

Violence Program Dinner hosted by the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services. The organization's commitment to supporting our Arab American community is worthy of commendation.

The Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) is the largest Arab American community nonprofit organization in the nation. Founded by a group of volunteers in 1971, ACCESS was created to help the Arab immigrant population adapt to life within the United States. Ever since, ACCESS has been devoted to promoting a just and equitable society where all can flourish. Today, with 11 locations, ACCESS provides community members a wide range of educational, social, economic, and health services to assist, improve, and empower people in need.

The 12th Annual Domestic Violence Program Dinner exemplifies ACCESS's continued commitment to assisting people in distress. Every year, the dinner brings countless community members together to raise proceeds to benefit survivors of domestic violence. In addition, the important program generates a greater awareness for the prevalence of domestic violence and its negative impacts on children, families, and even entire communities. ACCESS is a vital resource for people facing domestic violence, and the organization's annual dinner dedicated to empowering hundreds of survivors truly makes a difference in our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services as they host their 12th Annual Domestic Violence Program Dinner. ACCESS's mission to assist, improve, and empower people in our community truly changes lives, and I am deeply appreciative of their remarkable work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was absent due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 571; NAY on Roll Call No. 572; YEA on Roll Call No. 573; NAY on Roll Call No. 574; YEA on Roll Call No. 575; YEA on Roll Call No. 576; and NAY on Roll Call No. 577.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the opioid epidemic and our efforts to

H.R. 6, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, was a highlight for me last Congress.

Because it was a moment where Congress was focused on legislating and actually getting things done.

The House took 39 bipartisan bills, moved them through the legislative process, and gave

each member a chance to vote for or against them.

We didn't include any partisan, poison pills—we gave both sides an opportunity to legislate on an issue that doesn't see party lines and we got something done.

Now, we're seeing progress—the majority, 1.27 million Americans, are now receiving treatment for their addiction and we're seeing the overdose deaths decline in this country.

But we can't let up.

I am hoping we can repeat the success of this legislation—on many issues, including continuing to help communities fight opioid addiction.

This week, I'm introducing a bill that came from a local police officer in my district.

A police officer from the Normal Police Department was trying to track down a case of 'pharmacy shopping,' where someone had come down from Chicago and was trying to get an opioid prescription for someone else filled at multiple pharmacies.

But there was no way to track who had tried to fill this prescription because no ID is required to pick up these highly addictive pain killers.

My bill, the Opioid Prescription Verification Act, changes that by requiring pharmacists to record the ID of a person picking up an opioid prescription.

This is similar to ID requirements that were placed on Sudafed sales in 2005 to combat the meth epidemic.

I'm looking forward to hopefully passing this bill to continue fighting this epidemic from all angles.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT STEVEN DEFFIBAUGH, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2019 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor twelve distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Sergeant Steven Deffibaugh of Princeton, Texas.

A native of Borger, Texas, Sergeant Steven Deffibaugh served in the United States Marine Corps in the 5th Marine Division from 1969 to 1972. For his distinguished service to our Nation, he was awarded the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Marksman Rifle Badge. He received degrees from Grayson County College and Abilene Christian University at Dallas.

After returning from his time in service, Sergeant Deffibaugh chose to pursue a new ave-

nue of leadership in law enforcement, serving in both the Van Alstyne and McKinney Police Departments prior to working as a Collin County Deputy Sheriff. Mr. Deffibaugh would later begin a career as an investigator with the Collin County District Attorney's office where he would remain until his retirement in 2011. Due to his deep commitment in Collin County, he would also serve as Reserve Deputy Constable for Precinct 2. In addition to his stellar service in law enforcement, Mr. Deffibaugh also played a role as a volunteer fireman, County Fire Marshall, and Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Princeton until his retirement in 2018. Mr. Deffibaugh's leadership and commitment to his community was further reflected in his role as the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore of Princeton, and through his efforts as the President of the Princeton Community Development Corporation.

In his civic life, Mr. Deffibaugh has volunteered as a Scoutmaster, Little League Coach, and church deacon. He is also a founding member of the Jacob D. Hayes Marine Corps League, where he has tirelessly coordinated the Collin County Toys for Tots program and led the organization as the Chaplain. Sergeant Steven Deffibaugh has led a remarkable life of service to his community and is to be commended for his tireless efforts.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Sergeant Deffibaugh for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, due to Ways & Means Committee business, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 573.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAYNE COUNTY PARKS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Wayne County Parks. Its century of dedication to the Wayne County community is worthy of commendation, and it is my honor and privilege to recognize their important milestone today.

In 1919, Elizabeth Park in Trenton was donated to Wayne County by the children of Elizabeth Slocum. The acceptance of this donation marks the beginning of the Wayne County Park System, the first county park system in the state of Michigan. In the years and decades that followed, the county began to accumulate different outdoor locations throughout

the area to add to its park system, seeking to discover new outdoor recreational opportunities that could enhance the quality of life for the families and residents of Wayne County.

