

IN RECOGNITION OF HANAC, INC.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to HANAC, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary celebration. For half a century, HANAC has been working to empower and serve the needs of New York City's most vulnerable residents.

Founded in 1972 by Evangeline Douris and her late husband George T. Douris as the Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee, HANAC has a long history of improving our community through a variety of public services designed to help seniors, immigrants, families, youth, and those fighting alcohol and substance abuse.

HANAC continues its mission by developing, implementing, and administering the operation of service programs for the betterment of the community; providing these services to any and all who are in need without discrimination as to race, creed, national origin or other defining characteristic; and working closely with other providers, the city, state and federal governments for the betterment of the community.

Through education programming, employment training, counseling, and senior and family housing, HANAC directly helps to improve the lives of over 35,000 people and their families annually. HANAC has grown into one of the city's largest providers of social services and continues to demonstrate its loyalty to a principle that is the bedrock of our nation: a community is strongest when those who live in it look out for one another.

HANAC currently operates—either independently or in partnership with other entities—several hundred units of low-income senior housing with plans to expand this number by hundreds of additional units. As the city continues to face an affordability crisis in housing, HANAC has provided a critical resource allowing New Yorkers to spend their golden years in the communities in which they have long lived.

In addition to its affordable housing, HANAC operates four senior centers which provide senior specific programming to thousands of Queens residents including New York City Housing Authority residents in western Queens.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the amazing work done by HANAC and in expressing my gratitude for the immense dedication of all the employees, board members, and supporters that have allowed HANAC to improve the lives of so many in our city.

HONORING KYLIE HAY-ROE**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Kylie Hay-Roe, my intern who has completed her spring 2022 semester serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District. Kylie has proven to be

a very capable young woman and shows great promise for her future endeavors.

Kylie has assisted my office in various areas, including appropriations, communications, and constituent and community engagement. She has shown a great understanding of the legislative process and has demonstrated her ability to adapt to the political arena. Kylie has presented an excellent work ethic and willingness to learn.

The daughter of Mirian and Keith Hay-Roe, Kylie was born in Gainesville, Florida, where she is enrolled in the University of Florida's Honors Program. She is majoring in Political Science and International Studies, which she plans to use to foster greater global engagement and international development for a more sustainable, equitable, and secure future. During her time as a University of Florida Gator, Kylie has also served as an Ambassador for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences along with the International Mentorship Association.

Upon transitioning from her internship, Kylie will complete a study abroad program in Iceland to learn about renewable energy systems before interning with the UF Sahel Research Group to learn about the cultural, social, and political developments.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kylie Hay-Roe for her present and future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SANDY AND ANDY SMITH**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Andy and Sandy Smith, for their tireless dedication and service to the Morristown, TN community and the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation.

Anderson L. "Andy" Smith is a Morristown native and graduated from Carson-Newman University before pursuing a tremendously successful career as one of East Tennessee's leaders in the banking industry. He retired as Senior Vice President and Regional President of HomeTrust Bank in 2016, and he was the former President and CEO of Jefferson Federal Bank, following a successful tenure with First Tennessee Bank. His community service included sixteen years as Past President of the Hamblen County Foundation for Educational Excellence and total service of twenty-six years to HC*Excell. He has served as a Past President of the Morristown Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Industrial Development Board for the City of Morristown (42 years), the Walters State Foundation (37 years), and the Jefferson Federal Charitable Foundation (17 years). He has been a board member of the Tennessee Banker's Association, Boys and Girls Club of Morristown, Hamblen County's United Way and a host of many other community organizations.

Sandy Smith has taught mathematics for twenty-five years including three at Morristown-Hamblen West High School and twenty-two years at Walters State Community College. She has also taught in many programs including the Talented and Gifted program for

grades 5 through 8 at Walters State. She has been a Sunday School teacher and Bible Study leader at her church, First Presbyterian, for many years. She was also a board member of HC*Excell, various Chamber of Commerce Committees including the Christmas Parade Chairman, and several PTA chairmanships. She graduated Carson-Newman University with degrees in American Literature and English Literature, as well as a degree in Mathematics.

