

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN RUDISILL

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ann Rudisill and congratulate her on being a Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber (SWCRC) Women of Achievement Award Honoree. Her commitment to our Downriver community makes her a deserving recipient of SWCRC's Inspiring Achievement Award.

Ann Rudisill is a veteran of the United States Air Force. After serving in Colorado Springs for four years during the Vietnam Era, Ann returned home with an unrelenting commitment to the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces alongside her. She endeavored to find new ways to support our nation's veterans, especially those in her local community, and has been passionately pursuing this mission ever since.

On April 7, 2017, Ann Rudisill founded Downriver for Veterans. Recognizing many veterans in our community lack reliable assistance and transportation options, Ann established Downriver for Veterans to help them meet their needs and navigate throughout the Downriver region. Since the organization's inception, Downriver for Veterans has provided food, shelter, paperwork, and transportation to over 350 veterans in our Downriver community. The organization continues to rapidly grow and was officially recognized as a non-profit organization in February of this year. Downriver for Veterans has a real impact on the veterans of our community, and Ann's meaningful efforts truly serve as an inspiration to all.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ann Rudisill as she receives SWCRC's Leadership Award. Her commitment to veterans by ensuring all their basic needs are met is worthy of commendation. Ann wholehearted deserves the SWCRC Leadership Award, and, above all, we thank her for her service to our great nation.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LARRY SIMMONS**

**HON. MARK E. GREEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a great American hero, Larry Simmons.

Mr. Simmons joined the United States Army in 1960 after finishing high school. After several assignments throughout the United States and in Berlin, Mr. Simmons received orders to deploy to Vietnam. Over the course of his two tours in Vietnam, he received two Purple Hearts and three Bronze Stars for his heroic actions on the battlefield, including his rescue of two small children during a firefight.

Following Mr. Simmons' retirement from the military in 1980, after 20 years of service, he spent 14 years as a correctional officer at San Quentin prison. After his retirement, Mr. Simmons and his wife, Karen, moved to Kentucky

Lake to enjoy life as a grandfather and great grandfather.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Simmons on his induction into the Signature Healthcare Hall of Fame.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY FREEHOLDER BLANQUITA B. VALENTI

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable Blanquita B. Valenti on her retirement as a Middlesex County Freeholder. As a freeholder, city council member and educator, Freeholder Valenti has distinguished herself as a dedicated public servant whose contributions and achievements are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

A long-time resident of New Brunswick, New Jersey, Freeholder Valenti devoted many years to representing her community as a council member and freeholder. She is well-respected by her colleagues as well as the residents she serves. Her professionalism and vision for the community earned her elections to leadership positions on the City Council and Board of Chosen Freeholders, including council vice president, council president and freeholder deputy director.

Although retiring from elected office, Freeholder Valenti remains an active community leader and advocate for individuals and families in Middlesex County. She has served on numerous boards of social services agencies, educational organizations and others, including the Middlesex County Board of Social Services, PRAB, Middlesex County Hispanic Affairs Commission, ASPIRA New Jersey and the Middlesex County College Foundation. She is also a founding board member of Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc., a non-profit aimed at ending homelessness in the county, which is honoring Freeholder Valenti at their Fall Gala on October 19, 2019.

In addition to serving in elected office, Freeholder Valenti taught at Trenton State College (currently The College of New Jersey) and Rutgers University as well as high schools throughout Middlesex County. She earned her Master of Arts in Teaching in Secondary Education from Seton Hall University and her master's degree in Spanish and Latin American Literature from Rutgers University, and holds her undergraduate degree from Rosemont College in Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, once again, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Freeholder Blanquita B. Valenti as she retires as a Freeholder this year. I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking her for her commitment to public service and the betterment of our communities.

COMMENDING DR. G. DOUGLAS RIPLEY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO NORTH ALABAMA

**HON. MO BROOKS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. G. Douglas Ripley, for his diligence in ministry and service to others.

On January 1st, 1970, Dr. Ripley received Jesus Christ as his Savior and immediately began to cultivate his relationship with Christ and understanding of the Bible. Within a few weeks he enrolled in the Gulf Coast Bible College at Anderson Church of God and thereafter traveled as a student evangelist, during which time he met his wife, Katy.

