

viral hepatitis working group to improve the public health response to the disease, and for working with outside partners to increase access to quality health care and reduce the health effects from viral hepatitis.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the goals and ideals of World Hepatitis Awareness Month and to support H.R. 3974. Through comprehensive education, research, and coordination, we can highlight the global nature of chronic viral hepatitis epidemics, work to improve the quality of life for those diagnosed, and prevent further spread of the disease.

RECOGNIZING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WEATHERFORD, TEXAS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First National Bank of Weatherford, Texas, which has been serving the banking needs of the families and businesses of Weatherford and Parker County for 130 years.

The First National Bank has operated in the City of Weatherford, Texas, continuously since May 15, 1880, and is the oldest national bank charter in the state. Given the trouble the banking industry has faced in the last several years we can all appreciate this enormous accomplishment, which speaks to the strong leadership that has steered the bank over the course of its impressive history.

First National Bank is a true community bank with directors, officers, and employees who are committed to serving the needs of its customers. As with so many community banks the employees are so engaged in the Weatherford community because they are from the community.

The bank has a strong record as a good neighbor, contributing to the growth of the City of Weatherford and Parker County by supporting commerce, local charities and community events.

I congratulate the First National Bank on this significant milestone and wish them continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE PATTERSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joyce Patterson on the occasion of her retirement after 22 years of dedicated service as 4-H youth coordinator with the Iowa State University Extension of Boone County, Iowa.

Joyce has not only been a dedicated employee but she has touched every aspect of the 4-H Community. She has been actively involved in 4-H for the past 25 years as a member, club leader, employee, and pioneer in this organization.

Joyce's service to the youth of Boone County is truly something to be admired. The 4-H mission is to empower youth to reach their full

potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults, and Joyce is a shining example of 4-H at its best. She is an exemplary citizen who has instilled the Iowa values of hard work, self-reliance, and community service in many of Iowa's youth.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in recognizing Joyce Patterson's service to the youth of Boone County. I consider it an honor to represent Joyce in Congress, and I wish her much happiness during her retirement.

HONORING GLORIA GUARD, RETIRING AS PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, one of Philadelphia's most forceful and effective advocates for homeless women and children is moving into well earned retirement at the end of this month.

Gloria Guard has been President of the People's Emergency Center since 1983—when she started by overseeing rented space in an old church that was only open weekends. On July 1 she bequeaths to her still-to-be-chosen successor a nationally respected \$6 million agency that serves 400 women and children a year while developing almost 200 affordable and special needs housing units in the Powelton neighborhood of West Philadelphia in the 2nd Congressional District. Not only that, she has led PEC to establish 25 small businesses, eliminate 110 vacant lots, and repair houses and storefronts seemingly everywhere in Powelton.

It is a large footprint, and it is a visionary approach to the changing face of homelessness. It is Gloria Guard's approach. John Kromer, former director of Philadelphia's Office of Housing and Community Development, put it best in a newspaper interview about Gloria's retirement announcement: "PEC is not just about homelessness. It's about bringing up the entire neighborhood."

Gloria Guard has brought \$80 million into the People's Emergency Center and to her causes, much of it in federal affordable housing resources. I have been an admirer and a willing target of Gloria's smiling determination to get what she and her clients need. That has made me a frequent visitor at the joyous ribbon cutting ceremonies and hopeful house tours she has arranged that have pointed the way toward a better life for thousands of Philadelphians.

One of the statistics Gloria Guard showcases is that over 90 percent of PEC's shelter and transitional housing residents remain self-sufficient after graduating from the Center's programs. While she directs the hands-on work of PEC, she has stepped up as a compelling advocate for changes in local and national policy that reflect the community of the homeless that she knows so well. She has pushed hard to change federal priorities and funding to deal with the women and children who increasingly face long-term homelessness for a complexity of reasons, not just concentrating on the predominantly male homeless population that is most visible on city streets.

Guard has stated: "I am most proud of the hundreds of homeless families that we helped at PEC who today are independent, working, solid parents and engaged citizens—totally invisible and immersed in the mainstream. Formerly homeless children are succeeding in high school, and a number have gone on to college. I have been truly blessed to encounter so many good people who have overcome such extraordinarily difficult circumstances. They are an inspiration to all of us."

Gloria Guard is not only a winner, she's an award winner. Her work earned her the 2004 Philadelphia Award, an honor reserved for the city's most notable philanthropists, artists, political visionaries, and social activists. She has also received the Sower's Seed Award from Trinity Washington University (2009), the Gold Coin Award from Inglis Foundation (2008), and was named one of the 75 Greatest Living Philadelphians by the Philadelphia Eagles and Dunkin Donuts (2007) and Citizen Volunteer of the Year by the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania (2001). Other honors include the Community Champion Award of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (2005), the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's Louis D. Apothaker Award (2000), and the Professional Women's Roundtable award for 2009.

Now she can add yet another honor: Tonight, on Tuesday June 8, 2010, Gloria Guard is being feted by the People's Emergency Center and awarded PEC's own 2010 Imprint Award for "Nurturing Families, Strengthening Families, Driving Change." The venue is one of Philadelphia's most glittering, the Crystal Tea Room at the Wanamaker Building, across from City Hall. The invitation beckons Gloria's friends, supporters, admirers, staff, volunteers, PEC alumni and alumnae to salute this "passionate voice of homeless families in Philadelphia, the power behind neighborhood revitalization, and nationally recognized public policy leader who gets results. Join us to thank Gloria for devoting her life to social justice and the public interest."

Amen to that. Philadelphia is a better place, a more nurturing and supportive community, a place where women and children can find safety, security and vital services, because for 27 years Gloria Guard has worked relentlessly, passionately through the People's Emergency Center to end family homelessness. Gloria Guard's legacy is secure, and it is magnificent.

RECOGNIZING THE BEACON GROUP AND THE ABILITYONE GROUP

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the AbilityOne program, which over the past several years has offered skills and jobs training to more than 42,000 Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to receive