

have such a historically significant establishment in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

Located in the Brookside neighborhood of Kansas City at 63rd Street and Brookside Boulevard, the historic shopping district was founded on September 1, 1919. Headlining the Country Club District Bulletin as "the first group of neighborhood shops", it brought a sense of utility and practicality. Construction for the Brookside Shopping District began before World War I and would be completed over the next decade. An innovative undertaking that proudly followed the model of other developments taking place across the United States, particularly Yorkshipp Village, New Jersey. Like the historic Yorkshipp Village of 1918, the Brookside Shopping District emerged steadfast in its goal to meet the needs of the community it served. In its founding, the district consisted of grocery and drugstores, medical offices, a community center, as well as the first southside police and fire stations, providing all the necessary resources for the community in a neighborhood-focused model. In the same spirit, one hundred years later, this welcoming and vital collection of businesses serves as a hub of a community and exemplifies a model neighborhood center.

To this day, the Brookside Shopping District continues to add to Kansas City's rich historical fabric by providing community members with a charming, diverse place to shop and experience the city's history. Brookside is home to over eighty shops, restaurants, and offices; all unique while keeping with the original neighborhood allure and design. Moreover, in an effort to further promote the interests of individuals and property owners alike, the Brookside Business Association, originally the 63rd and Brookside Business Association, was founded in 1939. The association's efforts have ensured the continued improvement of the district, making it a better place to live and work.

Today, the Brookside Business Association is a voluntary organization that preserves the history of the Brookside Shopping District and neighborhood, maintains an aesthetically beautiful area for all to enjoy, and ensures that the historic community center withstands the test of time for future generations to visit and appreciate.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the Brookside Shopping District's tremendous milestone of one hundred years of service to the people of Kansas City and recognizing the district as a model for what good urban planning and stewardship can provide to its citizens.

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY LEE OF  
LOS ANGELES

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 27, 2019*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Beverly Lee in 40 years of service to the Los Angeles Communications Center, or LACC.

A Public Safety Operator at LACC is responsible for answering any and all 911, pub-

lic information, and allied agency calls in the 88 cities within Los Angeles County. LACC is the largest dispatch center in the state and Los Angeles County and answers an average of 7,000 calls a day, and over 10,000 calls a day during holidays, special events, or catastrophes.

Beverly Lee's journey at LACC began on July 23, 1979. Her younger brother was a dispatcher at LACC, and he encouraged Beverly to apply and test for a position. Beverly worked hard during her training and passed probation; the rest is history.

Beverly's career is historic in many ways. She was part of the last training class to document critical information on cards and the first to learn the computer-aided dispatch system. Throughout her 40-year career, she has handled innumerable high-priority emergency calls proficiently and calmly, being the voice of help in many hopeless moments. She was an integral part of rendering safety, service, and security to the public during the 1984 Olympics, 1991 LA Riots, 1994 Northridge Earthquake, 2000 Democratic National Convention, Y2K computer changeover, numerous LA Lakers Championships, the LA Kings 1st Championship, and many other notable emergencies. She has spent an untold number of holidays away from family and friends to assist others that need her help.

Beverly has an excellent work ethic and displays it daily. She physically, mentally, and emotionally exceeds her job expectations and does it with a smile. She is a strong and dedicated supporter of LACC's training program, and her guidance has led to many supervisorial and managerial promotions. She has donated food, clothing, and monetary gifts to the homeless and to Hurricane Katrina Victims, and is an active member of "Team CHP", supporting the Revlon Breast Cancer Walks and CHIPS for Kids. Her infectious laugh contributes to the morale of LACC, and her willingness to go above and beyond is truly an inspiration.

Beverly never imagined having a 40-year career at LACC, but has maintained her goal of having an excellent work ethic and a grateful attitude. She says the most rewarding gift of working at LACC has been the friendship, loyalty, and support she has experienced here. Beverly's heart and attitude are an example to us all.

