. Masedi is one of these adults.

Born with HIV/AIDS 23 years ago, she lost both of her parents and many other family members to this disease. But when my husband, Dexter, and I visited with her in Botswana, she was full of optimism and determination.

Masedi's story is remarkable, and what she has had to overcome is truly inspiring. She has made it her mission to educate the people of Botswana on HIV/AIDS to dispel any rumors or stigmas related to this disease and to one day see a Botswana free of this terrible ordeal.

We were so inspired with this visit, and she is truly a shining role model for the entire country.

That is why our PEPFAR program is so vitally important, Mr. Speaker. In just over 15 years, PEPFAR has saved and improved millions of lives while preventing millions more in HIV infections. Thanks to American leadership, PEPFAR, and remarkable individuals like Masedi, we can achieve the goal of sustainable control and eradication of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

#### CONGRATULATING BOB ROSASCO'S EFFORTS WITH MINTS INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank my dear friend Bob Rosasco for his efforts with MINTS International Seminary and its seminary-in-prison degree program.

Since 2010, this organization has been teaching theology in Florida's prisons in order to educate, to train, and to equip members of the prison population, so they can teach others about religion and the word of God.

This program provides inmates with the necessary tools and training that prepare them to reenter society and become productive members of the community after their release. Studies have shown that those who participate in education programs, including reli-

gious programs, while incarcerated are much less likely to reoffend.

Because of Bob Rosasco and the efforts of so many like him, this program now has more than 200 students participating, with plans to keep expanding beyond Florida and across the United States.

We are blessed to have Bob Rosasco as a member of our south Florida community, and I commend him for continuously giving back to others by sharing his time, his knowledge, and his passion.

#### RECOGNIZING RYAN DOOLEY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ryan Dooley, a dedicated Federal employee, a public servant, and my friend who lives in my congressional district in beautiful south Florida.

I first met Ryan 14 years ago, shortly after he arrived in Miami as Assistant Director of the State Department's Miami Passport Agency. Ryan's commitment to service is unparalleled, and because of his efforts, he was soon promoted to Director of the Miami Passport Agency.

When the San Juan Passport Agency opened its doors to the public in 2014, Ryan was chosen to lead that office as well. For the first time, our fellow Americans living in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands gained direct access to much needed-passport services, and that was truly a historic milestone.

Today, Ryan is responsible for helping countless citizens across a huge geographic area. Ryan and his staff are consummate professionals dedicated to serving their communities efficiently and accurately. Under Ryan's leadership, they have met and overcome numerous passport workload challenges.

I have had the opportunity to work with Ryan on multiple occasions, both in Miami and here in D.C., and I can say that he is respected and admired by his colleagues at local, State, and Federal levels.

I also know numerous State Department employees who got their start in Miami and were mentored by Ryan and encouraged to excel in their public service paths.

In his career that has taken him around the world, Ryan has always promoted the ideals of freedom, of democracy, and of being responsible to the citizens of our great Nation.

I would like to say, on behalf of my constituents: Ryan Dooley, thank you so much for all of your tireless work. I commend you for a job well done. I hope that you continue to serve the people of south Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands faithfully. I wish you and your partner, Gerald Darby, the best in the years to come. Gracias, amigo.

#### MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.

Mental health challenges do not discriminate. They affect Americans of all ages, races, backgrounds, and genders. It doesn't matter if you are from a blue State, a red State, or a swing State. Mental illness is in your community. It affects your family and exists in your friend group and with your coworkers.

Tragically, while mental health challenges impact so many people across the board, too many never see or get treatment because of the stigma associated with mental healthcare. It shames them into silence.

So it is fitting that this year's theme is "CureStigma." While stigma keeps far too many from seeking and receiving the care that they need, the silence of stigma plagues African American populations and other ethnic groups.

It is a sad and staggering statistic that African Americans are 20 percent more likely to report serious psychological distress than their White counterparts but just 25 percent will seek care. There is a tragic inequity in that figure, given that 40 percent of their White counterparts will seek care.

Is this a matter of stigma? Of access to care, culturally competent care, and associated resources? Or perhaps a combination of them all.

Mr. Speaker, it is past time that we tackle the stigma associated with mental health that keeps too many trapped without hope, recourse, or recovery.

As for access to care, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, all health insurance plans are required to cover mental health services, just as they would cover cancer screenings and tetanus shots. Still, this administration, either through cruelty or willful ignorance, has actively attacked the mental health requirement and sought to push bad or, as I call them, junk insurance plans that neglect mental health services.

We must do better. Congress must be better. Too many, especially in vulnerable populations, are still in desperate need of this care.

That is why I am proud to be cosponsoring the Mental Health in Schools Act offered by my good friend, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO. This bill will provide comprehensive mental health programs to students in schools, with a special focus on dealing with trauma and violence. Congress can make a world of difference today, if we pass this bill.

I am also proud to be cosponsoring the Veterans Mental Health Accessibility Act introduced by my colleague from Pennsylvania, Congressman MATT CARTWRIGHT. His bill would make veterans who serve in combat zones eligible for more mental health services through the VA.

This is really commonsense legislation. With more than 20 of our brave veterans committing suicide daily, it is of critical importance that we pass this bill.

In closing, I want to remind everyone, my colleagues, and those watching at home on C-SPAN that mental health is something that we can all work on. Simple, small, everyday things can make a huge difference. Here is my personal top five.

First, take care of your body. It is all connected. Even a little bit of exercise or even a little more sleep can improve mood, reduce stress, and improve your health all around.

