

COMMENDING STUDENTS AT MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR WORKING TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY ISSUES

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great program that is promoting civic engagement in Florida and across the country. The YMCA's Junior Youth In Government Program is a model legislative forum where students learn to write bills, as well as develop critical debate and leadership skills. In Martin County, the Junior Youth In Government Program started at Murray Middle School, and now all middle schools in Martin County have successful programs.

I want to especially recognize four students who dedicated their time in this program to addressing the water quality issues plaguing our community. Emma Mauri, Jasper Millette, KJ Thompson and Donovan Soars all recognized the pressing issues caused by polluted water and harmful algal blooms.

These students researched the issues thoroughly, proposed policy changes and successfully got their bills passed. They exemplify the kinds of future leaders we need in our government because they understand that protecting our environment is also essential to defending human health and strengthening our economy.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Emma, Jasper, KJ and Donovan on their success, and I also hope these programs will continue to expand to give even more students the opportunity to learn more about how citizens can participate in our government.

RECOGNIZING THE 44TH CAPITAL PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 44th Capital Pride Celebration, which will take place on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. From May 31 to June 9, 2019, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and others (LGBTQ+) communities and their allies in the National Capital Region will "shhhOUT, Past, Present & Proud."

On Father's Day of June 15, 1975, Deacon MacCubbin, owner of the Lambda Rising Bookstore in Dupont Circle began Gay Pride Day as a block party on 20th Street, between R and S Streets NW. Pride Day outgrew the curbs and sidewalks of 20th Street and moved to Francis Junior High School in 1980. The next year, a Pride Parade from Meridian Hill Park to Dupont Circle joined the renamed Gay and Lesbian Pride Day.

Over the years, the Pride festival has changed both in location and participation. In 1995, Pride Day moved to Freedom Plaza and on Sunday, June 8, 1997, a retitled Capitol Pride Festival opened on Pennsylvania Avenue. In 1991, D.C. Black Pride joined the Pride Celebration followed by Youth Pride in

1997. As momentum grew, D.C. Leather Pride began in 2006, while Transgender and Latinx Pride began in 2007. This year, Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) inaugurate API Pride, and seniors over 60 years of age observe Silver Pride.

Each June, Capital Pride recognizes individuals and organizations that have advanced causes important to the LGBTQ+ community in the National Capital Region. The Paving The Way Award acknowledges an individual or organization that has provided exemplary contributions, support or advocacy that impacts the larger LGBTQ+ community. The Alliance proudly awards the 2019 Paving The Way Award to The Washington Blade, America's LGBTQ+ Newspaper of Record.

The 2019 Hero Award recipients are Kimberley Bush, Director of Arts and Cultural Programs at the DC Center for the LGBT Community; Rea Carey, Executive Director of the National LGBTQ Task Force; Martin Espinoza, co-founder and President of Stonewall Sports; Ben de Guzman, Acting Director of the D.C. Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs; Amanda J. Hackett, Esq., an attorney in private practice who specializes in immigration matters for LGBTQ+ communities; and Tony "And I Thank You" Nelson, one of D.C.'s leading and most respected emcees and comedians.

Capital Pride gives the Engendered Spirit Award to outstanding advocates, activists and supporters of the transgender community. This year's recipients are: Xemiyulu Mariibusan Tapepechul, a Nawat Trans Femme from Kuskatan (El Salvador) and Larry Villegas-Perez, a Native American-Hispanic born in Venezuela. Donald Burch, III and Alan Thompson receive the Bill Miles Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service. The Larry Stansbury Award for Exemplary Contributions to Pride goes to Team DC, the association of LGBTQ+ sports clubs in the DMV region. Capital Pride also awarded the National Center for Transgender Equality the Breaking Barriers: Community Impact Award.

I have marched in the Pride Parade since my election to Congress. I look forward to marching this year. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 44th Capital Pride Celebration.

COMMEMORATING THE 54TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 54th anniversary of the successful national Head Start program, which empowers children to succeed across the country.

Head Start is a critical program that is based on the simple premise that every child, regardless of their socioeconomic status, should be able to succeed in life. Head Start offers education, health and nutrition services to economically disadvantaged children, as well as parenting and employment supports to their parents.

