

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS WEEK

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the week of March 25th to March 29th as National Area Health Education Centers Week, or AHEC week.

Southern Nevadans are facing a dire shortage of health care providers, meaning longer wait times, fewer choices, and less access to quality care. To solve this crisis, underserved communities like ours need to expand the resources we offer so that medical providers can learn and grow their careers in southern Nevada.

AHECs are a part of that solution. These centers connect students to local populations, which helps facilitate future engagement and boosts care in our communities. That has been and will continue to be key as we fight to ensure every Nevadan has access to the health care they need.

In just the past five years, the AHEC program has already trained two million health care professionals. Across our state, from Elko to Reno to Las Vegas, the AHEC program is strengthening the future of our health care workforce which will help the collective health of all Nevadans.

That's why I'm proud to support this program and why, year after year, I've fought to secure essential federal investments in the national AHEC program.

On behalf of my constituents at the Nevada AHEC program, their national counterparts, and the thousands of Americans who benefit from the care fostered by AHECs, I am proud to recognize this National Area Health Education Centers Week.

I thank all of them for their dedication to keeping our communities healthy.

HONORING SHERRY HOOPER AND HER SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sherry Hooper, the retiring Executive Director of The Food Depot. Sherry understands that food and nutrition are as essential to who we are as humans, as they are to who we are as a community.

Her dedication to building community while feeding the hungry in Northern New Mexico for over a quarter-century has nourished so many. New Mexicans benefited from the experience, compassion, and energy she developed in Kansas and Missouri when she chose our state and The Food Depot.

Under Sherry's leadership and capital campaign, The Food Depot grew from a 5,000 square-foot warehouse to the current 27,000 square-foot location. In 2023, The Food Depot distributed more than 7.4 million meals across Northern New Mexico, valued at \$11.3 million. The distribution also now includes nine northern New Mexico counties.

I've personally joined the hundreds of volunteers who bag and distribute hundreds of tons of food daily. Volunteers contributed over 21,976 hours for savings of \$685,837 in payroll last year and put into practice the concept of love that is inspired by Matthew 25—"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink."

Importantly, fruits and vegetables made up 62 percent of all food provided, making it possible for underserved communities to receive nutrient-rich foods. In fact, this year, The Food Depot is celebrating 30 years of commitment to healthy communities and innovative programming.

Sadly, Sherry's tenure ends in June of this year. She leaves the organization with a strong future. Following in her footsteps will be Jill Dixon, the current Deputy Director, whom Sherry has mentored since 2012.

I am happy that, thanks in part to Sherry's work, Congress recently approved my request for \$84,150 in Community Project Funding for The Food Depot to expand the Casita de Comida in Española—one of my district's most underserved communities where food insecurity runs high. Casita de Comida provides healthy and culturally appropriate food as well as personal hygiene products for free. Sherry and her team presented a compelling project that my colleagues and I wholeheartedly supported.

I offer Sherry our deepest gratitude for the difference she has made. I wish her many interesting new ventures and know she will be a positive force in every avenue of her life in the future.

HONORING AMBER ADAMS AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Amber Adams is the Osceola County regional president and senior vice president for SouthState Bank. She has worked in the banking industry for over 21 years and spent the last 12 years working in Osceola County, Florida. During her time in the Osceola County community, she has served as the chair of the Poinciana Area Council Board, chair of the Poinciana Medical Center Board of Trustees, advisory board member for the Poinciana YMCA, chair of finance for Community Vision, and is a graduate of Leadership Osceola. Amber currently serves in various organizations, including as a board member of the Osceola County Education Foundation and a champion trustee of the Osceola Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Adams is an active member of the Rotary Club of Kissimmee and is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow recipient. She has chaired the annual Operation Outdoor Freedom charity sporting clay shoot for the Rotary for the past three years. This event has raised over \$150,000 for Florida wounded veterans. It is the largest fundraiser for Operation Outdoor Freedom—an organization supported by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through the Florida Forest Service. It provides recreational and rehabilitative activities to wounded veterans.

