

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA
ROSENBERG

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Rosenberg, the outgoing CEO of the National Council for Behavioral Health. As members of the community gather today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Linda for her leadership as a health care architect and reformer in advancing quality care for individuals with behavioral health disorders.

For 15 years, Linda has served as the President and CEO of the National Council for Behavioral Health. Under her leadership, the National Council has become the nation's most effective advocate for behavioral health care, serving 10 million adults, children, and families. Linda's work has played a critical role in expanding the financing for integrated behavioral health services, ensuring the passage of federal mental health and addiction parity law, as well as introducing Mental Health First Aid in the U.S. She also helped to ensure the inclusion of behavioral health services in the Affordable Care Act.

Linda's commitment to the advancement of behavioral health care can be seen throughout the duration of her career. Prior to the National Council, she served as Senior Deputy Commissioner of New York State Office of Mental Health and helped to implement New York's first Mental Health Court. She also has over 30 years of experience as certified social worker, family therapist and psychiatric rehabilitation practitioner. Linda currently serves on several boards of directors and is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. In her honor, the National Council recently granted her the Lifetime Achievement Award at their 2019 annual conference.

Madam Speaker, as we gather to celebrate Linda Rosenberg's lifetime of achievements, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her dedication and leadership in the improvement of mental health and substance services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, while on a fact-finding mission to South America to conduct oversight of U.S. assistance and assess the situation at the Venezuelan border, I was unavoidably detained. As a result, I missed roll call votes No. 170 and No. 171. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 170, and YEA on Roll Call No. 171.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA
THOMASON

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Barbara Thomason for her outstanding service and profound impact as President and CEO of the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce.

An accomplished Texas scholar, Barbara holds a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in Management from Houston Baptist University. She also holds a Chamber Management certification from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organizational Management, and a certification in Professional Community and Economic Development.

Prior to her service at the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce, Barbara had a diverse and impressive portfolio of professional experience. She served as the Dean of Corporate and Continuing Education at Lone Star College—North Harris, worked in training and development for the American General companies, and was a small-business owner of the Gymboree franchise.

She then went on to found the Northwest Chamber of Commerce Foundation, which provides scholarships and educational resources to local students. During her time with the Northwest Chamber, Barbara has proven to be a friend, leader and dedicated citizen of Houston. Throughout her years of public service, Barbara has been a model of exceptional civic duty, and has remained devoted to the advancement of Houston area businesses through grassroot level advocacy for local safety and economic development.

In 2015, Barbara was named as a Woman of Excellence by the Women's Business Forum. The following year, Leadership North Houston honored Barbara as the 2016 Distinguished Volunteer. By 2017, Barbara was selected for a position on the Executive Board on the Texas Chamber of Commerce. Each award is well-deserved, and recognizes her steadfast service to our community.

This year, Barbara is retiring following her 15 years of exceptional service to the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce. However, I know that Barbara will continue to be a leader and champion of family training and development during her next professional venture as a consultant. I am proud to join her family, friends, and colleagues in recognizing her many contributions to Northwest Houston. I thank her and I wish all the best on her next adventure.

RECOGNIZING THE 29TH ANNUAL
D.C. BLACK PRIDE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 29th annual D.C. Black Pride and the 50th anniversary of the Stone-wall Riots.

This Memorial Day week the National Capital Region welcomes members of the African American LGBTQ community to celebrate "Our Truths In Harmony" at the 29th annual D.C. Black Pride.

The festivities begin May 20th at 5:00 p.m. with the Damian Ministries' Black Pride Kick Off Reception and they close at 6:00 p.m. May 27th with Helping Us People Into Living's "Pride In the Park" festival at Fort DuPont Park.

On May 21st, D.C. Black Pride honors its 2019 award winners at the D.C. Black Pride Awards Reception. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) President and Chief Executive Derrick Johnson receives the President's Award. The 2019 Welmore Cook Awards go to Bishop Allyson Nelson Abrams, founder prelate and pastor of Empowerment Liberation Cathedral, her spouse, Bishop Emerita Diana Williams, and Dr. Di-Quartelai Quartey of the National Association of Retired Persons (NAARP) and the Robert H. Smith School of Business.