Head Start is a wise and cost-effective investment in families and communities. For

every dollar invested in Head Start by the federal government, the country realizes almost nine dollars in benefits through increased earning and reduced reliance on social programs.

In my state of Wisconsin, Head Start provides parent education, preventative health care, and home visits to nearly 17,000 Wisconsin children and families at over 280 locations statewide. In addition, just last year, Head Start provided crisis assistance to over 3,700 families in Wisconsin in the form of emergency food, clothing or shelter.

Yet, the need is much greater. In 2017, of the nearly 42,000 children in Wisconsin ages of three and five in poverty, only 31 percent had access to Head Start. Of the 50,985 children under the three in poverty, only 6 percent had access to Early Head Start. This is troubling when we know the difference that this program can make. Earlier this year, I again joined colleagues in asking the House Appropriations Committee to boost funding for Head Start.

So I commend those who have helped make this program such a vital part of communities in the past 50 plus years, the dedicated teachers, parents, and others who invest so much in our children. Madam Speaker, I commend Head Start for the difference it is making for children and families in Wisconsin and throughout the nation and urge this Congress to improve and strengthen it for another 50 wonderful years.

HONORING DR. BEVERLY WARREN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Beverly Warren, who has announced her retirement as Kent State University's 12th president.

Beverly Warren, Ph.D., Ed.D., began her tenure at Kent State on July 1, 2014. As the university's chief executive officer, President Warren oversaw one of the nation's largest university systems. Under her leadership, the university embarked upon a systemwide, inclusive process to consider a bold and distinctive future for Kent State University. The six-year plan, A Strategic Roadmap to a Distinctive Kent State, is the result of this effort. With Students First named Priority One, the plan identified strategies that distinguished Kent State as an exemplar among the nation's best public research universities, with a distinctive blend of teaching, research and creative excellence.

Under Dr. Warren's leadership, the university enrolled its most academically advanced freshman class ever and has achieved record enrollment in its Honor's College program.

With a background in physical education, President Warren also has led the charge to turn Kent State into one of the healthiest campuses in the nation. She launched a series of wellness initiatives, including prohibiting smoking and tobacco use on campus as of July 2017.

Dr. Warren also leveraged her leadership throughout the Northeast Ohio community. She has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for The Cleveland Orchestra and served on the boards of directors for Team

NEO, Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce, Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE) and Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio Inc. (NETO).

President Warren distinguished herself as a warm and friendly face amongst the students and staff of Kent State. Whether she's championing academics in the board room or cheering on the Golden Flashes on the field, her energy, presence, and compassion can be felt campus-wide.

I was proud to work with Dr. Warren to help secure funding to advance research efforts at Kent State. With Dr. Warren's leadership, the research being done at Kent State will go a long way to help solve real-world issues.

I thank President Warren for her service to the students and community and wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF IMAM OMAR
SULEIMAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Imam Omar Suleiman for offering the opening prayer before the House of Representatives this afternoon.

Imam Suleiman is a world renowned scholar and theologically driven activist for human rights. He is the Founder and President of the Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research and a professor of Islamic Studies at Southern Methodist University. He's also the resident scholar of the Valley Ranch Islamic Center and Co-Chair Emeritus of Faith Forward Dallas at Thanks-Giving Square, a multi-faith coalition of clergy for peace and justice. He frequently writes for CNN, USA Today, The Guardian, HuffPo, and The Dallas Morning News.

His career started in his hometown of New Orleans where he served as the Imam of the Jefferson Muslim Association in New Orleans for 6 years and directed the "Muslims for Humanity" Hurricane Katrina Relief effort. It was during this time that he was recognized on a national level as being a strong advocate of community service, interfaith dialogue, and social justice. He co-founded the East Jefferson Interfaith Clergy Association and was awarded for his outstanding civic achievement by the Mayor and City Council of New Orleans in 2010. He's also the founder of MUHSEN, a non-profit umbrella organization serving the community to establish a more inclusive "Special Friendly" environment for our brothers & sisters of all disabilities.

