

COMMENDING PALM BEACH COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS ON BEST PRACTICES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

**HON. BRIAN J. MAST**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2019*

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Palm Beach County schools for promoting music educational excellence in Florida. Palm Beach County received a 2019 Best Communities for Music Education Award from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM).

This award celebrates school districts for their commitment to music education and efforts to promote music for all students as part of a well-rounded education.

In achieving this national award, Palm Beach County teachers and faculty have demonstrated an exceptionally high commitment to enriching students' lives through music.

Madam Speaker, I hope these music programs will continue to expand and give even more students the opportunity to thrive in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF COMMANDER ZEITA MERCHANT

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2019*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the achievements of Commander Zeita Merchant, a proud native of Chicago, Illinois; Commander Merchant has served this great nation as an officer of the United States Coast Guard for over 22 years;

Commander Merchant served as the Commanding Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Chicago, where she was responsible for executing the Coast Guard's Port Safety and Security, Marine Environmental Protection, and Commercial Vessel Safety missions under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security on the Southern Lake Michigan shorelines of Illinois and Indiana, as well as the Chicago Area Waterway System and the Illinois River System; and;

Commander Merchant made history, in position, as the unit's first female Commanding Officer of her unit and the first African American female to command a Marine Safety Unit in Coast Guard history;

Commander Merchant's visionary leadership and operational expertise ensured the safety and security of the Nation's third largest metropolitan area through maximizing federal, state and local partnerships with her galvanizing initiatives and influence, and overseeing prevention and marine environmental responses, which sustained commerce in the busiest port complex in the Great Lakes Region.

In addition, Commander Merchant showed notable commitment to making an impact in the Austin Community in which she was raised as a board member for BUILD (Broader Urban Involvement & Leadership Development) Chicago, while also serving as a member of the

Executive Committee for the Chicago Federal Executive Board, and Community Partner with Chicago State University.

Finally, Commander Merchant served as an instrumental champion for the Midwest Boys and Girls Club, Chicago and Northern Illinois American Red Cross, the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana, the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, and many other non-profit organizations where the lives of more than 4000 youth, veterans, and community volunteers were positively impacted.

Commander Merchant and her life experiences are a testament to what young African American women from Chicago can achieve. The Chicagoland community has been truly blessed to have such a brilliant mind and committed public servant and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING SUSAN LLOYD YOLEN ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2019*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, and colleagues in extending my heartfelt congratulations, deepest thanks, and sincere appreciation to Susan Lloyd Yolen as she marks her retirement after thirty-two years of dedicated service to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England.

Susan has dedicated her professional life to ensuring that those served by PPSNE have had access to the health care and services that they need. As Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy, Susan has also been a strong voice on both the local and national stages for Planned Parenthood and the families they serve.

Throughout her thirty-two-year career, she spent countless hours leading the organization's efforts to fight for quality, affordable healthcare, as well as reducing teen birth rates and reducing racial and ethnic health disparities by removing barriers to services and information. Susan's steadfast commitment has earned her the respect and admiration not only of her colleagues at PPSNE, but that of the legislators and community activists who had the opportunity to work with her.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to extend a special note of thanks to Susan for her friendship and support over the years. She has been an invaluable resource to both myself and my staff. Susan has only ever been a phone call away and I, like so many others, consider myself fortunate to call her my friend. I am confident that I speak for everyone who has had the opportunity to work with Susan over the years when I say her passion, compassion, tenacity, and commitment will be deeply missed.

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England stands as a model for affiliates across the country and that is in large part because of Susan Yolen. Advocate, mentor, and friend, she has left an indelible mark on this outstanding organization and a legacy that will continue to inspire others to ensure that everyone has access to the affordable, quality re-

productive health care they need and deserve. I am honored to stand today to extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Susan, for her outstanding leadership and good work, as well as my very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness as she enjoys her retirement.

COMMENDING THE AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2019*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to commend the Auburn High School softball team, which captured the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Class 1 state title on June 14, 2019. The Eagles put on a dominant performance, handily defeating a quality team from Rappahannock County High School by a score of 18 to 1.