In 1973, Dr. Ripley and Katy pastored Open Door Baptist Church in Tennessee, where the church grew from 16 to 1,000 people in a short twelve years. By December of 1985, Dr. Ripley, Katy, and their two children, Jessica and Jeremy, moved to Decatur, Alabama where Dr. Ripley became the Pastor of Moulton Heights Baptist Church. The church grew rapidly, relocating once and having five major renovations from 1988 to 2004. Under Dr. Ripley's leadership, many lives have been impacted.

Known as "Brother Douglas," Dr. Ripley's passion for world missions and discipleship have reached across the world. In fact, he was one of the first pastors to visit Albania and his act of bravery opened the way for more churches to evangelize in Albania.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Ripley's diligent and obedient service to his flock and God is inspiring and sets an example for future generations.

I commend Dr. G. Douglas Ripley for his leadership in the church and passion for service to Christ.

**SUPPORTING H.R. 2328, THE REAUTHORIZING AND EXTENDING AMERICA'S COMMUNITY HEALTH ACT**

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. SABLÁN. Madam Speaker, now is the time to fix Medicaid funding, the insular areas. This is an area of strong bipartisan agreement—Republicans and Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce committee agree, and something must be done.

H.R. 2328 was reported out of Committee in July. This bipartisan solution would address the serious funding shortfall that all Insular Areas face now that the special Obamacare Medicaid funding has ended.

Our hospital, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), and other healthcare providers across the Marianas depend on the availability of Medicaid funds as a significant source of revenue. This special funding provided an average of \$11 Million beyond our statutory cap each year, ensuring CHCC and

other providers remain open so that people can access healthcare services. In Fiscal Year 2018, 49 percent of all third-party payor reimbursements to CHCC were Medicaid. That amounts to \$17.3 Million in revenue representing almost 30 percent of the hospital's total revenue. CHCC relies on Medicaid. With no certainty of funding, the Marianas made the tough decision on June 1, 2019 to cut off Medicaid reimbursements to providers, directing all Medicaid beneficiaries to use the clinics of the CHCC until further notice.

We received an additional \$36 Million for Medicaid in the disaster supplemental H.R. 2157, but in just a month after disbursement, more than half of the funds were paid out to providers, many of which are still owed reimbursements. We know the positive impact that regular access to healthcare can have on a person's overall health—just as we know how much worse a medical event can be for an individual that no longer has regular access. For the Marianas, it is already difficult for people to get to their providers for their specific healthcare needs. The hold imposed on outpatient clinics is evidence that taking this funding away not only threatens low-income families, but everyone at all income levels. It is already happening, and Congress should act now.

I thank Chairman PALLONE, Ranking Member WALDEN, and all the members of the committee for understanding the urgency of the Medicaid crisis in the insular areas and addressing the issue in a bipartisan way.

Let's bring H.R. 2328 to the floor and show that the House is united in our support for the Insular Areas. Let's fix the Medicaid funding cliff.

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**FLETC ARTESIA 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

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**HON. XOCHITL TORRES SMALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, today, October 18, 2019 marks the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), Office of Artesia Operation's 30-year anniversary. On September 22, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations Act, House Resolution 4775, to grant the purchase, renovation, and adaptation of a former college campus in Artesia, New Mexico, as a facility of FLETC. The following year, FLETC-Artesia was officially established as a Training Delivery Point. Today, Artesia, New Mexico, is the second largest FLETC site in terms of workload, and largest in square miles housing up to 1,800 students at any time.

FLETC-Artesia's role in keeping the country safe cannot be understated. For the last three decades, it has remained committed to preparing the federal law enforcement community through strategic partnerships in accordance with a mission to safeguard the American people, our country, and our values. FLETC-Artesia has played a critical role in the initial training of law enforcement officers on the front line—including those joining United States Border Patrol, the Federal Air Marshals and Federal Flight Deck Officers. The Artesia

campus is also home to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Police Academy, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Memorial, which honors the service and sacrifice of those who have died in the line of duty.