Andy, with the support of Sandy, has helped lead the growth of the McNabb Center's Hamblen County Services beginning with the merger in 2008. The Smiths helped to eliminate debts of the New Hope Center upon the merger and were instrumental in giving and soliciting funds for the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation's capital campaigns to create a new community health mental health center, Jail to Work Program, and Recovery Home in Hamblen County and recently joined the Hamblen County Advisory Board to continue his service to the McNabb Center.

Sandy and Andy's legacy of love includes three children—Abbe, Parker, and Casey—and six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Sandy and Andy Smith have given their time, talents, and treasure to so many worthy organizations in the Lakeway region and I rise today to honor their service and their legacy to the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation and the community.

CELEBRATING SPINA BIFIDA MONTH**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, to honor the 166,000 Americans living with this condition, and to draw attention to the critical challenges we must address to ensure that each and every one of these individuals can achieve their full human potential and have the quality of life they deserve.

According to the Spina Bifida Association of America, Spina Bifida is the most common permanently disabling birth defect compatible with life in the U.S. Literally translated as "split spine," it is a condition that occurs when a baby's neural tube fails to develop or close properly. Typically occurring within the first 28 days of pregnancy while the neural tube is forming, Spina Bifida often develops before a woman even knows she is pregnant.

Before 1960, the survival rate for all forms of Spina Bifida was 10 percent to 12 percent. But over the last 6 decades, advances in research and medicine, along with policies supportive of children with disabilities, have ensured that nearly two-thirds of Americans currently living with Spina Bifida have made it to adulthood. And while these strides are certainly worth celebrating, people with Spina Bifida—particularly adults—continue to face a crisis of care that could be largely prevented with the right resources and policies.

Spina Bifida is commonly referred to as the "snowflake condition" of birth defects because no two cases are the same. Children born with this condition typically undergo dozens of surgeries before they reach the age of 18. And

during their lifetime, someone with Spina Bifida will face at least a \$1 million in medical expenses, including surgeries continuing throughout adulthood, and most can expect to spend much of their lives in a wheelchair or walking with braces.

One significant challenge facing this population is that, while we have a coordinated system of care designed to treat children with Spina Bifida in the U.S., there is no equivalent for adults. Spina Bifida is still largely taught in medical schools as a pediatric condition and education has failed to keep pace with the rapid rise in the adult Spina Bifida population. The result is that adults face a “care cliff” and enter a very fractured medical system where they are unable to find physicians willing or even knowledgeable enough to provide treatment. Thousands of adults are left with few options other than to seek care in the emergency room or continue to see their pediatric care team until insurance will no longer cover their care because of their age.

To make matters worse, many of these adults rely on Medicaid as their insurance provider, so even if they have the means to travel to an adult specialist who may be located in another state—as is often the case—their coverage is denied. Across the country, there are more than 100 pediatric clinics devoted to caring for children with Spina Bifida. There are less than 30 whose focus is on adults.

There are a number of concrete steps at the federal level we could take that would make dramatic improvements in the ability of adults with Spina Bifida to access quality care. One is to increase funding of the CDC’s National Spina Bifida Program—the sole federal program tasked with improving the care and outcomes for people with Spina Bifida. In 2008, the Spina Bifida Program created a National Spina Bifida Patient Registry to collect the scientific data needed to evaluate existing medical services for Spina Bifida patients, and to provide clinicians, researchers, patients, and families a window into what care models are effective and what treatments are not making a measurable difference. Building on this in 2014, the Spina Bifida Program funded the development of a Spina Bifida Collaborative Care Network to identify and to disseminate best practices for the care of people with Spina Bifida at all ages. However, with only \$7.5 million in annual funding, there are only 11,000 patients in the national registry, limiting the ability of medical professionals to glean knowledge that would advance research in areas critical to improving quality of life. Even modest increases to this funding would make an enormous difference.

Another important step would be to reform Medicaid policies to require coverage or treatment received across state lines for rare disorders, as there simply aren’t enough specialists in each state to provide the care that people with Spina Bifida desperately need and deserve.

And finally, we must continue to allow patients to receive insurance coverage for telehealth services once the COVID-19 emergency declaration expires. Telehealth is a critical tool in improving health outcomes for everyone, particularly those with unique conditions where care isn’t easily accessible geographically.

