

MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH  
ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Medical Marijuana Research Act. This legislation would remove barriers for research into cannabis and facilitate access to an increased supply of higher quality medical grade cannabis for research purposes.

The cannabis laws in this country are broken, including our laws that govern cannabis research. Because cannabis is a Schedule I substance, researchers must jump through hoops and comply with onerous requirements just to do basic research on the medical potential of the plant.

The Medical Marijuana Research Act amends the Controlled Substances Act to establish a new, separate registration process, specific for marijuana. The bill would both streamline the often-duplicative licensure process for researchers seeking to conduct cannabis research and facilitate access to an increased supply of higher quality medical grade cannabis for research purposes.

The Medical Marijuana Research Act will ensure that research on cannabis and other potentially beneficial marijuana-derived substances is based on sound science and reduce the regulatory barriers associated with marijuana research. The legislation requires the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to license outside of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to ensure that there is an adequate supply of cannabis product to study. The legislation also shortens timelines, reduces unnecessary security measures, and streamlines approval for researchers.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation and enable research into the medical impacts from using cannabis so Americans have adequate access to potentially transformative medicines and treatments.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO MEDICAL GROUP

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of Buffalo Medical Group, one of the oldest and largest physician-driven group practices in New York State. This year it will be celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Buffalo Medical Group was founded in 1946, the year after World War II ended. Inspired by the new model of group physician practice they had experienced during the war, practices in that model were resumed by the organization's visionary founders, Drs. Ramsdell Gurney, Murray S. Howland, Jr., George F. Koepf, and Frank Meyers.

The organization has flourished and now records more than 850,000 outpatient visits annually throughout its locations. Built from a 75-year-old desire to provide the best possible

health care, Buffalo Medical Group continues to provide innovative patient care today.

Buffalo Medical Group employs not only more than 200 primary care, specialist, subspecialist physicians and advanced practitioners but also over 800 other health care professionals. The organization serves the people of Western New York from a number of locations, including four main locations and seven office satellites.

Buffalo Medical Group operates in a number of medical spheres, including but not limited to family medicine, cancer care, and vascular surgery. The organization also provides a number of support services for the people of Western New York, such as physical therapy, radiation services, and pharmacy services. The organization ensures that the people of Western New York have access to a plethora of medical resources.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to honor Buffalo Medical Group, an organization that has operated in and for Western New York for 75 years. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this milestone.

HONORING JAMES P. BURIK

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Naval Air Crewman 1st Class James "Jimmy" P. Buriak, who died on August 31, 2021, at the age of 31.

Mr. Buriak, of Salem, Virginia, was one of the five sailors that lost their lives when an MH-60S helicopter embarked aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln*, crashed into the sea off the coast of southern California. At the time of the crash, the helicopter was conducting what the Navy described as "routine flight operations."

Mr. Buriak was born on May 9, 1990, to Jim and Carol Buriak in Salem. He graduated from Salem High School in 2008 and from Roanoke College in 2012. He joined the Navy in 2017 and served as a rescue swimmer assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Eight. He deployed aboard the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* for two consecutive tours before departing for the USS *Abraham Lincoln*.

Last year, Mr. Buriak was honored for rescuing a man caught in a rip current off Guam's Gun Beach. Though coral reefs surround the island, and the gentleman was weak from exhaustion, Mr. Buriak was still able to pull him from the current and bring him safely to shore. He was off duty at the time of the rescue and earned the Navy Commendation Medal for his selflessness and bravery.

Mr. Buriak's thoughtful character far exceeded the parameters of his job. He always went out of his way to help those in need and go the extra mile that others weren't willing to do. He was a charismatic and caring man. He valued his friends and time spent with his wife and son. He was esteemed as a hero. I offer my gratitude for his work and sacrifice for our great country. His selfless service will not be forgotten.

His wife, Megan, is starting the AWS1 James Buriak Foundation to continue honoring his legacy. The foundation will seek to improve financial shortcomings for Gold Star families with small children.

Mr. Buriak is survived by his wife, Megan, and young son, Caulder, as well as his parents, Jim and Carol Buriak, his sister, Laura, and brother-in-law, Erik Zickefoose. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

RECOGNIZING FERNDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT DANIA BAZZI, MICHIGAN'S 2022 SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

**HON. ANDY LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ferndale Public Schools Superintendent Dania Bazzi, named by the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators as Michigan's 2022 Superintendent of the Year.

