

HONORING THE LIFE OF ADAM DAVID NUSZEN

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Adam David Nuszen who lost his battle with mental illness and addiction a little over 3 years ago. With an insatiable curiosity and unparalleled connectivity to the world around him, Adam's bright future was as limitless as the night sky he so admired. As a gifted musician, poet, writer, philosopher and inventor, Adam enlightened everyone who had the honor of meeting him, and as the oldest of three siblings, he was the protector of his family with a fierce loyalty that was only surpassed by his quiet quest for justice.

At the age of 22, Adam was diagnosed with schizophrenia, which sent him in and out of hospitals in an attempt to balance his mental illness with some semblance of an everyday life, but he succumbed to the dangerous and devastating world of opioid addiction. Even in his darkest days, Adam always encouraged his loved ones to "look up" so they didn't miss the beauty he saw in the world around them.

In November 2015, Adam lost his battle with addiction, but only after leaving an indelible mark on his family, friends and community. During his last conversation with his mother Linda, Adam carried this same positive sentiment and tone, which has stayed with Linda to this day and inspired the creation of the non-profit foundation Look Up for Adam.

The rise of the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic has affected so many families across Long Island and our entire nation, and Look Up for Adam provides support for these families as they embark on "the difficult journey of loving a person who is addicted to drugs." Even in the darkest of days, Look Up for Adam reminds these families to look up just as Adam did, and in honor of his enduring spirit and character, I'd like to support his mother's request in declaring March 12th, Adam's birthday, as National Look Up Day.

There are so many families across our entire nation who are battling the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic, who when down in the trenches sometimes forget to look up at the world around them. National Look Up Day serves as a reminder for these families to keep a positive outlook, but also for us as Members of Congress to never stop fighting to combat the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic and never waver in our support for the families affected by it.

HONORING ROB WYNBRANDT

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the contributions of Rob Wynbrandt, who will retire on March 15th as Executive Director and General Counsel of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS). I commend his 30 years of legal service and guidance for cardiothoracic surgeons and their patients.

Mr. Wynbrandt graduated from Northwestern University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, and obtained a Juris Doctor with Honors from the University of Michigan in 1979. He worked for many years as a partner in a Chicago law firm, serving clients such as The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the American Academy of Dermatology, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Radiology, and the American College of Surgeons. In 2002, Mr. Wynbrandt was named STS Executive Director and General Counsel.

Once Mr. Wynbrandt took the helm at STS, he expanded its staff and oversaw the development of programs on patient safety, public reporting, and professional medical education for cardiothoracic surgeons. It was under Mr. Wynbrandt's legal expertise that the STS launched its now world-renowned National Database. As a result of his leadership, the database has become the gold standard for clinical outcomes registries and serves as the bedrock for quality improvement initiatives involving heart and lung surgery patients.

I congratulate Mr. Wynbrandt on a distinguished career at STS, and join his family, friends, cardiothoracic surgeons, and their patients from around the country in extending my best wishes in his retirement.

HONORING THE CASPER CHAPTER OF FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA WINNING THE NATIONAL FFA FARM AND AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT CONTEST

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Casper Chapter of Future Farmers of America on their victory at the National FFA Farm and Agribusiness Management Contest.

Future Farmers of America is a national organization dedicated to educating and encouraging young people on the importance of sustainable farming and agribusiness. The young men and women of the Casper Chapter have distinguished themselves among chapters from all across the nation. They truly are some of the best that Wyoming has to offer. They are the future of agribusiness in Wyoming, and the country.

Again Madam Speaker, I extend my congratulations to the Casper Chapter of Future Farmers of America on their victory and applaud their commitment to an industry that is vital to our nation.

HONORING THE BLANCHE ELY BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING ITS SECOND STRAIGHT CLASSIC 8A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Blanche Ely boys' basket-

ball team and their coach Melvin Randall on their 57–52 victory to claim its second straight Class 8A boys basketball state championship at Lakeland's RP Funding Center on March 9, 2019.

Coach Randall's dedication to Blanche Ely High School and its basketball program is truly commendable. Before the game, Coach Randall provided the team the same piece of advice he always does: "piece by piece". The All-USA Boys Basketball Coach of the Year and Broward County Sports Hall of Fame Inductee led his team by example, providing them with the courage, resilience, and wisdom needed to win.

The Blanche Ely boys' basketball team would not be a success without their tremendous commitment to the sport. Senior Joshua Scott will be the first player in the program's history to win four back-to-back state titles. Aderes Stanton-McCray also was critical to his team's win. His block brought the team back into the lead in what Coach Randall described as the "play of the game".

I would also like to recognize the entire Tiger basketball team, which includes: Tyrecke Francois, Jayden Fye, Daniel Merrius, Eric Guerrier, Aderes Stanton-McCray, Javier Zapata, Jeremiah Mathieu, Jair Copeland, Derrick Lovett, Joshua Scott, Malachi Hazelton, Lance Rainer, Javon Williams, Lamont Evans, Colby King, and Bryson Williams.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Principal Dr. Carlton O. Johnson for his outstanding leadership of Blanche Ely High School, as well as Coach Melvin Randall, and the entire Blanche Ely boys' basketball team. They had a tremendous season and should be extremely proud of themselves. I wish the Blanche Ely High School and their basketball program many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HENRY PECKHAM III

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to pay special tribute to William Henry Peckham III, a great American and a great Texan, on his 90th birthday. Even with nine decades of life behind him, he remains a vibrant part of his beloved central Texas community.

Many go through life wondering if they've made a difference. William doesn't have that problem. As a successful small business owner, respected race horse owner, and devoted family man, he represents the very best of Texas values.