In July 2016, he marched with demonstrators in Dallas against the killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. In the wake of the tragic shooting of officers after that protest, he was chosen to lead the invocation at the Presidential memorial alongside former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush. The D-Magazine published a feature on him titled "The Religious Leader Dallas Needs." His work in bringing people together was the subject of a BBC documentary in 2016, and work with refugees in Syria featured in PBS in January 2017, and in 2016, he was a recipient of the United Nations Global Goals Award with Faith Forward Dallas. He led the airport pro-

tests in Dallas against President Trump's Muslim ban in 2017; led a group of clergy to the Mexico border that intercepted a bus of children taken from their parents under the family separation policy; and has worked closely with the families of the victims of police brutality to amplify their cause. Most recently, he was recognized by CNN as one of the 25 most influential Muslims in America and included amongst the Frederick Douglass 200 most influential Americans whose modern day work embodies the legacy of the great abolitionist.

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH-
ERN TIER CENTRAL REGIONAL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
BOARD

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board.

Southern Tier Central has been serving the communities of Chemung, Schuylers, and Steuben Counties since 1969. As a regional council, Southern Tier Central promotes coordination between the neighboring counties to provide a regional approach to improving the economy, the environment, and the quality of life for citizens of the Southern Tier. Their work to provide planning for economic development, transportation, human services, and flood assistance helps the communities of the Southern Tier grow and thrive.

The Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board provides a variety of services to the region. As the designated Local Development District of the Appalachian Regional Commission and an Economic Development District of the Economic Development Administration, Southern Tier Central is able to qualify for special grant funding and project assistance to promote important local economic and community development projects. Over the last half century, Southern Tier Central has helped to provide more than eighty-seven million dollars in grant funding and technical assistance to the region.

Fifty years of serving the community is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board 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 commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mental Health Awareness

Month. Throughout May, my colleagues and I will bring attention to the impact of mental illnesses on American society, as well as Congress's role in addressing mental healthcare issues facing the country. It is an honor to collaborate with my colleagues in the Congressional Mental Health Caucus to raise awareness for mental illnesses, reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness, and create legislation that improves mental health outcomes for Americans.

Mental illnesses have a devastating effect on those struggling to live with them. This includes changes in mood, social interactions, sleep patterns, and eating habits. Sadly, the most extreme consequences of mental illness are when an individual inflicts self-injury or takes their life. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death among Americans age 24 and younger. Approximately 1.4 million Americans attempt suicide each year and over 47,000 Americans lose their lives to suicide. The United States has 3,700 suicide attempts daily and 129 suicide deaths per day. This equates to one suicide every 12 minutes.

Not only does suicide have severe emotional costs on families and communities, but also on our economy. It is estimated suicide and self-injury reduce the economic output of the United States by \$69 billion per year.

The suicide epidemic is responsible for nearly the same amount of deaths in the United States as another prevalent health crisis: the opioid epidemic. It is estimated opioids were the cause for 47,600 deaths in America, only a few hundred more than suicide. While solving the opioid crisis has received ample funding and attention, and rightfully so, reducing suicide and improving mental health treatment deserves the same recognition. Congress has a responsibility to assist individuals experiencing mental health challenges through effective legislation and research subsidies.

Congress should advance policies that increase Americans' access to mental healthcare treatment as a mechanism for preventing self-harm incidents and suicide attempts. Just one third of Americans with mental illness receive treatment. Our country is in desperate need of additional trained therapists, psychologists, and counselors. This lack of access can be partly attributed to a shortage of mental healthcare professionals in certain communities. In order to establish a more reliable supply of mental healthcare professionals, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO and I recently introduced the Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act of 2019. Our bill delivers professionals to areas that require mental healthcare experts the most by forgiving their secondary education student loans. It invests in bolstering our mental health workforce, while expanding treatment for Americans with mental illness.

Americans across the country, regardless of age, social status, or background, are affected by mental illnesses. Mental Health Awareness Month serves as an opportunity for any of my Congressional colleagues, Republican or Democrat, to join the conversation. Together, we can improve mental health outcomes for Americans across the country by engaging in thoughtful discussion and crafting efficient policies.

Finally, it is an honor to once again co-chair the Congressional Mental Health Caucus with