Second, find a stress management strategy that works for you. For some, it is reading or running, while for others, it is coffee with friends or takeout and a movie. Do whatever works for you.

Third, surround yourself with good people, be it family, friends, or someone you can trust in your community.

Fourth, volunteerism is a great way to get out of your own head and give back to your community. It is good for you and great for your community.

Finally, if you or someone you love needs help, please get it. Don't let stigma hold you back.

Mr. Speaker, as Minority Mental Health Awareness Month comes to a close, let's cure stigma.

#### HONORING THE BURLE FAMILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ryan and Abby Burle of Gainesville for creating a book drive for families with newborns who are receiving lifesaving medical treatment.

The couple was inspired to establish the Mighty Three neonatal intensive care unit book drive after their triplets, Maggie, Max, and Miller, underwent medical treatment in Northeast Georgia Medical Center following their births. For months, Ryan and Abby could not hold their babies while they received crucial medical attention.

As teachers, the young couple decided that they could leverage reading to communicate with the triplets using the sound of their voice to develop a bond with the three tiny patients. The Burles designed the Mighty Three NICU book drive to give families two books for each baby receiving treatment at Northeast Georgia Medical Center's Gainesville hospital.

Initially, the couple set out to collect 850 books but quickly surpassed that goal. Through their tireless work, the Mighty Three NICU book drive has provided more than 2,000 books to the hospital on Spring Street.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ryan and Abby for their dedication to encouraging families during times of need, and I wish the two of them much joy as they raise their three healthy children.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TY COBB MUSEUM

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join northeast Georgia in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Ty Cobb Museum.

The museum opened its doors on July 17, 1998, to highlight the legacy of Ty Cobb, a Banks County native and Baseball Hall of Fame member.

Cobb was a Major League Baseball outfielder who set 90 MLB records during his career, some of which stand today. He played for the Detroit Tigers for 22 years, and, later, for the Philadelphia Athletics for two seasons.

Cobb's remarkable achievements include 4,065 runs scored and batted in, 897 total stolen bases, and a batting average of .366 at the close of his career. Additionally, Cobb was the first player ever inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

In the community of Royston, The Georgia Peach is remembered for his philanthropic kindness. He was responsible for the Cobb Memorial Hospital and the Cobb Educational Fund, which have left a lasting legacy of love for his hometown.

Mr. Speaker, the Ty Cobb Museum captures significant moments throughout Cobb's life, from his roots in Royston to this success as part of American's pastime. I congratulate the staff of the museum for two decades of service to their Georgia community and wish them well in their endeavors.

CONGRATULATING CAROLINE LEWALLEN

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Caroline Lewallen of Jaemor Farms in Alto.

As a member of the Hall County Farm Bureau and Georgia Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers program, Caroline's commitment to our State's agricultural industry earned her the program's Excellence in Agriculture award.

Caroline holds degrees in agricultural education and leadership from the University of Georgia and Texas A&M University, respectively. She began her career as a student teacher and later became an agricultural fellow in the office of one of my former colleagues, Congressman Jack Kingston.

Today, Caroline serves as the agritourism and marketing coordinator for Jaemor Farms. At Jaemor Farms, Caroline manages all events, like the festival honoring my favorite peach, the annual Georgia Belle Peach Festival. She also runs Jaemor Farms' marketing and social media presence, regularly attracting attention from across the State and the country.

Mr. Speaker, Caroline has played an important role in promoting the work of the northeast Georgia farmers by communicating the importance of locally grown produce for communities, and I want to congratulate her on this award and wish her well throughout her career.

HONORING KIT DUNLAP

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kit Dunlap, president and CEO of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce, who recently received the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives' Legacy Award.

The Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives' Legacy

Award is the association's highest honor, recognizing executives who have dedicated many years to successfully improving their local chambers of commerce.

Kit has served as the Greater Hall Chamber's top official for more than 20 years. Her ambition and compassion for others has allowed her to excel as a leader. Throughout her involvement in the local chamber of commerce, she has transformed the Greater Hall Chamber by bringing together a well-connected economic development team. This team has helped increase capital investment, job availability, and job retention in the Hall County area.

Additionally, Kit has managed multi-million dollar initiatives, including the HALLmark campaign and Vision 2030, which helped fund community-based education and economic development programs.

I congratulate my friend Kit Dunlap on this award and thank her for her service to the Hall County business community.

Mr. Speaker, as Kit's representative, I must end this speech by answering the question she asks at the end of each chamber meeting: What is the water level of Lake Lanier? Well, today, it is 1,071.89.

#### TRIBUTE TO A LOCAL HERO, ROBERT VON DRASEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Robert "Bob" Von Drasek, as he is better known. Bob was the most dedicated, committed, and loyal Saul-Alinsky-trained organizer who I have ever known.

Bob came to the south Austin community during a time of great turbulence.

□ 1030

The community was in the throes of a great transition from being 80 percent White to becoming 80 percent Black within a 10-year period of time. Blockbusting, panic peddling, redlining, disinvestment, and all manner of malfeasance were taking place. Police brutality and other forms of law enforcement misconduct were rampant.

I met Bob during this period. It was also during this time that the Organization for a Better Austin, under the leadership of Gail Cincotta, was organized; the South Austin Coalition Community Council, SACCC, was formed with Bob as a lead organizer; and I decided to run for the city council.

Over the years, I have followed Bob's work without exception. South Austin is practically an all African American community, except for a few merchants who never left the area, a few White citizens, school teachers, and policemen. Of course, Bob is White or Caucasian, and yet he won the hearts of the