

NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2022

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, and to pay tribute to my constituents with Spina Bifida and their loved ones.

In the past I have been honored to have the opportunity to attend the Spina Bifida Walk and Roll as well as the Spina Bifida Dare to Dream Gala which are both held by the Spina Bifida Association (SBA) of Northeastern New York. During these special events SBA raised funds for research, brought awareness to the public, and told the stories of those in our community with this disease.

There are currently an estimated 166,000 individuals in the United States living with Spina Bifida. According to the CDC, each year approximately 1,400 babies born in the United States have Spina Bifida. While there is no known cause, we know that taking folic acid before and during the first three months of pregnancy helps reduce the incidence of Spina Bifida.

I am so impressed with the breakthroughs in research that have helped to give those living with this disease a more fulfilling life. Thanks to the work of organizations like SBA, new medical treatments and technologies have been developed that allow most people with Spina Bifida to live a normal life span, ensuring they can have a full career, get married, and start a family—no different than those without this disease.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that organizations like the Spina Bifida Association continue to receive the funding and support they have earned. I also will continue to support federal research funding for better understanding the condition, the cause, and treatments. I hope that together we can continue to raise awareness.

HONORING ANN SWENSON AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ann Swenson as our Iowan of the Week.

Ann Swenson is the daughter of two public school teachers who taught her the importance of empowering young people in their classrooms and standing up for educators everywhere with the local teachers' union.

After graduating from college, Ann found herself merging her personal love for music and passion for education by following in her mother's footsteps and becoming an elementary music teacher.

As an elementary music teacher in Waukee Community Schools, she spends her days connecting kids to music—helping them discover new talents, gain a new perspective,

and most importantly, have fun, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ann found herself finding new and creative ways to brighten her students' days through music—whether it be over Zoom during virtual learning, or wheeling a cart of materials around so students wouldn't have to travel from classroom to classroom.

Ann's impact reaches far beyond the classroom. She also serves as copresident of the Waukee Education Association and on the executive board of the Iowa State Education Association. She works directly with educators and support staff to ensure that they are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

As Ann says, "all teachers deserve to have a voice because happy teachers help make happy kids."

She has spent her entire career inspiring her students and fighting for educators across Iowa, and I'm so proud to name her this week's Iowan of the Week.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUERTO RICO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

HON. JENNIFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2022

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Puerto Rico Hospital Association (PRHA) in its 80th anniversary of service to the people of Puerto Rico.

The PRHA was established in 1942 with the mission of ensuring the quality of the services provided by the hospitals to the residents of Puerto Rico, and of improving the health of the residents of Puerto Rico by helping to provide the most comprehensive services possible.

Throughout the years, the PRHA has participated in numerous national and international forums—such as the American Association of Hospitals (Washington D.C.), the International Federation of Hospitals (London, England), the Latin American Federation of Hospitals (Buenos Aires, Argentina) and the Ibero-American Organization of Private Healthcare Providers (Madrid, Spain)—in order to guarantee that the services provided by their members are world-class.

The PRHA has consistently been a steadfast and an invaluable ally to the Office of the Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico in the fight against the discriminatory treatment of the residents of Puerto Rico in federal social and healthcare programs.

I recognize the assistance of the PRHA in our fight for the fair and sustainable funding of Puerto Rico's Medicaid program and of the fair and equitable treatment for Medicaid beneficiaries and providers in Puerto Rico. I also commend their steadfast advocacy in Congress on behalf of their members.

HONORING LYN HAWTHORNE
HOWARD

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2022

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the distinguished career and public service of my Texas constituent and good friend, Mrs. Lyn Hawthorne Howard. Lyn is a cherished business leader, philanthropist, community leader, and artist. Passionate about Texas history and culture, she has led significant efforts to restore and preserve historic buildings and homes in and around Conroe, Texas.

Lyn was born in Shreveport, Louisiana. But as they say, she "got to Texas as soon as she could." She attended Texas Woman's University, graduating with a degree in Education. Lyn was also a member of the famous Kilgore Rangerettes—one of America's most prestigious dance and drill teams. As a Rangerette, Lyn grew a deep appreciation for Texas culture as she traveled and performed throughout our great state.