This victory carries particular meaning, as it is Auburn High School's first Class 1 VHSL girls softball state championship in its history. Their championship caps a 25-3 season. I applaud the hard work and dedication of all members of this year's Auburn High School girls softball team, and congratulate the administrators, teachers, coaches, parents, students, and fans. In particular, I would like to recognize the contributions of the team's seniors, and their head coach David Hurd. Congratulations on a great end to the season. It is another trophy in Auburn's impressive collection of championships this year. In fact, it came on the same day the Auburn baseball team won their title. It is truly remarkable when a high school wins two state championships not only in the same year, but on the same day.

CONGRATULATING THE JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (JROTC) ACADEMIC TEAM OF WHITE STATION HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2019*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) academic team from White Station High School in Memphis for winning the JROTC Academic National Championship on Sunday. The team, one of 32 invited to compete for the national championship at Catholic University of America in Washington, consists of rising senior Catherine Hu and rising juniors Johnnie Walton, Michael Golden and Diran Tan. Their teacher-coach is Sergeant Major Karen Boldin.

The academic championship process began with a written test in October with questions from math, science, history and other academic areas. Previous levels of competition narrowed the field to 1,200 teams, then just 32 who began their rounds on Friday. Michael Golden had the final winning answer to a question about a monument in a British city and deserves a special shout-out.

JROTC is a great program that typically leads to academic success after high school and potentially to careers as officers in the military services. The White Station team returns to Memphis as National Champions and I look forward to meeting with the team and with students, faculty and staff at White Station in the weeks ahead. They have made us proud.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

SPEECH OF

**HON. DEBRA A. HAALAND**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2019*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3055) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes:

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my two amendments to the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill for FY20, which were included in en bloc amendment No. 5.

I thank my friend Chairwoman BETTY MCCOLLUM for supporting these amendments, and for the work she and Ranking Member JOYCE have done to increase funding for programs that are vitally important to Indian Country. Despite their good efforts, due to budget constraints, there is still work to be done to meet the needs of our Tribal Nations.

The United States Constitution defines the unique government-to-government relationship between the federal government and Tribal Nations. The federal trust responsibility originates from the days when Native Americans were forced to surrender tribal land and suffered loss of life and the removal/resettlement of one-fifth of Tribes from their original homelands. The United States signed 375 treaties, passed laws, and instituted policies that promised to safeguard Native Americans' right to self-governance and to enable delivery of essential services in Indian Country.

One of these services is health care. During the latter part of the nineteenth century, the federal government expanded health care for Native Americans due to overcrowding at boarding schools and the spread of disease. It was only in 1968, when Indian health care lagged behind the rest of the country, was the Indian Health Service (IHS) designated in an effort to fulfill the trust responsibility. Over the last two centuries, the failure of the federal government to adequately address American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) wellbeing led to this population being ranked in the bottom of health, education, and employment.

Congress has continued to inadequately fund Indian Country at disproportionately lower levels than funding for services for any other population. IHS is currently only funded at 40 percent of the need, and the average per capita spending for an IHS patient is only about \$3,800 compared to the national average of \$9,523. During fiscal year 2019, IHS' budgetary need was \$30 billion, but the enacted level only amounted to \$5 billion, which is \$25 billion less than the amount needed to prop-

erly administer health care in Indian Country for 2.2 million AI/ANs across 573 federally recognized Tribes.

Urban Indian health care is an area of particular need. Approximately 70 percent of AI/ANs live in urban areas, but they lack access to adequate health care services because only 1 percent of the chronically underfunded IHS budget has been allocated to urban Indian health care. Currently urban Indian health is estimated to only meet 22 percent of the need of the roughly one million urban AI/ANs who live in urban Indian health care services areas.

My amendment seeks to draw attention to this area of serious need. While we are making strides with this bill, an additional \$35,000,000 would help provide resources for health care services needed by the urban Indian population.

