

system, and meeting our labor shortage needs. This bill falls remarkably short.

HONORING DR. SUNGBAE JU

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Sungbae Ju in commendation of his time as the President and Founder of Bel Canto Opera, Inc., a United Nations non-profit that aspires to achieve international unity through music.

On December 17, 1963, Dr. Ju was born in Busan, South Korea to Mr. Chang Ho Ju and Mrs. Hyo Won Park. While Ju and his four brothers grew up in Korea, Sungbae immigrated to the United States of America on January 17, 1990, pursuing an educational opportunity fitting for his musical aptitude.

Dr. Sungbae Ju first attended the Manhattan School of Music and received a Master of Music. His educational journey, however, quickly combined with his international interests. Upon graduation, Dr. Ju pursued a higher level of education and received a Doctor of Literature from Canada Christian College and an Honorable Doctor of Music from the Universidad Cristiana de Bolivia.

Dr. Ju quickly rose to prominence in the music community, both nationally and internationally. As a Classical Opera Singer, he performed in several renowned venues including Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center. While his career started in the Northeastern region of the United States of America, marked by performances with the New York Harmonic Orchestra and KBS String, Dr. Ju's talent warranted recognition from some of the industry's most famous judges. He was awarded 1st Prize at the Glenn Music Festival by legendary MET judges such as Virginia Zeani and Madam Licia Albanese.

He later began performing for the public sector, winning not only an appreciation letter from the White House, but also the Presidential Lifetime Award for his achievements in both musical performances and the public sector.

This unprecedented success served as a segway for Dr. Sungbae Ju's work on an international level. With over 200 performances for both state governments and the United Nations, Dr. Ju's international musical experience and outstanding public service record, he formed the Bel Canto International Society (also known as Bel Canto Opera, Inc.).

Through his non-profit, Dr. Ju blended his musical talent with both his international pursuits and his public service record to aid individuals across the globe. Using music as his tool, he unified countless communities who lived without many of the luxuries that are often taken for granted. His work as the President of the Bel Canto International Society singlehandedly changed the lives of so many in under-privileged regions.

Since 2019, Dr. Sungbae Ju stepped away from his non-profit and formed his own consulting agency, hoping to inspire and equip others with the means of making a global difference.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing

compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Dr. Ju, who never fail to make the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing Dr. Sungbae Ju for his outstanding work, as we celebrate his decades of distinguished service to the State of New Jersey. May Sungbae, his wife Hyo Im, and three daughters, Hannah, Sarah and Victoria stand proud.

RECOGNIZING MAY 14TH AS
IMMUNOGLOBULIN A
NEPHROPATHY (LGAN) AWARE-
NESS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to families living with immunoglobulin A nephropathy, also known as IgA nephropathy (IgAN), or Berger's disease, a rare kidney disease that affects approximately 150,000 people in the United States. Earlier this month, my home state of Illinois issued a proclamation signed by the governor proclaiming May 14th as IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day.

IgA nephropathy occurs when IgA, a protein made by the immune system, builds up in the kidneys, causing inflammation that damages kidney tissue, negatively impacting the normal filtering mechanisms of the kidneys. Currently there is no cure for IgAN and 20 percent to 40 percent of IgAN patients will develop end-stage renal disease and need dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. However, help for these patients is on the way.

In September 2020, several bipartisan Members of Congress, including the Kidney Caucus, the Rare Disease Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, and patient advocacy organizations like NephCure Kidney International as well as 40 other stakeholders participated in the first ever Rare Kidney Disease Policy Roundtable to identify policy recommendations to advance ideas to treat rare kidney disease.

At the American Society of Nephrology's October 2020 Kidney Week, the roundtable released its recommendations in a paper titled, "We Deserve Better: Revolutionizing Rare Kidney Disease," which outlined essential policy recommendations to catalyze and marshal developments in the rare kidney disease space. It was a seminal document for people living with IgA nephropathy and Focal Segmental Glomerular Sclerosis (FSGS) rare kidney diseases that particularly affect Asian Americans and African Americans respectively. The paper had five key policy findings: 1) increased rare kidney disease awareness is essential and should be part of our national strategy to reduce kidney failure, 2) significant reductions in time to diagnosis for rare kidney disease patients would yield dramatic improvements in health outcomes, 3) identifying and meeting the needs of communities of color living with rare kidney disease is a necessity, 4) healthcare providers, including nephrologists, need ore education on treating and serving patients with rare kidney disease and 5) access to specialists and patient advocates will help preserve kidney function. People in Illi-

nois living with IgAN or FSGS know how important it is to address all these critical areas.

For decades, there was only a single FDA-approved treatment for IgA nephropathy. However, in the last decade, a more efficient regulatory path has paved the way for the development of pioneering therapies, ushering in a new era of innovation in rare kidney diseases, resulting in over 30 clinical trials currently underway with some therapies already approved and many showing promising results. In an August 2022 article, STAT, a health-oriented website published by Boston Globe Media, quoted an IgAN researcher characterizing this moment as "a golden age of IgA nephropathy." Clearly, the research and development in this space is encouraging and the future for IgA nephropathy patients is bright.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone will take a moment to recognize IgAN Awareness Day on May 14th, and I want to acknowledge the families in my district and throughout Illinois who are living with IgAN and other rare kidney diseases, and to let them know that help is on the way.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF COLTON
KEEFE ON HIS OFFER OF AP-
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Colton Keefe of Bowling Green, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Colton's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2027. Attending one of our nation's military academies offers the opportunity to serve our country and receive a world-class education. At the same time, these young men and women undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Colton brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2027. While attending Bowling Green High School, Colton participated in numerous extracurricular activities and was a member of the National Honor Society. Throughout high school, Colton participated in football and wrestling, earning his varsity letter in both. I am confident that Colton will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colton Keefe on his offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Colton will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING MS. TINA
MATTHIAS, CONSTITUENT OF
THE MONTH

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Tina Matthias, outstanding sustainability advocate and community member in the 52nd Congressional District.