Since joining Ferndale Public Schools in 2017, and especially during the unprecedented 2020–2021 school year, Dr. Bazzi has demonstrated exemplary dedication to students, educators and the Ferndale community at large. Under her direction, Ferndale Public Schools has received awards for equity, innovation, and leadership. Dr. Bazzi is known for placing students and education professionals at the center of every decision, and for taking a systematic approach to uplift the needs of all students. She is making a remarkable impact on the Ferndale Schools community and is a major asset to public education in Michigan.

It is gratifying to know that the hard-working and diverse Ferndale Schools community—all 3,000 students and the talented and caring education professionals who help them to "Fly High"—are in the very capable hands of Dr. Dania Bazzi. I am truly proud to have the honor of recognizing Dr. Bazzi for being named Michigan's 2022 Superintendent of the Year, and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating her and the entire Ferndale Public Schools community for this impressive achievement.

HONORING CALDWELL DURHAM

**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I wish to dedicate some time today to commemorate the 100th birthday of Caldwell Durham. Born in Raymond, Mississippi, more than two decades before Brown v. Board of Education, there was no guarantee that Caldwell Durham (Electrical Engineer Class of 1951 at IIT) or his brothers and sisters would have access to an education. If it were not for the courage and idealism of his parents, Chaney and Curtis Durham, Caldwell might have had a very different life.

At 100, he has worked tenaciously while enjoying a successful, barrier-breaking career as an aerospace engineer. He married the love of his life, Burnette Short Durham, and together they raised three children. He has four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, cousins and in-laws. He stays in

touch with associates, including fellow Illinois Institute of Technology alumni Michael Hill (CS '82) and Perri Irmer (ARCH '81), colleagues, and friends, who help him stay connected to his passions on a global scale.

What's his secret? Caldwell chuckles at the thought of trying to distill a century of living into a few pithy words of advice. "Are you sure you want the whole story?" he asks.

The story begins when Caldwell was born on September 12, 1921 in Raymond, Mississippi, the seventh of eight children. As with all parents, Caldwell's wanted to give their children the best possible start in life. His mother, Chaney Durham, was determined to ensure her children had the opportunity to obtain an education.

So, Curtis and Chaney Durham bought a house 750 miles away and in 1923, they moved their family to Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, about two miles away from Armour Institute, the institute that would be reborn as Illinois Institute of Technology in 1940.

There, the Durham children did exactly what their mother hoped they would. They went to school. Caldwell graduated from DuSable High School in 1939 and from Woodrow Wilson Junior College in the spring of 1941. That December, the United States entered World War II.

Caldwell knew that if he was drafted, he'd have little control over where or how he was deployed. He heard about a U.S. Army Air Force airborne training program which would train volunteers to work on aviation electronics. Durham volunteered and was accepted to the training program, assigned to a segregated unit of Black soldiers. Caldwell excelled and his training laid the foundation for the rest of his career.

After the war, Caldwell used his engineering training to get a job working for Western Electric, as a "wireman," building and installing hardware for telephone stations. He was the only Black wireman working for Western Electric, establishing a pattern that he would repeat throughout his career.

In the late 1940s, one of Caldwell's colleagues mentioned that he was thinking about quitting his job at Western Electric to go back to school. Caldwell thought that with his academic and professional background and the financial support of the GI Bill, he might be able to do the same. In 1949, he took a class at the university only a couple of miles from his family's home—Illinois Institute of Technology.

There, Caldwell engaged his remarkable capacity as an engineer and excelled. An IIT professor encouraged Caldwell to apply to attend IIT as a full-time student, so he did. A few months later, he was admitted to Illinois Tech, where he earned a bachelor of science in electrical engineering and again, he excelled.

As graduation approached in 1951, Caldwell found little success finding a job in the Midwest, as few firms at the time had an interest in hiring a Black engineer. One of his professors at IIT suggested he look for a job on the west coast, so Caldwell applied for a job at Lockheed in California.

In June 1951, Caldwell Durham moved across the country in pursuit of greater opportunity, this time with his own family.

The Durhams settled in L.A. and Caldwell quickly earned the respect of his colleagues. Caldwell spent the next ten years working for Lockheed, beginning his aerospace career in

earnest, designing and testing airplane instrumentation for the U-2 Spy Plane, first-generation jet aircrafts like the F-94C Starfire Interceptor, and the iconic L-1049 Super Constellation.