Over the course of 100 years, the Wayne County Park System has significantly transformed. From humble beginnings in Elizabeth Park in 1919, Wayne County Parks have since become an invaluable pillar of our community, serving as spaces for community members to gather and enjoy the outdoors, compete in sports, participate in various community events, and simply have fun. Today, nearly 40 parks including nature trails, golf courses, playscapes, swimming pools, dog parks, picnic shelters, and baseball diamonds, to name a few, comprise the entire Wayne County Park System. Without a doubt, Wayne County Parks play an important role in our community and have been improving the lives of our residents for a century. Wayne County Parks truly foster inclusive, lively, and enjoyable environments where all feel welcome, and I cannot thank the Wayne County Parks System enough for its century of exceptional service to our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the centennial anniversary of Wayne County Parks. We are grateful for their impactful contributions to our community and wish the parks many more years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE MALTA CONFERENCES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the greatest example of science diplomacy, the Malta Conferences, their founder and president Professor Zafra Lerman, and the important work that the conferences facilitate. This year marks the ninth meeting of the Malta Conferences. The conferences help identify unique opportunities for collaboration to meet the scientific and technological challenges of the Middle East region. In the Malta Conferences, the common language of science is used for science diplomacy, which serves as a bridge to peace, tolerance and understanding.

These peace congresses have made it possible for scientists from countries that are often on opposing sides of political and cultural conflicts to meet in a politically neutral environment, where they can collaborate on solving regional problems, and forge relationships that bridge deep chasms of mistrust and intolerance. These unique gatherings draw scientists from many Middle East countries, including Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

In each of the Malta Conferences, Middle East scientists meet with science Nobel Laureates to catalyze enduring collaborations on scientific and technological problems, including water scarcity, environmental degradation, nuclear and chemical security, science and technology education for all, energy, and climate change.

The founder and president of the Malta Conferences, Professor Zafra Lerman, is my friend and constituent. Professor Lerman is a life-long champion for human rights, freedom, and peace. For more than four decades, she has worked tirelessly to promote peace and justice around the globe, especially among nations whose governments are hostile to one another.

Professor Lerman has received over 40 international awards, including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring from President Clinton, the Royal Society of Chemistry Nyholm Education Award, the American Chemical Society George C. Pimentel Award, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Award for Science and Diplomacy, the American Physical Society Andrei Sakharov Prize, and the UN NOVUS Summit Peace and Justice Award. Professor Lerman received her bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, and her Ph.D. from the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Despite many obstacles to success, the Malta Conferences have developed several avenues for change: Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Egypt, and Kuwait formed a working group on Drinking Water Quality Assessment in the Middle East; Palestinian students from Al Quds University in Palestine are pursuing PhD studies at Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel; a women's group was formed in order to empower women scientists across the region, and encourage young girls to pursue careers in STEM; and a unified science curriculum for the Middle East is being developed which will include climate change, chemistry, nuclear security, and ethics. More than 700 Middle East scientists and 15 Nobel Laureates are now in the network.

I would like to thank Professor Zafra Lerman and the Malta Conferences for their continued hard work to bring peace to the Middle East.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL RONNIE
“RD” FOSTER, RECIPIENT OF
TEXAS’ THIRD CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT 2019 CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor twelve distinguished military veterans from Texas’ Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Corporal Ronnie “RD” Foster of Anna, Texas.

Corporal Ronnie Davenport Foster, known to his friends as “RD” served in the United States Marine Corps from 1966 to 1969. Originally from Farmersville, Texas, as the son of a WWII veteran, Ronnie’s sense of patriotism was developed early on. Shortly after graduating from high school, RD would be assigned to the 1st Force Logistics Command driving resupply and gun trucks out of Da Nang, Vietnam in 1967 as a part of the “Rough Riders” motor transport Battalion. For his efforts, RD was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

In the decades that would follow, RD pursued a music career as a singer songwriter and worked as a tour bus operator for famed musicians and performers. In an effort to recognize the patriotism of our Vietnam Veterans who were often shunned upon their return from service, RD organized a concert to raise awareness and funds for the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Fair Park in the 1980s. Later, RD would embark on an extensive mission to identify all the men and women from Collin County who died while serving our Nation going back to the Great War. Upon conclusion of his painstaking research efforts, he would lobby local governmental entities and spearhead a fundraising effort to construct a Veterans Memorial to remember and honor the legacies of our fallen warriors from Collin County. In response, the City of McKinney created the Armed Services Memorial Board, of which RD was a founding member. The result was the Collin County Veterans Memorial, which was dedicated in November 2011. Further in 2013, RD cofounded the Collin County Fallen Warrior Portrait Project which has resulted in 70 portraits of fallen warriors on permanent display at the Collin County Courthouse. Corporal Foster would also organize the efforts to rename Courthouse to the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building in honor of the posthumously awarded Medal of Honor recipient. Foster’s recognitions include Patriot of the Year by the Texas Veterans Commission and recognition as a recipient of the Distinguished Citizens Medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Corporal Foster for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I was not present for a vote on Tuesday, October 23, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted on rollcall No. 573, “aye.”