

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAUPACA FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Waupaca Fire Department. The Waupaca Fire Department was formed shortly after the founding of the city of Waupaca on May 11th, 1871. As the Waupaca community celebrates this milestone, we look back on the outstanding history of the department and critical role they have played in the community. Throughout their history the department has grown immensely and now provides service to approximately 150 square miles. For 150 years, the department has remained committed to serving the city of Waupaca and surrounding communities to the highest degree. In total, the Waupaca Fire Department's Fire Inspection Division works incredibly hard to keep the community safe, conducting an impressive 550 inspections for commercial business in 2019 alone. Their work demonstrates not only the amount of expertise and knowledge the department holds, but the importance the department places on keeping their communities safe.

Over the last 150 years, the department has faced many challenges, but their efforts to give back to the community have never wavered. From participating in the Annual Battle of the Badges Softball Tournament, where the Fire Department takes on the Police Department, to hosting corn roasts and raffles, the Waupaca Fire Department is a true pillar of the community and Northeast Wisconsin. Many Waupaca families have benefited from the department's thoughtfulness and generosity. When the department is not fighting fires and saving lives, their members donate their time and efforts to making Waupaca a better place. The department played a key role in countless improvements around the city, such as the playground in South Park and the construction of multiple shelter homes. I commend the department's dedication and commitment to the Waupaca community. The Waupaca Fire Department supplies the community with incredibly trained individuals who are able to handle fire and other emergencies at a moment's notice. It is evident that the knowledge, dedication, and perseverance conveyed through the men and women of this department are deserving of the highest degree of admiration.

I invite all members of this body to join me in celebrating the sesquicentennial of the Waupaca Fire Department. The Waupaca Fire Department is a true credit to the community and deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE WEST COAST UNIVERSITY—TEXAS HEALTHCARE HEROES APPRECIATION

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of the

U.S. House of Representatives and all of the communities that Dallas Medical Center and Dallas Regional Medical Center serve, and the West Coast University—Texas students pursuing careers in healthcare at a time when we need them more than ever, it is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to personally thank them and all of our healthcare heroes for their service and selfless acts of caregiving during this pandemic.

These frontline caregivers demonstrate tremendous courage and put themselves on the line every day to ensure the health and safety of our community.

During the last 15 months, the effects of the Covid pandemic required a personal sacrifice from each one of them unlike any other time in our country's history. These frontline healthcare workers experienced long, long hours for months on end, caring for thousands of critical patients, and losing more life than anyone can bear to witness.

These nurses and staff provided care for others while worried about their own health and the well-being of their family. Yet, they came to work every day.

For their uncommon bravery and resilience, I say "thank you!"

To express this appreciation, these certificates commemorate the healthcare heroes at Dallas Medical Center and Dallas Regional Medical Center.

In addition, I have another certificate to recognize the students of West Coast University—Texas, which focuses on educating and training the next generation of nurses and healthcare workers. These students have chosen to pursue careers in healthcare despite witnessing one of the most challenging times in the history of their profession. I have deep respect for their courage and service to our community.

Words are not enough to express the gratitude that I feel for the healthcare workers throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the State of Texas, and across the country.

All of them deserve to be honored and celebrated.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN STELLA MELANSON

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Stella Melanson for her remarkable career with the Hinesville Police Department.

Captain Melanson began working at the Hinesville Police Department in 1976 and became Hinesville's first certified female peace officer.

Over the past 43 years there has not been one area of the police department that Captain Melanson has not been involved in.

She has served on patrol, within the Detective's Division, Administrative Services Division, and was a founding member of the Tri-County Protective Agency for domestic violence victims. Captain Melanson would humbly argue that she does not play a big role within the police department, but her lifelong service proves otherwise.

During her time, she has provided the Hinesville Police Department with tremendous leadership and management.

She has dedicated her life to protecting and serving others and I thank her for her 43 years of service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AVIATION ACT OF 2021

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I join my colleagues, Rep. DON YOUNG of Alaska, Chairman Emeritus of the Transportation Committee, and Rep. RICK LARSEN, Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, in re-introducing the bipartisan and bicameral National Center for the Advancement of Aviation Act of 2021. Our committee has worked for years to make American skies the safest in the world, and to strengthen the industry workforce to maintain the highest standards of aviation excellence.

Our legislation, the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation (NCAA) would support and promote collaboration amongst civil, commercial, and military aviation sectors to address the demands and challenges associated with ensuring a safe and vibrant national aviation system through research, education, and training.