In 1961, Caldwell attended a conference where he ran into Okomoto, one of his former Lockheed colleagues, who had since gone to work for Space Technology Laboratories (STL). Okomoto persuaded his manager to interview Caldwell for a job in his office.

Caldwell spent the rest of his career at STL, which later came to be known as TRW. There, he worked in the Ballistic Missile Flight test Instrumentation section, participating in the specification and development of instrumentation systems for several ballistic missiles. Over a period of 28 years he truly became a rocket scientist. In 1978, he became head of the Instrumentation Section. He was the only black section manager in TRW's Missile Program Office. In 1989, he retired with honors and commendations.

Success like Caldwell's isn't a foregone conclusion for anyone. But his parents likely wouldn't be surprised. Chaney Durham knew that all of her children had potential and she did everything she could to give them the chance to express it. She knew that the best way to give her children this gift was through access to education.

Because of his education, Caldwell was able to compete for opportunities that others like him had rarely been allowed to pursue before. And because of his talent and determination, he enjoyed a successful career. He and Burnette also committed themselves to passing on the lesson of the power of an education to their own children. Today, all three of Caldwell's children achieved post-graduate degrees, and he counts lawyers, doctors and a news anchor among his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

This legacy of excellence began almost one hundred years ago, all because one family made the decision to prioritize access to education over their own comfort. Because of that, the descendants of Chaney and Curtis Durham, now five generations strong, have what Chaney always dreamed of: a chance at a better life through the power of education.

Caldwell's 100th birthday was September 12, 2021. He likes to say he's lived a charmed life. So, what is his secret? "You know, I don't know," he says with a laugh, "I think exercise is part of the equation."

COMMEMORATING SANTA CLARA  
CITY LIBRARIAN PATTY WONG

**HON. RO KHANNA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my constituent, Patty Wong, on becoming the first Asian American librarian to serve as the President of the American Library Association—an organization dedicated to improving learning opportunities and information across the country.

I am grateful for Ms. Wong's service in my district as the City Librarian for the Santa Clara Public Library. She has dedicated her 37-year career to improving our communities by serving as an award-winning librarian in in-

stitutions throughout California, and also as a part-time faculty member educating hundreds of undergraduates at San Jose State University.

From serving as a school librarian, children's librarian, and a special librarian in places including Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library, Oakland Public Library and Berkeley Public Library, she has used every opportunity she could find to pour her heart and soul into community service. Her work on equity and diversity, youth development, fundraising, and creating collaborations between libraries and community agencies are inspiring to us all.

In each of her roles, Ms. Wong has stood out as a leader who is dedicated to making the world a better place. When the pandemic struck, Ms. Wong spearheaded efforts to support weekly food distribution programs, hosted COVID-19 testing at libraries, and partnered with Stanford Blood Mobile to collect blood donations. Our community owes her a debt of gratitude for this selfless work.

Ms. Wong is exceptional in her history of working in libraries and her passion for community service. I am delighted to see her extraordinary talents in this new role recognized as the new President of the American Library Association. I wish her the best of luck on this exciting new endeavor.

HONORING BARB FULLER AS  
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Barb Fuller of Corning, Iowa, as Iowan of the Week.

This week we recognize National 4-H Week. As a former 4-H'er myself, I have the utmost respect and gratitude for the individuals who devote their time and expertise to helping kids around our country grow and realize their own potential. In Iowa, 4-H has a deeply rooted commitment to the growth and development of kids across our great State. For decades, Barb Fuller has dedicated her time and passions to the Adams County 4-H.

Barb has been involved with 4-H for practically her entire life. She participated in the organization when she was a kid with the Colfax Cloverettes of Boone County, and the organization's impact on her inspired her to take on more expansive roles within 4-H, especially after her daughter started participating in the organization. Barb became a leader in the Adams County 4-H for roughly 15 years after her daughter joined, leading her daughter's 4-H group, the Jasper Specialists.

Barb has impacted many of the 4-H'ers during her time with the organization, always making sure anyone who wanted to participate was able to have the opportunity to do so. Barb has been dedicated to helping kids in her community grow, and she thoroughly enjoys having the opportunity to guide kids through different projects and tasks. What has impacted Barb the most throughout her time with 4-H has always been the ability to watch kids learn, grow, and gain more self-confidence through the projects and activities they're able