HONORING THE IMPACT OF  
SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 27, 2019*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the important work of Sowing Seeds of Hope, a faith-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Perry County, Alabama. The organization was founded in 1999 by a group of mission-driven people, drawn together by a worthwhile vision for improving their community. Twenty years later, Sowing Seeds of Hope has grown by leaps and bounds, and now boasts a committed Executive Director, Mrs. Frances Ford, a hard-working staff, a board of directors and

a task force of members committed to improving the quality of life for residents of this rural county in the Black Belt.

One focus of Sowing Seeds of Hope has been providing low-income residents in the area with access to affordable prescription drugs. Rising prescription drug prices can often be prohibitively expensive for the un- and under-insured, but Sowing Seeds of Hope has worked to fill in those gaps by providing assistance to those in need.

Sowing Seeds of Hope has a longstanding partnership with Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy which provides outreach opportunities within the Perry County community to emerging pharmacy students. This includes access to diabetes support groups, cardiovascular risk reduction research, hypertension clinics and opportunities to assist qualifying constituents to sign up for Medicare.

Sowing Seeds of Hope has worked diligently and successfully to advocate for the establishment of a DaVita Dialysis Center in Marion, Alabama. Since its establishment, the DaVita Dialysis Center has provided crucial care to the community. Thanks to the center, citizens no longer have to drive thirty minutes to an hour to receive treatment, helping countless individuals to lead healthier, fuller lives.

On the educational front, Sowing Seeds of Hope hosts "Seed Camp," which is a week-long summer camp held on the campus of Judson College. During "Seed Camp," school-aged children from across the Black Belt are exposed to an array of stimulating subjects including science, math, arts, cooking, recreation and character education.

Additionally, Sowing Seeds of Hope offers social services, including parent training seminars, census counting initiatives and job placement services, along with many other resourceful programs. Their cornerstone offering is the "Self-Help Housing Program" which is truly unlike any other program in the state of Alabama. The program provides a pathway for low-income families to secure their own version of the American dream of homeownership. This is made possible through low-interest USDA mortgages and the homeowners providing "sweat equity" by helping build their own home with the assistance of community members. Nearly 20 families have transitioned from substandard housing to high quality, affordable homes thanks to the Self-Help Housing Program.

The work being done by Sowing Seeds of Hope is integral to building stronger communities, economically and morally. In a county that faces extreme adversity, this nonprofit serves as a beacon of hope, letting the community know that there are people that believe in them and their abilities and are willing to invest in a brighter future, not only for individuals and families, but for the overall good of the entire community.

Let the extraordinary efforts of this organization continue to inspire others to be engaged in compassionate community service, making this state and country a better place, one day at a time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF KENNETH ABRAHAMIAN

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 27, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of Mr. Kenneth Abrahamian. Kenneth was a distinguished military veteran and community member in Fresno, California. He will be greatly missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Kenneth was born on November 21, 1923 to Abraham and Aurora Abrahamian, Armenian immigrants who came to the United States in search of the American dream. He was raised in Rolinda, California, where hard work was instilled in him from a young age. Kenneth graduated from Central Union High School in 1941 and began working at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California. He worked on building WWII submarines, before enlisting in the United States Navy at the age of 18. He served on the USS *Spangler* and USS *Ajax*.

After returning home from military service, he met and married the love of his life, Isabelle Zadurian. They were happily married for 72 years and were parents to three children. Kenneth began to farm during the day and attended night school to become a plumber. Throughout his career, he worked on numerous projects throughout the Central Valley, such as the San Louis Project, Balsam Meadows Hydroelectric Project and was a proud member of Local 246 for 70 years. However, as his farming operation expanded, he eventually returned to farming full time.

Kenneth was active in the Kearney Park community. He forged many lifelong friendships and was well-liked and respected. Kenneth was a proud member in his church, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church. Madam Speaker, I would like to note the Abrahamian family were dear friends of my parents and me. As a young boy, I have fond memories of spending time with their family and growing up with their children. It was also a pleasure to be able to be a part of what Kenneth called "a trip of a lifetime," in which he traveled to Washington, DC, for the Central Valley Honor Flight. My office also worked to secure his well-earned medals from his time in the service.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his infant son, and brothers, Gabriel, Leon, and Richard. He is survived by his wife, Isabelle, their children Jeanette, Patricia, and Kenneth, his grandchildren, great-grandson and many beloved friends and family members.

Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Kenneth Abrahamian. It is my honor to join his family and many friends in celebrating his life.

IN HONOR OF NICK BUONICONTI

**HON. DONNA E. SHALALA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 27, 2019*

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my friend Nick Buoniconti, the hu-

manitarian and football legend who contributed to two Miami Dolphins Super Bowl wins in the 1970s. He passed away on July 30, 2019, at the age of 78.

Mr. Buoniconti grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts, before enrolling in Notre Dame, where he began his football career. Small for the N.F.L., he began playing for the American Football League (A.F.L.) in 1962. An ambitious student as well as an excellent athlete, he studied at the Suffolk University School of Law in Boston during his tenure with the Patriots, graduating with his law degree in 1968.

Mr. Buoniconti was traded to the Miami Dolphins in 1969. After the A.F.L. and N.F.L. merged, he helped the Dolphins win the Super Bowl VII, capping off a season in which the team went undefeated. The Dolphins continued to dominate the next year, winning the following Super Bowl as well. Mr. Buoniconti played with the team through 1976, when he retired from professional football.

In 1985, Mr. Buoniconti's son Marc sustained a spinal cord injury in a college football game that left him paralyzed from the neck down. Mr. Buoniconti left his job at U.S. Tobacco to focus on his son's health and support the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, of which Marc Buoniconti currently serves as president. The Miami Project is a Center of Excellence at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where I have seen the groundbreaking research it has supported in the fields of spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. Mr. Buoniconti and his family also founded the Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis, which has raised over \$500 million in support of the Miami Project's research objectives.

Nick Buoniconti dedicated his life to excellence, both in his football career and in his work with the Miami Project. His influence will be felt in Miami for years to come. We will remember him with love and pride.

RECOGNIZING LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS WATER CHALLENGE

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 27, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the League of Women Voters of JoDaviess County for winning the Water Quality Challenge put on by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The League of Women Voters won this challenge by showing how an edge-of-field sensor system could support farmers in reducing nitrogen loss from their fields.

The League of Women Voters worked to combat one of the most challenging water quality problems in our nation. In doing so, they identified creative ways to use low-cost tools to understand our resources and better advise nutrient management decisions. The installed sensors provide real-time data to best inform and guide farm-scale management decisions. They showed innovation, passion, and a drive to help our environment. Participation in this challenge strengthened the connections between scientists, advocates, and farmers in JoDaviess County and Northwest Illinois. The prize will be used to continue to build a model of cooperative problem-solving and improve water quality in the Driftless Area of Northwest Illinois.

It is because of community leaders such as the League of Women Voters of Illinois that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Illinois League of Women Voters on their initiative in the Water Quality Challenge put on by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNI-  
VERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN  
AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDU-  
CATION ACT OF 2019

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 27, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill similar to one I have introduced in six previous Congresses, the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2019. My bill would establish and expand prekindergarten programs in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-old children. The District of Columbia has made considerable strides since I first introduced this bill, but today's bill is still needed for the nation to fill a gap in the "Every Student Succeeds Act," which addresses elementary and secondary education, but ignores the prekindergarten years, the most critical years for children's brain development.

My bill seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing funding for states to add prekindergarten for children at three and four years of age, like kindergarten programs for five-year-olds now routinely available in public schools. This bill would eliminate major shortcomings of unevenly available "day care" and, importantly, would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools. Unless early education becomes a necessary part of a child's education, it almost surely will continue to be unavailable to the majority of families with children.

My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent of a state's own funds; to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds, regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique money-saving aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public-school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all, saving billions of dollars for its implementation.

The success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandate the expansion of early childhood education to all children today. Early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to some low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by my bill. My bill provides a practical way to universal, public preschool education for the majority of families. The goal of the bill is to afford the benefits of early childhood education