Steven "Kahos" Wilson, Founder and CEO of Ovah the Top Productions and Executive Director of the OASIS Dance Company, receives the Unsung Hero Award. Black Pride recognizes True Colors United Senior Program Officer Kahlib Barton with the Leadership Award. Shi-Queeta Lee, noted DMV Drag Entertainer and costume designer, is honored with the Earline Budd Award.

Black Pride acknowledges U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Impact Specialist Derrick Côméi "Strawberry" Cox as the Charlotte Smallwood Volunteer of the Year for 2019. Gail Oliver and Nana Amuah-Afenyi VI (born Peggjelene Bartles, known informally as "King Peggy"), chief of Tatum Ghana, receive the Curtis L. Etherly, Jr., Ally Award. Michael Beale of Mb Staffing Services, LLC, receives the D.C. Black Pride Small Business Award.

This year, Black Pride initiates the Alan Sharpe Award for contributions to art by awarding it to its namesake, Alan Sharpe, Founding Artistic Director of Washington, D.C.'s African-American Collective Theater.

Black Pride continues through Memorial Day with town halls, educational workshops, a poetry slam hosted by Mary Bowman, an interfaith worship service, and social events, including breakfasts, brunches, dinners and happy hours.

D.C. Black and Lesbian Gay Pride Day began my first year in Congress. On Sunday, May 26, 1991, 800 people gathered at Banneker Field on Georgia Avenue. I have watched it mature from an ad hoc event to one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations. Now D.C. Black Pride draws more than 50,000 participants from the United States, Africa, Europe and the Americas to our nation's capital.

D.C. Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc.) and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 53 Black Prides on four continents. I commend the volunteer Advisory Board that assists Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr., Jeffrey Richardson, Michael S. Hinson, Jr., C. Hawkins, Kenya Hutton and Genise Chamber-Woods in the planning and execution of D.C. Black Pride.

As Black Pride comes to town, I also take this opportunity to inform the celebrants and to

remind my colleagues of the various limitations Congress has placed on the District of Columbia. Despite paying more federal taxes than 22 states and paying the highest per capita federal taxes in the United States, the residents of Washington, D.C. still do not have full voting representation in Congress.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 29th annual D.C. Black Pride celebration.

HONORING A GIANT OF PUTNAM COUNTY

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following obituary for Mr. Bill O'Dell of Putnam County:

FRIENDS AND FAMILY HONORING COMMUNITY LEADER IN PUTNAM COUNTY WHO SUDDENLY PASSED AWAY

(By Taylor Eaton)

PUTNAM COUNTY, W.VA. (WSAZ).—A man who dedicated his life to preventing teen substance abuse in Putnam County passed away suddenly on Monday.

Bill O'Dell was a community leader in many ways. He dedicated his life to substance abuse prevention across West Virginia.

O'Dell passed away while he was swimming in the pool at the YMCA in Teays Valley. Friends and family say he suffered a medical emergency.

Most of his work was centered in Putnam County. O'Dell was the director of the Putnam Wellness Coalition, a group that was formed to educate teenagers about the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

O'Dell spent his time going into schools to speak to students, setting up fundraising events for the coalition and participating in different promotions around prom and graduation time. That's just to name a few.

Evan Young, who worked with O'Dell for many years, says they just wrapped up an event for Cinco de Mayo over the weekend that was geared toward making sure kids had a safe and fun environment. Most of the proceeds from the event went to the Putnam Wellness Coalition.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES H. BILLINGTON, 13TH LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join numerous colleagues in honoring the life and legacy of James H. Billington, the 13th Librarian of Congress, who died on November 20, 2018.

Before Jim Billington's appointment as Librarian of Congress in 1987, he served thirteen productive years as director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Before that, and throughout his career, he was a researcher and author, continuing to produce serious scholarship on Russian history and culture.