Amber is proud to work for a company with strong core values that support her efforts to give back to her community. She is also thankful for her husband, Robert, and two daughters, Madison and McKenzie, who have spent numerous hours volunteering for these great organizations alongside her. She is committed to continuing to do her part in making Central Florida and her local community a better place.

ALEK RICHARDSON, RECIPIENT OF THE 2024 EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a very special constituent, Alek Richardson, whose unwavering optimism and unshakable courage will be celebrated on March 27 at the Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties' 2024 Celebration Awards. A resident of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, Alek is this year's deserving recipient of the organization's Education Achievement Award.

On December 9, 2023, Alex received a standing ovation at Slippery Rock University's commencement ceremony when he accepted his certificate for completing the requirements of the school's Rock Life program, a post-secondary education program for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Alek's journey to that moment was nothing short of momentous. Born in Ukraine, his devoted mother, Jean Richardson, recalls: "The miracle story started nearly 30 years ago, when a social worker in Ukraine placed a 4.7-pound infant in my hands and said, 'If you do not take him, he will die here.'"

Upon arrival in the United States, the struggling infant was airlifted to a hospital and given little to no chance of survival. But Alek had other plans.

Five surgeries and six weeks later, Alek was taken off life support. Despite suffering apraxia to his brain—the result of permanent brain damage due to malnutrition, premature birth and significant medical trauma—Alek showed a resounding resilience that was nurtured over the past three decades by a selfless Jean, his champion and cheerleader for life.

Slippery Rock University's motto encourages students to live like a ROCK (Resilient, Optimistic, Courageous and Kind). Alek Richardson has embodied these noble traits since birth. I congratulate Alek—and his mother, Jean—for the inspiration they've instilled across Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District.

HONORING THE LATE MS. DORIE ANN LADNER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a remarkable activist, Ms. Dorie Ladner, a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights Movement.

Ms. Dorie Ann Ladner, born on June 28, 1942, in Hattiesburg, MS, demonstrated remarkable courage from an early age. She was deeply involved in civil rights in Mississippi, joining the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) as a teenager. Ladner left college three times to organize voter registration campaigns for several counties and towns, including Canton, Hinds County, Indianola, Liberty, McComb, and Natchez, MS, and promote integration.

Her journey took a turn in 1961 when she was expelled from Jackson State University for supporting the Tougaloo Nine. This setback only fueled her determination, leading to her enrollment into Tougaloo College. She studied history and political science there and was inducted into the Gamma Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Ladner's legacy is a testament to her unwavering commitment. Her accomplishments were numerous, ranging from being the first female employee of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) Jackson office to planning the Mississippi Freedom Summer and helping to coordinate the 1963 March on Washington. As a civil rights crusader, her commitment to justice was significant. Let us honor her legacy and ensure it continues to inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Ms. Dorie Ann Ladner for her dedication to civil rights and racial equity.

THANKING HUD SECRETARY
MARCIA FUDGE FOR HER PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my sincere and best wishes to U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Marcia Fudge, as she concludes her public service to our great Nation.

Before Secretary Fudge joined the Biden Administration, we served together as part of the Ohio Congressional Delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives for twelve years. I was proud to work alongside her to meet our shared goals on a number of issues, including housing opportunities for low and moderate-income families, as well as combating the opioid epidemic in Ohio.

As Secretary, we continued our strong relationship, and her leadership has benefitted HUD projects across the country, including in my district.

Secretary Fudge's steadfast career in public service, beginning as Mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, is an example for all of us who work to serve our communities and our Nation.

I thank Marcia for her friendship and her long and distinguished public service to the people of Ohio, and the United States of America. I wish her a happy, healthy, and productive retirement.

HONORING MIA POINSETTE AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CEN-
TRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Mia Poinsette is an award-winning disruptive philanthropist and respected community leader. She is the founder and executive director of the Poinsette Foundation, a self-funded nonprofit that invests in ideas that empower underestimated women and children of color. Since launching in 2022, the foundation has helped thousands of Central Florida families through more than 80 community partners.