Since Congress authorized FLETC to purchase, rehabilitate, and expand the site in 1989, over one million officers and agents have been trained. More recently, in fiscal year 2018, FLETC Artesia trained just under 4,000 students.

As a witness to the work that FLETC's Artesia location executes, I am honored to recognize the full extent of FLETC's work, including the diversity and extensiveness of the trainings and the collaboration required for both local and global impact. The commitment to delivering the quality training agents and officers need to successfully do their jobs, protect our communities, and protect themselves is clear.

Law enforcement from across the country and the world travel to Artesia, New Mexico to learn from FLETC's expertise. I am grateful for FLETC's work to serve New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District and our country. FLETC is a cornerstone of our community, and we celebrate its work and impact on FLETC-Artesia's 30-year anniversary.

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**RECOGNIZE THE INSTITUTE FOR INCLUSION IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY**

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**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession on its 10th Anniversary. The legal profession remains one of the least diverse professions in the United States. This adversely impacts the pipeline of women, racial/ethnic minorities, openly LGBTQ+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, and religious minorities, who will serve as future legislators, judges, public policy advocates, civic and community leaders, and the lawyers who can be found daily in boardrooms and courtrooms. While there are an abundance of organizations working to make the American legal profession more diverse and inclusive, and some progress made, much remains to be done.

For ten years, the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession ("IILP") has been working for "Real change. Now." Its approach has differed from more traditional efforts. It has focused on inclusion rather than just diversity. It has emphasized the supply side over the demand side: making the legal profession more hospitable to diverse individuals, one where anyone with the talent, aptitude, ambition, and determination may enter and rise as high as those abilities will permit. It has grounded its work in research and data that go beyond the anecdotal. It discusses the hard issues and tackles the tough questions that need to be resolved before this profession can truly become more diverse and inclusive. It addresses all types of diversity in all practice settings all over the United States. More importantly, everyone in the legal profession has a home within the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession.

I was honored to give remarks during the inaugural year of the formation of the IILP in 2009 and I am pleased to share these highlights from its first ten years of service. The IILP is continuing to publish its "Review on the State of Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession," the only comprehensive compilation of data, statistics, demographics, and thought leadership essays designed in the country. This report has become an important tool to everyone in the legal profession who is concerned about diversity and inclusion issues. In addition, the IILP presented some 40 Symposia on the State of Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession to lawyers all over the United States. These symposia bring together an extremely diverse group of lawyers who learn about all types of diversity and find synergies that allow them to work across lines of difference. The IILP provided the legal profession with the only hard data available on the business case for diversity in "The Business Case for Diversity: Reality or Wishful Thinking?". The IILP published the series, "Competing Interests," which is the only analysis of the conflict between corporate efforts aimed at economy and efficiency with corporate efforts supporting diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and the impact this has upon minority lawyers. The IILP established the Social Impact Incubator, a group of Millennial lawyers from a wide range of backgrounds and practice settings, who are learning to be thought leaders on diversity and inclusion for their generation. The IILP developed the program, "Diversity and Data Privacy in a Digital World." While much has been focused on data privacy issues, this program is the first to examine those issues through the lens of diversity and inclusion concerns. The IILP conducts programs that offer unique and thought-provoking ways to look at and think about diversity and inclusion, such as "The Ethics of Diversity and the Politics of Inclusion," wherein IILP examined challenges to diversity and political considerations that are impacting inclusion efforts; and "Women and Minorities," studying the root causes and potential strategies to address tensions between white women, women of color, lesbians, and trans women. The IILP presented the first conference outside the United States or United Kingdom that was dedicated to diversity and inclusion issues within the legal profession.

For its 10th Anniversary, the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession is celebrating with another thought-provoking program: "Is ROI (Return on Investment) the Appropriate Measure for D&I (Diversity and Inclusion)?". On behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, I offer my deepest appreciation for the work that you do and encourage that you continue to finding innovative approaches to ensure our legal professionals produce diverse and inclusive workforces.

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**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARY BEATRICE BREWER**

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**HON. MARK E. GREEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mary Beatrice (Bea) Brewer, a resident of Signature Health Care in Erin, Tennessee.