Tribes are also in desperate need of resources for tribal courts and law enforcement. AI/AN suffer from one of the highest rates of crime and victimization of any group of people in the United States. Although overall funding for public safety in Indian Country has increased, it does not come close to meeting the public safety needs in Indian Country or the needs to police and protect Indian Country, especially related to tribal courts and law enforcement. My amendment highlights that an additional \$63 million is needed for tribal courts and \$113 million for law enforcement to give AI/ANs living on tribal lands access to basic public safety services that are readily available for other Americans living outside of Indian Country.

I appreciate the good work done by Chairwoman MCCOLLUM and Ranking Member JOYCE to begin to address these pressing needs in Indian Country, and I thank them for their support of my amendments. I look forward to continuing to work with them and Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Member GRANGER to ensure that the federal government fulfills its trust obligation to Tribes and that Tribes have the resources they need to provide services and opportunity to their members.

PRESIDENT GEORGE P. "BUD"  
PETERSON'S RETIREMENT

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2019*

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. George P. "Bud" Peterson, Ph.D. on his retirement.

For the past 10 years, Dr. Peterson served as the 11th president of the Georgia Institute of Technology, a world-renowned higher education institution that is located in my district. Under Dr. Peterson's leadership, the Institute has consistently ranked among our nation's best institutions of higher education, and he managed to exceed benchmarks outlined in Georgia Tech's strategic plan.

Madam Speaker, we are very fortunate to have an institution like Georgia Tech educating our young people in Atlanta. President Peterson worked tirelessly to open the doors of opportunity to young people from every corner of Georgia. During his tenure, undergraduate applications tripled, graduate applications doubled, and the student body increased

by 69 percent to more than 32,000 students. In 2014, the Georgia Tech guaranteed admission and financial support to valedictorians and salutatorians from Atlanta Public Schools. In 2017, it extended these offerings statewide through the Georgia Tech Scholars Program. Access to a quality education changes the very trajectory of these young people's lives.

For visitors to Metro Atlanta, Dr. Peterson's impact is arguably most visible in Tech Square in Midtown Atlanta. There is an important national conversation on how to create new livable-wage, manufacturing jobs and bolster United States' global competitiveness. In our region, Dr. Peterson ensured that Georgia Tech became the regional center for this discussion. For these reasons, former Department of Commerce Secretary Gary Locke appointed President Peterson to the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and President Barack Obama appointed him to the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) steering committee and its 2.0 successor.

President Peterson excels in connecting young minds with great ideas to emerging industries and opportunity. Since 2013, 30 corporations have set up innovation centers in the area, engaging students' creativity, growing our economy, and ensuring that Atlanta remain a center for talent and technology. In fact, Madam Speaker, last week Dr. Peterson welcomed my staff and me to Georgia Tech's new Coda building. This incredible facility, along with the rest of Tech Square, shows how the Institute will continue to shape Atlanta's future. Dr. Peterson was instrumental in making this vision a reality.

Before coming to Georgia Tech, Dr. Peterson served as chancellor of the University of Colorado at Boulder and provost at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. Born in San Francisco, California, Dr. Peterson grew up in Kansas and earned degrees from Kansas State University and Texas A&M University. Throughout his career, Dr. Peterson focused on promoting research and scientific education and received national accolades for his work. For these reasons, President George W. Bush appointed him to serve on the National Science Board in 2008, and President Obama re-appointed President Peterson for a second six-year term in 2014.

Although Dr. Peterson is retiring this summer from the administration, he is staying in the Georgia Tech family and returning to the Institute's faculty. On behalf of the people of Atlanta, I thank President Peterson for his years of dedicated leadership to our community and to Georgia Tech. I wish him, his beloved wife Val, and their four children continued success and happiness in this next chapter of their lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE,  
LEADERSHIP, AND LEGACY OF  
CHIEF ERIC DUNNING

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2019*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Eric Dunning of De Pere, Wisconsin on celebrating his retirement from the Ashwaubenon Department of Public