Jim was the inspiration behind the Open World Leadership Center, a unique Library of Congress—Legislative Branch initiative which for twenty years has administered thousands of exchange visits to the United States of professionals and other leaders from post-Soviet and post-communist states. As a current board member of Open World, I have deepened my appreciation of Dr. Billington's legacy and of the way the Center can compliment and support the House's work, through the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), to promote parliamentary development in emerging democracies.

Like many members of Congress, I have enjoyed a cordial and productive working relationship with Jim Billington for years—from the Legislative Branch Appropriations subcommittee, to Open World, to encouraging Congressional Research Service engagement with HDP's partner legislatures, to the building of programs such as American Memory—the national digital library—and the John W. Kluge Center's program for visiting scholars. In recent years, Jim and his wife Marjorie have been a welcoming presence at the wonderful Library of Congress dinners, sponsored by David Rubenstein, featuring authors of major studies in American biography and history.

Madam Speaker, Jim Billington lived a full and consequential life of scholarship, institutional innovation, and public service. We miss his cordial and collegial presence as we mourn his passing and appreciate his wide-ranging legacy. We extend gratitude and good wishes to Marjorie and their family in the hope that the outpouring of affections and appreciation will offer solace and support at this time of loss.

HONORING CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY'S FIRST RHODES SCHOLAR MR. VIDAL ARROYO

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Vidal Arroyo for being selected as the first ever Rhodes Scholar from Chapman University, a prominent research University in my district.

As one of 32 U.S. scholars selected for a Rhodes Scholarship, he will be provided all expenses for up to four years of study at the University of Oxford in England. Mr. Arroyo earned his place as a Rhodes Scholar, not only for his outstanding scholarly achievements, but for his character and commitment to his education.

I applaud Mr. Arroyo for maintaining a perfect GPA in his educational career. He has expressed his unique passion to become a new paradigm of science by striving toward his goal of creating artificial intelligence tools that are driven to treat cancer.

Mr. Arroyo comes from a humble background and is the first in his family to attend college. As a founder and President of Chapman STEMstors, he has been mentoring at-risk youth to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

While volunteering at Children's Hospital of Orange County, he was exposed to children struggling with obesity and other diseases

after being declared cancer-free; thus, motivating him to conduct research on the relationship between cancer and obesity. His passion for finding treatments for cancer is demonstrated by his drive to design artificial intelligence algorithms that can be used to personalize cancer treatment. Mr. Arroyo's contributions toward supporting and developing tools for cancer treatment could potentially impact the lives of millions around the world.

Mr. Arroyo's passion for education has been the framework of his success. As a first-generation college student, and now Chapman University's first Rhodes Scholar, he is an extraordinary inspiration to our community. For this reason, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing the accomplishments and career of Vidal Arroyo. Go Panthers.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID L. MCKENNA

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. David L. McKenna, a legendary leader in Christian higher education, as he celebrates his 90th birthday during the month of May 2019.

Born in Michigan, Dr. McKenna received an education at Spring Arbor College, Western Michigan University, and Asbury Theological Seminary, culminating with a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Dr. McKenna served as the President of Spring Arbor College (now university), a respected Christian college in my district, from 1961 to 1968. He led the transformation of Spring Arbor from a two-year college to a baccalaureate institution and years later served as the Chairman of the Board when it became Spring Arbor University.

He went on from Spring Arbor to serve as President of Seattle Pacific University from 1968 to 1982 and as President of Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky from 1982 to 1994, completing a remarkable 33 years of presidential leadership in higher education.

Dr. McKenna and his wife, Janet, now live in Kirkland, Washington, where they remain active and continue to positively impact people's lives. For many years, he has been a prolific author, continuing to publish at least one book per year.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in wishing Dr. David L. McKenna a happy 90th birthday, and in expressing best wishes for future blessings.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RODNEY BURRESS

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Rodney Burress who passed away on April 29, 2019 at the age of 58 after decades of service to Taylor County.