Too often in the past, innovation and lessons learned in various aviation sectors has not been shared in a collaboratively or timely manner, especially considering rapid developments in new technology. Our bill helps break down silos across commercial aviation, general aviation and military aviation sectors that will not only improve safety and best practices, but also expand opportunities for those interested in the aviation workforce—for the young and not so young, from those just starting out, to those with experience who want to move into other types of aviation work.

The National Center would focus on four key areas with an emphasis on aviation workforce development. First, it would support education efforts and provide resources to curriculum developers so educators at all levels have the tools and training to educate the next generation of aviation professionals.

Second, the national center would provide a forum to leverage and share expertise amongst industry sectors including the dissemination of existing high school education curriculum to develop and deploy a workforce of pilots, aerospace engineers, unmanned aircraft system operators, aviation maintenance technicians, or other aviation maintenance professionals needed in the coming decades.

Third, it would serve as a central repository for economic and safety data research and analysis allowing a comprehensive perspective of industry information that would improve safety for all stakeholders.

Finally, it would support symposiums and conferences to facilitate collaboration across the industry and develop future advancements for the aviation and aerospace community.

This legislation would also allow the FAA to focus on safety, certification, and air traffic operations.

The national center would be funded by using a small percentage of the interest accrued annually on the taxes and fees collected from users of our aviation system and deposited into the aviation trust fund. In other words,

no general fund taxpayer dollars would be used to support this national center.

Our aviation and aerospace industry supports over 11 million jobs and contributes more than \$1.6 trillion per year to the national economy. More than 130 organizations including schools, airports, airlines, manufacturers, unions, and other entities involved in aviation and aerospace have expressed strong support for this legislation. The list of organizations supporting this legislation are as follows:

AAR Corp; ACI Jet; Aeronautical Repair Station Association; Aerospace Center of Excellence; Aerospace Maintenance Council; Air Care Alliance; Air Line Pilots Association, International; Air Medical Operators Association; Air Wisconsin Airlines; Airbus; Aircraft Electronics Association; Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association; Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Airlines for America; Alabama General Aviation Alliance; Alaska Airlines; Alaska Airmen Association; Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation; Alliance for Aviation Across America; Allied Pilots Association.

American Airlines; American Bonanza Society; American Yankee Association; Arizona Airports Association; Arizona Flight Training Working group; Arizona Pilots Association; Arizona Safety Advisory Group; Arkansas General Aviation Association; Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International; Association of California Airports; Atlas Air Worldwide; Aviation Council of Pennsylvania; Aviation Technician Education Council; California Pilots Association; Cape Air; Cargo Airline Association; Cessna Flyer Association; Choose Aerospace, Inc.; Citation Jet Pilots, Inc.; Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations.

Colorado Aviation Business Association; Commemorative Air Force; Community and Airport Partnership for Safe Operations; CommutAir; Compass Airlines; Delta Air Lines; Delta State University; EAA Type Club Coalition; EAA Warbirds of America; East Central Ohio Pilots Association; East Hampton Aviation Association; Empire Airlines; Endeavor Air; Envoy Air; EVAC, the Emergency Volunteers Air Corps; Experimental Aircraft Association; ExpressJet Airlines; FAST; FedEx Express; Flight School Association of North America.

Flying Knights Flying Club; Flying Physicians Association; Friends of Linden Airport; Fullerton Airport Pilots Association; General Aviation Council of Hawaii; General Aviation Manufacturers Association; Glasair Aircraft Owners Association; GoJet Airlines; Hawaiian Airlines; Helicopter Association International; Horizon Air; International Air Transport Association; International Council of Air Shows, Inc.; Iowa Aviation Association; Kentucky Aviation Association; Kimmel Aviation Insurance; Ladd Gardner Aviation Insurance, Inc.; Lancair Owners and Builders Organization; Lewis University Airport; LIFT Academy.

Long Island Business Aviation Association; Los Alamos Airport; Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates; Maine Aeronautics Association; Maine Aviation Business Association; Massachusetts Airport Management Association; Michigan Business Aviation Association; Minnesota Pilots Association; Minnesota Seaplane Pilots Association; Mississippi Agricultural Association; Montana Pilots Association; Mooney Summit, Inc.; National Agricultural Aviation Association; National Air Traffic Controllers Association; National Air Transportation Association; National Association of State Aviation Officials; National Business Aviation Association; National Coalition for Aviation and Space Education NetJets; NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots; New Hamp-

shire Pilots Association; New Jersey Aviation Association.

