

Massachusetts Medical Center; Herbert Weissbach, Florida Atlantic University; Shin-Tson Wu, University of Central Florida.

HONORING DOCTOR SUSAN M. WIDMAYER AND THE CHILDREN'S DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT CENTER

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Doctor Susan M. Widmayer and the Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center (CDTC). I would like to honor both Susan and the CDTC on their excellent research on infant mortality and efforts to improve the lives of children and their parents.

Founded in 1983 by Dr. Widmayer, the Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Broward County has made great strides in providing special care for children with disabilities and mothers with HIV. When the CDTC started, Florida had one of the worst infant mortality rates in the country. As a result, Dr. Widmayer and her staff committed to improving the health prospects of children throughout South Florida. Thanks in part to the research by the CDTC, world HIV transmission rates from mother to infant dropped from 25 percent in the mid '90s to around 3 percent today.

When no one else would care for the tens of thousands of children with impoverished parents, Dr. Widmayer answered the call. Approximately 70 percent of the Center's clients live in poverty, but that has not stopped the CDTC from providing prevention, intervention and treatment services. Every patient that walks into the CDTC is welcome, regardless of family income. By serving the specialized needs of these children, Dr. Widmayer is giving them the opportunity and care that no other institution would.

Today I would like to honor Dr. Widmayer and the Children's Diagnostic Treatment Center, and I hope that they will continue to serve our communities by improving the lives of children throughout South Florida.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 2-28 MASSACRE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 66th commemoration of Taiwan's 2-28 Massacre. The Massacre was an anti-government uprising in Taiwan that began on February 28, 1947 and was violently suppressed by General Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) government during the following weeks. Estimates of the number of deaths are around 28,000.

In the fall of 1945, 50 years of Japanese occupation of Taiwan ended after Japan had lost World War II. In October of that year, the KMT-administered Republic of China (ROC) received administrative control of Taiwan. 16 months of KMT administration on Taiwan led

to the widespread impression among the people of Taiwan that the party was plagued by nepotism, corruption, and economic failure.

Tensions increased between the Taiwanese people and the ROC administration. The flashpoint came on February 28, 1947 when in Taipei a dispute between a female cigarette vendor and an officer of the Government's Office of Monopoly triggered civil disorder and open rebellion by the native Taiwanese against the KMT repression.

During the following weeks, Chiang's government sent troops from China to the island. The Chinese soldiers started to round up and execute a whole generation of an elite of Taiwanese lawyers, doctors, students, professors etc.

It is estimated that up to 30,000 people lost their lives during the turmoil. During the following four decades, the Chinese Nationalists continued to rule Taiwan with an iron fist under a Martial Law that would not be lifted until 1987.

Mr. Speaker, the Massacre had far reaching implications. Over the next half century, the Taiwanese democracy movement that grew out of the event helped pave the way for Taiwan's momentous transformation from a dictatorship under the Chinese Nationalists to a democracy.

In some ways, the 228 incident was Taiwan's Boston Massacre for both events functioned as the cradle of a move by both peoples to full democracy and helped galvanize the strive to independence.

Mr. Speaker, I have said it before: Freedom is not negotiable. May the lessons learned from the 2-28 Massacre continue to inspire the people of Taiwan in their struggle for freedom, full independence, international participation, and for the continued enhancement of the mutual relationship between Taiwan and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in commemorating this important historical event.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Black History Month—an opportunity to celebrate the rich legacy of African-Americans and the many ways they have shaped our Nation's history.

This Black History Month, we commemorate two landmark anniversaries in American history: the 150th anniversary of Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. Separated by a century, these two seminal events underscore what the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., once said—that “the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.” Each successive generation of Americans must always do their part to build on the progress of those who came before them in order to advance the ideals of freedom and equality upon which our Nation was founded.

In South Florida, we have benefited tremendously from trailblazing African-American leaders who have broken through color barriers in order to contribute to our communities and our country.

They include individuals who served our country bravely, including Lt. Col. Eldridge Williams—one of the legendary Tuskegee airman—and Col. Brodes Hartley Jr., who has been a leading civil rights leader in South Florida committed to improving quality health care access for low-income families. And also Reverend John A. Ferguson, who after serving in the Navy helped found a small congregation in Richmond Heights that would grow to nearly 800 under his leadership and today stands at over 1400.

They include leaders like Al Dotson Sr., a pastor who served as the first elected African American president of the Orange Bowl Committee and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Florida International University, as well as Mayor Otis Wallace, who has served Florida City as mayor for over twenty-eight years and is today the longest serving elected official in the State of Florida.

I could name so many others. South Florida is a better place because of their commitment to public service and their strong leadership.

EXPANDING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DEFINITION OF “HOMELESS VETERAN”

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, after over ten years of wars, we have a growing number of veterans in our nation. We have a responsibility to provide support and services for our soldiers once they return home. This includes the area of domestic violence.

Sadly, our brave soldiers who return home after protecting our nation are not immune from domestic abuse. As I've said previously, we have a duty to our veterans. However, current law fails to fully protect those veterans who have been driven from their homes because of domestic violence.

In order to reflect the modern day reality that there are more women in our military than ever before, it is important that we continue to update our laws to address emerging issues within this new trend.

The civilian definition of homelessness includes people fleeing from domestic violence. However, the current law the Department of Veterans Affairs uses to administer benefits for homeless veterans does not recognize those driven from their homes by abuse as homeless.

The full definition of “homeless” under the law includes the following: “Any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized, and who have no other residence and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.” However, the Department of Veterans Affairs currently defines “homeless veteran” based on an incomplete citation of the civilian homeless law.

That's why I have decided to reintroduce this bipartisan legislation with my colleague Congressman RUNYAN that would expand the Department of Veterans Affairs' definition of