Over his incredible life, William witnessed his nation's brave soldiers defend freedom on foreign shores, watched a humble midwesterner take mankind's first steps on another world, and marveled at technological advances beyond any of his dreams. He saw how America has been defined by extraordinary men and women who fought to make our nation a beacon of hope and freedom, always willing to learn from the past, confront the challenges of the present, and hopeful enough to embrace a better tomorrow.

March 11, 2019 makes a special day for an extraordinary man. I join William's family and

friends in celebrating his long life and the incredible impacts he's made. We wish him the happiest of birthdays and nothing but health and prosperity in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO THE MILWAUKEE URBAN LEAGUE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Milwaukee Urban League as it celebrates 100 years of service to the Milwaukee area Community. The Milwaukee Urban League was established in 1919 as an affiliate of the National Urban League (NUL) in response to the migration of African Americans who moved north from southern states in search of greater opportunities and a better way of life. They assisted in their transition to urban life and employment, helping African Americans in Milwaukee secure economic self-reliance, parity and power, and civil rights.

The Milwaukee Urban League became a hub and sought to meet the various needs of the African American Community. They established a medical clinic in the 1920s and sponsored a community center for holiday gatherings, youth recreation and crafts, and taught boxing skills. In 1926 the Urban League released a study that established the need to eliminate poor housing as a high priority. In subsequent years, it was instrumental in ending legalized racial discrimination in housing and creating the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council which still exists today. In the 1930s, the Milwaukee Urban League established the Industrial Relations Project to improve job opportunities and working conditions through relationships with business establishments.

Over the years the Urban League has continued to promote employment and economic self-sufficiency through such initiatives as apprentice programs, and pre-employment skills training. Other employment help includes on the job placement and training and older workers and job ride programs. The Milwaukee Urban League has promoted business ownership and development through efforts such as the Franchise Initiative designed to help African Americans acquire franchises, thereby, generating wealth and increasing the number of jobs in the community. It hosts an annual Youth Leadership Summit to promote civic engagement.

The Milwaukee Urban League has been on the front lines of the struggle for equality by both performing research that establishes the case for change and taking actions that result in change to help the next generation succeed. The Urban League continues to collaborate on many issues to enhance the well-being of the community it serves to achieve positive outcomes, including: seeking alternatives to incarceration, working with organizations to speak out against hatred and bigotry, improving academic achievement and social growth among students, and eliminating barriers to employment including enhancement.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I rise to recognize and pay tribute to the Milwaukee

Urban League as it celebrates its 100th anniversary and continues its efforts to benefit the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin.

HONORING SHERIFF JOE MAX TAYLOR

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, former Galveston County Sheriff Joe Max Taylor passed away on Monday, February 11, 2019.

Sheriff Taylor was a veteran, husband and father who dedicated his life to public service. His colleagues describe him as an innovator, mentor and a skilled politician. The Sheriff served Galveston County for 54 years, 19 of those years he served as sheriff.

Sheriff Joe Max Taylor's legacy is one filled with a deep love for his Galveston community. During his career, he assisted in growing the sheriff's office from nineteen deputies to more than 300 deputies. He was also instrumental in helping form the mental health division and the auto crimes task force.

Those who knew Sheriff Taylor know he was more than a sheriff, he was someone who did so much for our community. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER VICTIMS' FAMILY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2019

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2019. It is well known that this country faces a gun violence epidemic. In fact, in the 2018 school year alone, there were 24 school shooting incidents. This is the highest annual number of school shootings in recent history, averaging out to one school shooting incident every seven and a half school days. The pain and heartache that result from this tragic and needless loss of life sends shockwaves through our communities, but especially through the families left behind. Today, our teachers must contend with not only the awesome responsibility of preparing our children for bright and meaningful futures, but also with protecting them from the very real threat of active shooters and others wishing to harm our children and grandchildren. Too often, the teachers themselves are casualties in this epidemic, leaving the families of the slain teachers, many with small children, unprepared financially.

The Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2019 directs the Secretary of Education to provide assistance to the immediate family members of K-12 teachers who are killed during their performance of duties at a public or

private school. This bill provides victims' families with funeral assistance; a death benefit payment to the surviving spouse, dependent child, or other next of kin; monthly living assistance for the surviving spouse; and undergraduate education assistance for each dependent child.

In time, it is my sincere hope that the need for the crucial assistance provided by this measure will not be necessary as fewer and fewer families are forced to cope with the sudden, tragic loss of a loved one at school. However, until that time, we must do all we can for our dedicated and hardworking teachers and their families, and that is exactly the spirit with which this legislation is put forward.

Madam Speaker, I urge this body to expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's solidarity, gratitude, and support for our nation's dedicated educators, who work tirelessly on behalf of our children.

COMMEMORATING THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRYSTAL CHORDS

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Crystal Chords.

The Crystal Chords are a group of extraordinary women who come together to share their love of music and sing a cappella in the barbershop style. For twenty-five years the women of Crystal Chords have graced the communities of the Corning-Elmira area, singing at a variety of community functions. They are a proud chapter of Harmony, Inc., a non-profit international organization, whose mission is to empower women through education, friendship, and a cappella singing in the barbershop style.

The barbershop quartets of the Crystal Chords share their talents throughout the year, singing for civic and charitable events. They have sung at community events such as the Corning Parade of Lights and Horseheads' Holly Days, and regularly perform at local churches. The Crystal Chords are committed to charity in their communities as they fundraise for the Food Bank of the Southern Tier at all of their concerts and events.

The Crystal Chords are proudly directed by the husband-wife team of Bill and Donna McKay. Their years of barbershop quartet experience and unwavering dedication have led the Crystal Chords from its inception twenty-five years ago to continued success today.

Twenty-five years of uniting members of our communities with music is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Crystal Chords on this impressive milestone and look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Crystal Chords.