We are so fortunate today that our country is benefiting from the talent and contributions of the first generation of adults living with

Spina Bifida. Today, I honor and celebrate all of them, along with their care partners, and also remember those we have lost to this condition. I urge my colleagues to not only increase funding for the National Spina Bifida Program, but to work together to reform insurance policies so that these Americans receive the care and treatment all of us want for our families and loved ones.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON FROM INDIANA LOIS J. WAGONER

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Congressional Liaison Lois J. Wagoner on her sixty years of government service.

Ms. Lois J. Wagoner began working as a civilian clerk typist at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1961. Ten years later, she came to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to work in the Finance Division of the Indianapolis Regional Office as a program support clerk.

Further on in her career, she became a Veterans Benefits Counselor and eventually was named the Congressional Liaison in 1990. This position required Ms. Wagoner to work and communicate regularly with Veterans and the offices of D.C. government officials.

I am pleased to add that Ms. Wagoner was recognized with many awards including the Indianapolis Regional Office’s Employee of the Year award in 2009 and two awards from the Disabled American Veterans titled the National Commanders’ Award for the Veterans Benefits Administration in 2020 and the Award of Excellence in 2021 at their annual convention.

Ms. Wagoner has been a valuable resource for countless American heroes by directly supporting Veterans and providing families with the knowledge they need to care for their loved ones. Her passion for public service is unparalleled, and I believe her journey will act as inspiration for those who wish to follow in her footsteps.

While Ms. Wagoner has traveled all across the country to serve, it is within The Hoosier State where she has made a distinctive impact. I, along with other Veterans in Indiana’s 4th Congressional District, am proud of all she has done for those who fearlessly defended freedom and democracy.

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I want to congratulate Ms. Lois J. Wagoner, we truly value her six decades of dedicated public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOE VAN WYE AND HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise, along with DAVID CICILLINE, Chair of the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law to thank Joe Van Wye for his service to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Joe received his bachelor’s degree from Brown University and began his career in pub-

lic policy as a Staff Assistant and then Legislative Correspondent for Representative DAVID CICILLINE. Joe first joined the Judiciary Committee as a Professional Staff Member, Legislative Aide, and Clerk in February 2019 for the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law.

Joe’s work was essential to the success of many of the Subcommittee’s activities. For three years, Joe served as clerk for all the Subcommittee’s business, including Subcommittee hearing preparation and markups, as well as coordination of briefings, press conferences, and events for congressional staff and advocacy groups.

Joe also worked on legislation to end forced arbitration so that survivors of sexual assault or harassment could bring their stories out of the shadows and pursue justice in our courts. He helped lead the Subcommittee’s efforts to pass the Forced Arbitration Justice Repeal Act, the Justice for Servicemembers Act, and the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Harassment Act—the last of which became law in March 2022, codifying one of the most important workplace reforms in our nation’s history.

Joe was also instrumental to the Subcommittee’s investigation of competition in digital markets in the 116th Congress. He was essential to the Subcommittee’s collecting of more than 1.2 million documents as part of the investigation, and helped prepare the Subcommittee’s 2020 report entitled “Investigation of Competition in Digital Markets: Majority Staff Report and Recommendations.” This report released findings and recommendations following a 16-month bipartisan investigation into the state of competition in the digital economy, with a focus on the challenges presented by the dominance of Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google. The Committee on the Judiciary held a markup and formally adopted the Report in April 2021.

Throughout all of his work, Joe brought his passion for public policy, commitment to justice and equity, and good humor. Our Committee, Congress, and the American people greatly benefited from his service.

While we are sad to see Joe go and he will certainly be missed, we are happy that he will continue to serve the public interest in his new non-profit role advocating for a fair, inclusive, and competitive food and agriculture system.

We thank Joe Van Wye for his service to the Committee and wish him the best of luck with this new chapter.

RECOGNIZING SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, each October we recognize National Spina Bifida Month and pay tribute to the nearly 166,000 Americans living with Spina Bifida—the most common permanently disabling birth defect compatible with life.

Literally translated as “split spine,” Spina Bifida is a condition that occurs when a baby’s neural tube fails to develop or close properly. Typically occurring within the first 28 days of pregnancy while the neural tube is forming, Spina Bifida often develops before a woman even knows she is pregnant.