In Osceola County, the foundation's contributions include sponsoring nearly 60 children at the Kissimmee and St. Cloud Boys and Girls Club during the holiday season. In addition, the "The Poinsette Foundation Team Space" in Osceola, Oak Ridge, and Ocoee High Schools collectively supports nearly 1,000 students enrolled in the Junior Achievement 3DE program.

Mia demonstrates additional commitment to her community by serving as a board member for the Boys and Girls Club of Osceola County, Women United, the Girl Scouts of Citrus Council, Women's Executive Council, and Women on the Rise. Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer also appointed Mia to serve on the Mennello Museum of American Art's Board of Trustees.

Mia graduated from multiple leadership programs, including the Black Boardroom Leadership Institute's 2022 leadership track, Leadership Orlando Class 103, and the 2023 ATHE-NA NextGen Cohort. She is currently enrolled in Leadership Osceola.

Recognized for her impactful footprint in the community, Mia is the recipient of the Osceola Magic Change Maker award, Heart of Florida United Way's 2023 Change Maker: Women United Impact award, the Women's Executive Council's 2023 Women of Achievement: Central Florida Influencer award, Women on the Rise's 2023 Community Impact Leader award, and Women on the Rise's 2023 Inspirational Deeva award.

Mia earned an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Johns Hopkins University and is pursuing a graduate degree in government at Harvard University.

Happily married with two children, Mia is also a violinist and an avid traveler in her free time.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT
KASULKE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and celebrate the life of Major General Robert J. Kasulke, M.D.

Robert was born on June 12, 1949 in Queens, New York to two proud parents, Francis and Florence Kasulke. He would grow

up and graduate from Archbishop Molloy High School in Jamaica, New York before going on to attend Fordham University and graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1971. He continued his academic journey attending SUNY Upstate Medical University where he graduated in 1975 and went on to receive his master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs the following year. Dr. Kasulke also attended the United States Army War College and graduated in 1999.

On May 3, 1975, Robert married Catherine O'Connell, the love of his life, at Fordham University Chapel. The couple lived in the Bronx where Dr. Kasulke did his residency in general surgery at Montefiore Health and Hospital Center. After completing his residency, he and Mrs. Kasulke moved to Columbia, MO where he completed his fellowship in vascular surgery at Columbia Health and Science Center. He moved to Saranac Lake in 1983 and later to Watertown in 1989 where he practiced at the Good Samaritan and Mercy Hospital until 1991. He continued his academic journey attending SUNY Upstate as a medical professional in Upstate New York serving in a variety of different manners and was, at the time of his death, the Medical Director of Hospice of Jefferson County, the Medical Director of Jefferson County Public Health Service, and the Jefferson County Deputy Medical Examiner.

In addition to his medical work, Dr. Kasulke also served in the Army Reserve from 1980 to 2012. Even after his retirement from the Reserve, Dr. Kasulke continued his staunch support for the Armed Forces, being appointed an Army Reserve Ambassador in 2013 and to the Chief of Staff Army Retiree Council in 2017.

His hard work and perseverance led him to be a pivotal piece in arranging community activities, including leading many "We Honor Veterans" ceremonies honoring those who fought for our freedom. Furthermore, Dr. Kasulke was a member of Elks Lodge No. 496 and the Italian American Club showing his commitment to our community.

In addition to serving his country and his community, Robert dedicated time to his family. He could often be seen at one of his three grandchildren's sporting or school events. He was known for his collection of antique soldiers and model trains as well as his enjoyment for woodworking.

Robert lived a full life that demonstrated his utmost dedication to his country, his community, and his family. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the life and service of Robert Kasulke.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF BATTERY COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of Battery Council International or commonly known as BCI. In March of 1924, 25 firms launched the National Battery Manufacturer's Association—the group that would eventually become Battery Council