Ms. Matthias is being honored for her long-time advocacy for the sustainability of our planet and commitment to environmental issues. She created the nonprofit organization, South Bay Sustainable Communities Network.

Ms. Matthias originally founded the South Bay Sustainable Communities Network in 2020 and in 2022 established the "Youth 4 Sustainable Future" program at local high schools, providing students and youth with environmental education and tools to take action to reduce the impact of climate change. As Founder and Executive Director, she works directly with the South Bay community advocating for the importance of how to lead a sustainable lifestyle through composting, organizes community clean-ups, hikes and hosts monthly educational zero waste workshops. The nonprofit organization has worked directly with 16 local neighborhoods to compost 49,800 pounds of food waste which prevented 1,992 gallons of gas used in waste transportation, and 33,665 pounds of Carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions from landfills.

Ms. Matthias began her career at the Living Coast Discovery Center as the Volunteer and Programs Manager, serving for more than 32 years. For her dedication, Tina Matthias was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for Dedicated Humanitarian Services from the Lions Club International Foundation and her nonprofit received the Organization Award for Sustainable Champion from the City of Chula Vista.

Ms. Matthias is being honored as the 52nd District Constituent of the Month in April 2023, during the month of Earth Day. She is recognized for her decades-long commitment to bring awareness of long-term solutions to address climate change, as well as education about sustainable practices to use in our everyday lives.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHRISTOPHER JUILLERAT

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Christopher Lee Juillerat and to commend the inspiring work done by his mother, Theresa Juillerat, in light of Chris's passing.

Three years ago this week on May 12, 2020, at just 23 years old, Chris lost his life to fentanyl poisoning. A graduate of North Side High School in Fort Wayne where he played baseball, he was survived by his young son, Jaxon, and many other family members and friends who miss him dearly.

In the years since, Theresa has been tireless in her efforts to educate other parents and youth about the dangers of synthetic opioids like fentanyl. This is so important, as fentanyl has devastated so many other families across Northeast Indiana and the Nation.

In Psalm 147:3, Scripture tells us of the Lord, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." In the wake of her own loss, Theresa has dedicated her life to saving families from enduring the same.

This is a testament to Chris's life and to the selfless service of his mother, Theresa, to save the lives of others. Please join me in praying for the Juillerat family and for all families who've lost a loved one to the fentanyl crisis.

HONORING MENDOCINO COLLEGE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative MIKE THOMPSON in recognition of Mendocino College on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, and in appreciation for decades of quality education provided to the communities of Mendocino County and Lake County.

Over the last half century, Mendocino College has transformed from initially offering instruction in spare classrooms at Oak Manor Elementary School in 1973 to the dynamic institution we know today, proudly serving an area encompassing more than 5,207 square miles, including 51 towns and cities and 14 federally recognized Indian reservations.

Mendocino College was founded in 1972 by a vote of the citizens of Anderson Valley, Laytonville, Potter Valley, Round Valley, Ukiah, and Willits Unified school districts. The first students would attend classes in Ukiah in 1973, making the College the first and only public institution of higher education in Mendocino County. The College would go on to serve over 1,000 students at temporary facilities at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds, and by voter initiative in 1974, expanded to serve communities across both Mendocino County and Lake County. By the 1980s, the College began offering distance learning options in response to community needs. The Ukiah campus opened its doors in the summer of 1985 and is still in operation today.

The College has continually invested in its educational infrastructure over the decades, with the strong support of the surrounding community and public funding. In 2012, the College completed construction of the Library and Learning Center, an innovative 48,000 square foot facility on the Ukiah campus. Always striving to reach as many potential students as possible, Mendocino College welcomed its newest satellite campus in 2017, the Coast Center in Fort Bragg.

Mendocino College has been a pioneering institution in our region for decades, renowned for its strong dedication to student success and equity. In 1984, Mendocino College President Dr. Lee Lowery, with education advocates Sybil Hinkle and Gabrielle Thomas, formed the Mendocino College Foundation, an independent organization dedicated to helping students in need. Today, the Mendocino Col-

lege Foundation supports students with hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships each year, directly contributing to the College's mission of creating opportunities and enriching students' lives.

Mendocino College continues to adapt and innovate to provide programs to support students from rural communities, including English language learners, veterans, and Native Americans. Through its federally funded High School Equivalency Program and College Assistance Migrant Program, the College is delivering significant and impactful services to underserved, Latino, and migrant students. The College was designated a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education in 2014, and was just awarded a \$2.6 million Hispanic Serving Institutions grant from the U.S. Department of Education through a highly competitive process.

Over the last five decades Mendocino College has awarded nearly 15,000 students with degrees and certificates and supported nearly 350,000 students on their academic journeys. A vital institution of higher learning for Mendocino County and Lake County, Mendocino College is worthy of highest commendation. Mr. Speaker, please join us in recognizing Mendocino College on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary and offering the College our best wishes for another 50 years of serving the community.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
BRENNA PAYNE ON HER OFFER
OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND
THE UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Brenna Payne of Luckey, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Brenna's offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2027. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Brenna brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2027. While attending Eastwood High School in Pemberville, Ohio, Brenna participated in marching band, concert band, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and was a member of the National Honor Society. Throughout high school, Brenna was involved with Eastwood Gymnastics and YMCA Gymnastics, earning a varsity letter. I am confident that Brenna will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brenna Payne on her offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available,