New Mexico Airport Manager's Association; New York Aviation Management Association; North American Trainer Association; Ohio Regional Business Aviation Association; Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission; Oklahoma Airport Operators Association; Oklahoma Pilots Association; Oregon Pilots Association; Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals; Palo Alto Airport Association; Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum; Petaluma Area Pilots Association; Piedmont Airlines; Piper Flyer Association; Plane and Pilot News; Professional Aviation Maintenance Association; PSA Airlines; Pure White Smoke Oil, Inc.; Recreational Aviation Foundation; Red Star Pilots Association; Regional Airline Association; Republic Airways; Rhode Island Pilots Association.

San Carlos Pilots Association; San Diego Christian College; Seaplane Pilots Association; South Carolina Aviation Association; South Dakota Pilots Association; Southwest Airlines; Southwest Airlines Pilots Association; Start Skydiving, Inc.; Sturdivant Brothers Flying Service; T-34 Mentor Association; The Boeing Company; The Museum of Flight, Seattle, Washington; Trans States Airlines; U.S. Contract Tower Association; U.S. Parachute Association; United Airlines; UPS; Veterans Airlift Command; Virginia Aviation Business Association; Washington Pilots Association; Washington Seaplane Pilots Association; Women in Aviation International; Zerowait, Inc.

Madam Speaker, this legislation will address the demands and challenges our aviation and aerospace industry face today and tomorrow. I strongly encourage my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation Act of 2021.

CALLING ON THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the dire need for Congress to continue building upon recent investments in mental health care.

The American Rescue Plan funding for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is commendable but Congress must hone its focus to address this ongoing crisis by working to create and pass comprehensive mental health legislation.

I, alongside Members of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus and the Bipartisan Mental Health and Addiction Taskforce, are working to pull together key pieces of legislation to establish a comprehensive Mental Health Crisis Response Act.

I ask my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to please work with us and send bills our way to present to leadership and the White House, as the fundamentals of our social economy depend on the good health of our citizenry and their ability to access quality and affordable behavioral health services.

Throughout my 38 years in Congress, I have heard countless stories from constituents who face barriers when accessing essential mental health services. We must work to overcome these issues.

Further, we must enhance our Nation's capacity to address the negative social and

physical determinants of health that cause trauma and behavioral health problems, as well as deploy more effective upstream prevention strategies.

It's past time for Congress to take meaningful action, targeting provider shortages, reimbursement parity, housing support, treatment, and increased Federal funding to push the bounds of Federal research.

Full recovery from the pandemic will be contingent upon addressing the behavioral health conditions of our population, because mental health is public health.

HONORING BLACK DOCTORS COVID-19 CONSORTIUM

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium who leveraged their medical expertise and connections to facilitate testing and provide vaccines where measures are most needed in the Philadelphia region. They stepped up to level the playing field by testing and vaccinating thousands of people in at-risk communities.

Surgeon Ala Stanford along with a dedicated team of volunteers have sought to eliminate health disparities during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium was founded by Dr. Stanford in the spring of 2020, to address the lack of Covid-19 testing in low-income and communities of color in Philadelphia, who also happened to have the highest positivity rates. Their efforts undoubtedly saved countless lives.

Dr. Stanford left her role as a pediatric surgeon to dedicate her time to aggressively confront the growing health disparities in Black communities during the pandemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control—Black patients represent 22 percent of Covid cases and are 2.8 times more likely to be hospitalized and 1.9 times more likely to die due to Covid-19 as compared to White Americans. These stark figures are what drove Dr. Stanford to create the formation of BDCC. She declared, "There was no testing in communities where people were dying the most. So, we created it." Her work has been invaluable to the city of Philadelphia, particularly for low-income and vulnerable residents.

The consortium has tested more than 25,000 people and vaccinated more than 50,000 Philadelphians at 50 clinics. It also offers home vaccinations for people who can't access clinics. These services have been provided free to the public. They have recently partnered with Uber to provide 10,000 free rides aimed at helping people get to and from BDCC sites. Their work has drawn praise from the Biden's administration top health officials. "She is the perfect example of how a community member can stand up and lead during a time of crisis," Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said.

The Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium held a "vaxathon" a 24-hour, walk-up vaccine site, which saw a massive turnout. The group vaccinated nearly 4,000 people, 75 percent of whom were people of color. It was a wildly successful event designed to increase the