

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

Congresswoman NAPOLITANO. I am grateful for her continued leadership and commitment on this issue and I look forward to further collaborating with her.

HONORING NEW ROCHELLE YMCA  
120TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize an institution that has helped children and families in my district for an astonishing 120 years, the New Rochelle YMCA.

On January 15, 1899 a group of New Rochelleans gathered at 56 Woodland Ave. in New Rochelle to discuss the possibility of creating a YMCA. On February 3, 1899 the New Rochelle YMCA received its article of incorporation.

The original home of the Y was located at 480–482 Main Street where a building committee was established to create a permanent home. Twenty-six years later the YMCA purchased the Hendricks property at the corner of Division St. and Burling Lane (now Memorial Highway) and began raising money to build a new site. Following the economic uncertainty of the stock market crash, the new building was completed in 1931.

A true charitable organization, the Y was involved with the soldiers at Fort Slocum during both world wars, providing them with room and board while on leave from their base, as well as providing room for the American Red Cross. Several local community organizations used the Y facility as meeting halls for their respective groups. Over the years the Y provided many programs for the New Rochelle community, with the pool being the most popular feature and by 1939 had a membership of over 2,200 people. Over the years, the Y developed a rich history in diversity.

In the 1980's they moved into its current home on 50 Weyman Avenue, a space it shared with the Boys and Girls Club.

The YMCA's presence in the community has continued to increase over the last ten years, as the focus of the Y shifted from a "swim and gym club" to a community based charitable organization, which offers affordable programs, in addition to providing financial aid for children and families in need. Currently the YMCA serves close to 5,000 members, with a great majority of seniors and children. The YMCA has developed a Universal Pre-K program in partnership with the New Rochelle school district.

The New Rochelle YMCA has served the community for 120 years. On the occasion of their anniversary, I'd like to congratulate and thank their entire team for all they have done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call

No. 185; YEA Roll Call No. 186; YEA Roll Call No. 187; and YEA Roll Call No. 188.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEXAS  
A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO

**HON. WILL HURD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 10th Anniversary of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Since its establishment in 2009, A&M-San Antonio has transformed into a bustling, centralized University that has awarded over 8,000 degrees on the Southside of San Antonio, so students are prepared to take on the challenges of the 21st Century.

Additionally, the University is reflective of the rich heritage of the community it serves, with a student body that's 60-percent female, 72-percent Hispanic and 77-percent first-generation college students. I am proud to represent a University that is playing a hands-on role in moving our country forward, and I know this is only the beginning.

On behalf of the Twenty-third Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Texas A&M University-San Antonio on this achievement and go jaguars.

HONORING THE ROANOKE  
TRIBUNE

**HON. BEN CLINE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 80th anniversary of the Roanoke Tribune newspaper in Roanoke, Virginia.

Founded by Reverend F.E. Alexander in 1939, the Roanoke Tribune has played an important role in the community of Roanoke, representing the African-American community as it fought racial discrimination in the Roanoke Valley in the 20th Century.

Their tradition of strong, independent journalism which holds leaders and the powerful accountable continues today under the leadership of Reverend Alexander's daughter, Claudia A. Whitworth, and his grandson, Stanley A. Hale.

Congratulations to the Roanoke Tribune on its 80 years, and here is wishing them many more.

SUPPORT OF THE LAWYERS DEFENDING  
DEMOCRACY "OPEN  
LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
CONGRESS"

**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, while the nation has been focused on Russian interference with the 2016 presidential election and questions of presidential obstruction of justice, President Donald Trump's violation of funda-

mental principles and norms of American democracy have been far more comprehensive. In the last three months, more than 400 attorneys—including former federal and state judges, United States Attorneys, managing partners of large law firms, law deans and other distinguished lawyers from around the country—have stepped forward in a broad and unprecedented effort to defend American democracy and the rule of law against official lawlessness.

The lawyers have signed and published an "Open Letter to The President and Congress" identifying five fundamental norms and principles of our democracy which they believe the President has violated. These violations involve the President's unjustified attacks on the mainstream media, courts, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, his repeated lying to the public, and failure to respect civil discourse and peoples from all backgrounds. The Letter's Appendix cites examples of violations of each principle.

The Letter emphasizes that it is "NOT about disagreements over Republican or Democratic policies, liberal or conservative ideology, or political party advantage. The values and principles threatened here are much deeper, and are much more important, than politics, policy differences and any politician's self-interest. They're the bedrock of our American, constitutional, democratic form of government for all times."

The Letter notes that: "[u]nless challenged and checked, the pattern of disregard weakens the norms that underpin American self-government and invites unfettered Executive power—transforming the United States from a democracy to an autocracy. As members of the legal profession, pledged to support the rule of law and the constitutional separation of powers, we must not allow this to happen." I am pleased to endorse this Letter and Appendix by Lawyers Defending American Democracy, [www.lawyersdefendingdemocracy.org](http://www.lawyersdefendingdemocracy.org), and include them in the RECORD.

We are fortunate that, at a time of rising authoritarianism around the world, lawyers in the United States are standing strong for the rule of law and the Constitution.

OPEN LETTER OF LAWYERS DEFENDING  
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

We live at a time when America's fundamental values are under attack. As American lawyers, we're deeply concerned about protecting the democratic institutions and principles that have enabled America to be the world's preeminent beacon of freedom and opportunity.

As lawyers, we have the responsibility to defend the underlying constitutional values and norms of political behavior on which our democracy depends. These core values and principles include: the rule of law; institutional checks and balances; separation of powers; press freedom; truthfulness to the public; and the integrity of our system of justice.

Accordingly, we, as lawyers, cannot ignore or remain silent about President Donald Trump's disregard of these core values and principles. We must speak out.

Yet, we recognize that elections have consequences. This effort to energize and mobilize our legal profession is emphatically NOT about disagreements over Republican or Democratic policies, liberal or conservative ideology, or political party advantage. The values and principles threatened here go much deeper, and are much more important than politics, policy differences and any politician's self-interest. They're the bedrock of