Lyn is a principled business leader, and her devotion to hard work has served as an inspiration to women all over Texas. Lyn broke through the glass windshield, becoming the first woman to own and manage a successful Toyota dealership. Invited to visit Japan with a group of American car dealers, the Toyota Company was surprised to learn there was a woman in the group. The company suggested she may be more comfortable participating in the tours arranged for "dealers' wives." Confidently, Lyn replied, "no, thank you," and reminded her Japanese hosts that she too was a car dealer and insisted on attending all the meetings with her fellow Toyota auto brokers. Another one of Lyn's successful business ventures was her investment in the San Antonio-based LDS Telecom company. As a result of Lyn's leadership, she led the business to become a major telecom company in Texas, and she sold her stake in the early 1980s with tremendous results.

Lyn always puts her community first, playing a vital role in preserving Texas's history. Recently, Lyn is devoted to preserving the history of Conroe, Texas. She purchased and restored the original home of Conroe city founder, Isaac Conroe and has played a leading role in several important historic preservation and restoration projects. She has long been a leader and organizer of Conroe's annual Founder's Day celebration.

Lyn is also a passionate member of multiple historical preservation societies. In 2021, she was recognized as a fifty-year member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in two chapters: The Alamo Missions Chapter and The Judge Nathaniel Hart Davis Chapter.

Lyn has been involved in beauty pageants for over forty years, winning titles of Miss United America Elite 2012 and Miss United Royal 2013. She is also a talented singer, dancer, and painter. Always seeking new artistic challenges, Lyn recently became interested in sculpture which has become her latest passion. She has sculpted bronze busts of her husband and another bust of President Donald Trump which has been displayed in Washington. Currently, she is working on a sculpture of Conroe founder Isaac Conroe.

For her decades of leadership and service, I am honored to recognize and commend Lyn for her many significant contributions to the Conroe community and the great state of Texas.

MR. DARIO ESTRADA MOTA—CELEBRA GRAPEVINE HISPANIC HERITAGE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dario Estrada Mota for receiving the Celebra Grapevine Hispanic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sports has always been central in Mr. Dario Estrada Mota's life, especially baseball and soccer since he left his hometown of Sabinas, Coahuila, in 1971 to make North Texas his new home. For over 50 years, he, his wife, Mrs. Carmen Beltran Mota, and their children have called Grapevine home.

In 1987, Mr. Mota recognized the need for adult soccer within the Latino community when his children Tomas and Dario Jr. aged out of the City of Grapevine's youth soccer program. It was from that need that Grapevine Metropolitan Soccer League, also known as GMSL, was born. Over the past 35 years, GMSL's central mission has been to serve the Latino community within the 817-area code and beyond. With Mrs. Mota co-leading, and his right-hand man, Mr. Mario Bonilla, and his children, the league has grown to over 40 teams, serving 800 active players and members. GMSL now serves Latino soccer leagues whose origins are from Mexico, Guatemala, Argentina, and El Salvador, among many other South and Central American countries. Throughout the years, the league has grown and has expanded its reach to include soccer leagues from Nepal, Colombia, and Africa. On any given Sunday, GMSL welcomes over 1700 people to enjoy sports, build relationships, and enjoy our delightful community.

The impacts of these 35 years and efforts are immeasurable. We've seen his individual and multi-generation impact on thousands of individuals throughout DFW and beyond, a ripple effect of the mentorship, sportsmanship, and teamwork learned on the soccer fields of Grapevine. Over the years, he has found opportunities for young players to reach international stardom and organized international championships at the Dallas Cowboys stadium. It has been a visible, passionate, tireless dedication and advocacy for and to serve the Latino community of Grapevine.

CONGRATULATING THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS YEAR'S RIGHT DIRECTION AWARDS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of this year's Right Direction Awards.

The Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia established the Right Direction Awards in 2015 in an effort to uplift and celebrate D.C. youth. Since then, over 150 inspirational young people in D.C. have received this award.

The Right Direction Awards honor D.C. youth who demonstrate tenacity and resilience in the face of significant challenges, including experiencing isolation, homelessness, loss of loved ones and acclimating to a new country.

