

ON THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund for their commitment to the encouragement of active and informed participation of citizens in government.

The League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area were both established in 1920, the year that the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States gave women the right to vote. The League of Women Voters is a direct descendant of the women's suffrage movement, and has become an active and effective organization that serves all voters.

The League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund has an extensive, respected history of encouraging civic engagement throughout the Houston community. Their mission to encourage active and informed participation by providing accessible information and support services to the people is critical to the success of a democracy.

This August marks the 92nd anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. I join the League of Women Voters in celebrating Women's Equality Day by remembering this historic achievement and the courage, perseverance and accomplishments of women who fulfill the promise of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Members of the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund are volunteers who work in their communities to help the realities of the American system of government live up to its ideals. The organization would not be the success that it is today without their hard work and dedication. Their service to our community is greatly appreciated.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund and celebrate the anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

TRIBUTE TO LAKE HEALTH DISTRICT CEO GORDON ENSLEY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a long time community leader in the heart of Southern Oregon, Gordon Ensley.

On June 30th, after a career in health care spanning 38 years, Gordon retired as Chief Executive Officer of the Lake Health District in the great town of Lakeview, Oregon. In 1996, after 11 years at another small town hospital in Gold Beach, Oregon, Gordon and his wife Pauline moved to Lakeview so he could serve as the Lake Health District Chief Financial Officer. Then in 2003, Gordon took the helm as Chief Executive Officer, and under his leadership the health district's local hospital, long term care facility, and home care and hospice

programs, have experienced tremendous growth and improvement.

Most of Lakeview's 3,000 residents, whether they have encountered Gordon as an employee, patient, colleague, or friend, are likely to agree about the positive impact he has made on their community. This included one of Gordon's crowning achievements, a 10-year project to expand and upgrade the hospital. Gordon and his board knew this project wouldn't be without its obstacles, but nevertheless began work on a plan to find additional finances, which included a plea to the community to support an \$8 million bond. In 2008, voters agreed that improving overall patient care and access was a worthy investment, and approved the ballot measure to help finalize a 33,000 square foot expansion and upgrade to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, even with this achievement, Gordon still understood the struggles associated with providing health care to rural patients. Most areas within Oregon's Second Congressional District are as rural as you can get, and access to a health provider can be difficult. Lakeview is no exception, but fortunately for this community and its surrounding areas, Gordon embodies the dedication and vision that is necessary to provide quality care and improved access. All this, however, and Gordon will be the first to say that while working in the rural health care field offers its challenges, it presents even greater rewards.

And as we develop policies in Washington, D.C., it is crucial for Congress to do so only after seeking the advice of on-the-ground experts like Gordon and those like him. Fortunately, he has always been more than willing to take time out of his otherwise busy days to offer his valuable expertise, and he has never been afraid to get in touch with me to express his concerns. Whether discussing pending legislation, burdensome federal regulations—on which Gordon has certainly made his position known—or even sometimes non-health related issues, I have greatly appreciated his expert guidance and useful counsel over the years.

So as Charlie Tveit, the Lake Health District's new CEO, takes over, he begins on the solid foundation laid under Gordon's strong leadership. And while I know Gordon had reservations about leaving his post after so many dedicated years of doing what he knows best, I think all of those who know him, most notably his wife Pauline and their family, would agree that he has earned a well-deserved break.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gordon's many years of service to his community as we wish him a long and happy retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE MSC COYOTES GREEN UNDER-14 GIRLS SOCCER CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an incredible group of young ladies—proud members of the MSC Coyotes Green Under-14 Girls Soccer Club—who

brought home to the great State of Maryland the National Championship.

Yes, this team has reached the top of youth soccer. They may just be rising 9th and 10th graders—most of them residents of Montgomery County, Maryland—but they have already achieved in sports what most young athletes can only dream about. And they didn't get there without putting in the work. Being fast and strong and athletic are important, but putting in the work is what sets you apart from your competition. These young ladies trained endlessly—in rain, snow, extreme heat, and freezing cold—while staying focused on academics.

They arrived in Rock Hill, SC last week as the sole representative of Region 1 (Maine to Virginia), and they left Rock Hill, SC as the top U14 girls club team in America. I rise to recognize these young ladies, their families, and their great coaches for all of their hard work, dedication, grit, and perseverance.

The MSC Coyotes Green qualified for the National Championships after winning the Region 1 Championships in Lancaster, PA having to survive matches against some of the top ranked teams in America. They won this prestigious Regional Championship but not the easy way—the Coyotes won their semi-final and final matches in winner-take-all penalty kicks.

The National Championships was a round-robin between the Final 4 teams in America from Maryland, California, Ohio, and Tennessee. To put the MSC Coyotes Green achievement in perspective, over 10,000 club teams competed for a chance to play in the Regional and National Championships.

The National Championships round-robin started Wednesday, July 25, 2012 in Rock Hill, SC. The Coyotes Green tied their first match against Beach FC '97 from California 0-0 on Wednesday; lost their second match against Tennessee '98 Azzurri 2-0 on Thursday; and won their third match—a win or go home game—on Friday against Ambassador FC from Ohio 3-0. The Coyotes qualified for the Title Game and earned a rematch with Tennessee '98 Azzurri on Saturday, July 28, 2012 at 6:45 p.m. in Rock Hill, SC for the U14 Girls National Championship. It was a tough match, but the MSC Coyotes Green won 2-0, earning their spot as the nation's top U14 girls team.

I would like to recognize the following MSC Coyotes Green players who will play—or already do play—for several Washington, DC and Maryland suburban high schools:

1 McKenzie McCaull, F, Linganore; 2 Naomi Gross, GK, B-CC; 3 Annika Jansa, M/D, Bullis; 5 Sara Johnston, D, Stone Ridge; 10 Paula Germino-Watnick, M/F, B-CC; 13 Julia Abbott, F, Good Counsel; 14 Cristina Valianatos, M, Walt Whitman; 15 Jade Ruiters, F/M, Holy Cross; 16 Amanda Wilson, D, Good Counsel; 20 Lindsay Wytkind, D, Walt Whitman; 21 Emma Anderson, F, Walt Whitman; 23 Kristen Darragh, GK, Poolesville; 25 Deena DeSilva, D, Magruder; 26 Kristen Bissell, M/F, Undecided; 27 Juliana Comer, M, Churchill; 28 Elizabeth Coletti, F, St. John's Catholic Prep; 29 Clare Severe, M/F, Walt Whitman; and 44 Julianne Keehan, F, Holy Cross.

I also want to commend the two coaches who led them to victory—Alex Gould and Kevin Layton.

It's not often that you can pause to recognize national champions in your congressional