Congratulations to this year's recipients: Darrell Anderson, Dineia Jones, Kaitlyn Arbertha, Dieudonne Kazzembe, Mylan Barnes, Maleek Loggins, Eric Curry, III, Jymeen McGrier, Robert Edwards, Osman Milla, Arno Fonkoue, Daja Mitchell, Isabella Getahun, Ariyah Nash, Antwon Gibson, Ashanti Paylor, Shaniya Gibson, Derren Richardson, Christy Hill, Eric Wade, Jr., Dellvon Hughes and Jamarri Kane-White.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this year's recipients of the Right Direction Awards for persevering through major life challenges to have a positive effect on their community.

CONGRATULATING THE WORLD DOG ALLIANCE

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the World Dog Alliance.

Over 30 million dogs are slaughtered for food every year, among which 70 percent are stolen pets. The World Dog Alliance (WDA), an international animal welfare organization dedicated to promoting an explicit ban on dog and cat meat, has campaigned for a groundbreaking "Dog and Cat Diplomacy". The WDA is working with governments around the world to eradicate this horrific practice through legislation and international cooperation.

The WDA was founded in 2014 by Genlin. His philosophy is to "change human society, save dogs and cats". To achieve his vision, Genlin is working hard to set up the international agreement to prohibit the eating of dog and cat meat. His efforts have led to international attention to the dog and cat meat issue. Since the domestic dog and cat meat ban was passed in the 2018 Farm Bill (H.R. 2, Sec. 12515), Congress has called on the administration to initiate the International Agreement to Prohibit the Eating of Dogs and Cats proposed by the WDA. I am hopeful that we can get this done.

I thank Genlin and the World Dog Alliance for all the hard work they put in daily. Know that it is recognized and greatly appreciated.

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH RESOLUTION

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2022

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, each year our country recognizes October as Filipino Amer-

ican History Month, a time for all Americans to celebrate the incredible past, present and future of our fellow citizens whose heritage lies in the great country of the Philippines.

I am especially humbled to do so as the Representative of Hawai'i's First Congressional District, where some 190,000 Filipino Americans live, more than any other of our 435 districts throughout the country. With Hawai'i's Second Congressional District that has the second largest Filipino Americans population at about 180,000, our Fil-Am community in Hawai'i stands at 370,000. In total, fully a quarter of all Hawai'i residents are Filipino Americans, by far the largest percentage of any state or territory.

We observe Filipino American History Month in October because the first recorded arrival of Filipinos in the continental United States took place on October 18, 1587, when the "Luzones Indios" came ashore from the Manila-built galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza in Morro Bay, California. Today, across the country Filipino Americans have a population of approximately 4,400,000 and are the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States.

Many of the early Filipino immigrants were young men who came to the United States seeking a better life. Most found work in Hawai'i, California, Washington, and Alaska. This first generation of Filipino immigrants are commonly referred to as the Manong generation (Ilocano for first-born male). They worked mostly physically demanding jobs in tough conditions for very little pay. Over the years, they fought against discrimination, found a way forward and made a better future for themselves and their future generations. They became respected members of communities throughout our nation.

The history of the Fil-Am community in Hawai'i is particularly rich and echoes the national story. In 1906, the first fifteen sakada contract laborers arrived in Honolulu from the Philippines aboard the SS *Doric*, marking the first sustained immigration into our country and the humble beginnings of Fil-Ams in Hawai'i. These first immigrants, those that followed and the subsequent generations eventually became trailblazers in politics and government, the military, business and entrepreneurship, journalism, popular culture, music and the arts and more.

1. Domingo Los Banos was Hawai'i's first Filipino American school principal and a loyal veteran of the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment that fought in the Philippines during World War II.

2. Carolina Dizon Wong broke a glass ceiling when she obtained an M.D. degree and became the first Filipino American to start a medical practice in Hawai'i in 1952.

3. Peter Aduja became the first Fil-Am elected to public office in the United States when he was elected to the Hawai'i Territorial House of Representatives in 1954.

4. Ines Cayaban was the first Filipino American graduate of the School of Public Health, Nursing and Social Work at the University of Hawai'i. She received the prestigious Jefferson Award in 1986 for her service.

5. In 1994, Ben Cayetano was elected the Governor of Hawai'i, becoming the first Filipino American governor of a state in our union.

6. In 2019, Roy Macaraeg became the first Fil-Am to become a general officer in the history of Hawai'i's citizen soldier ranks.