

I have been the beneficiary of Karen Nelson's life and work for decades. So has the Commerce Committee. So has this House. And so have millions of children, poor people, elderly people, and all Americans. Most of them don't know—and will never know—what she's done for them, but I wanted to take this moment to tell my colleagues and to thank her.

HONORING CITY OF TRACY
MAYOR, BRENT H. IVES

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge City of Tracy Mayor, Brent H. Ives, for his numerous years of outstanding service and commitment to the betterment of our community.

Mayor Ives is a local of Tracy and grew up in the community. He attended New Jerusalem School in the Vernalis area and graduated from Tracy High School in 1971. He attended San Joaquin Delta College and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Behavior from the University of San Francisco.

Mr. Ives began his service in 1988 as a Parks Commissioner in Tracy. He served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for four years prior to serving one year on the Planning Commission. In 1991, he was elected as a Tracy City Councilmember and for the last eight years, has served as Mayor.

Mayor Ives served as a member of the Economic Development Advisory Group, South County Fire Authority, San Joaquin Partnership for Economic Development, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (ACE), and as Chairman of the San Joaquin Council of Governments and the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). He also lead the Mayor's Community Youth Support Network (MCYSN), which provides broad-based assistance and solutions to youth and their parents encountering the challenges that young people and their parents face today.

Mr. Ives operates BHI Management Consulting in Tracy, a consulting firm that specializes in assisting small government agencies and non-profits in areas of strategic planning, governance, organizational health and supervisory excellence. Prior to his time in public service, he worked as a Senior Engineering Deputy Section Leader at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory before retiring after a 37 year career.

Brent and his wife, Lynda, have three grown children and enjoy spending time with their grandkids.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring City of Tracy Mayor, Brent H. Ives, on his retirement and thank him for his exemplary leadership and service to the community.

CRITTENTON SERVICES
CELEBRATES 126TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to share with my col-

leagues inspiring information about Crittenton Services of Greater Washington, a life-changing organization serving low-income teenage girls in public and charter schools in Montgomery County, Maryland and Washington, DC.

On November 20th, at a gala celebrating its 126th anniversary, Crittenton announced an important expansion of its programs and honored several area women who have displayed leadership on issues crucial to the healthy development of teen girls. I am delighted that one of the honorees is our colleague, and a member of the Maryland Congressional delegation, my good friend Rep. DONNA EDWARDS. Karla Silvestre, Director of Community Engagement at Montgomery College and with whom my staff and I have worked over many years, also received well-deserved recognition, as did Meredith Attwell Baker, President and CEO of CTIA—the Wireless Association, and Gloria L. Blackwell, Vice President of Fellowships, Grants, and Global Programs at the American Association of University Women. Each of them has my heartiest congratulations.

Earlier this year, with the support of Montgomery County and the District of Columbia Department of Health, Crittenton tripled the number of its programs for low-income teen girls. As a result, Crittenton, under the outstanding leadership of Executive Director Pamela Jones, now provides services at 11 DC schools and six Montgomery County schools, serving over 400 middle and high school girls. The objectives of the programs are to reduce pregnancies, births, and sexually transmitted infections among teen girls, ages 14 to 19, and increase their motivation and aspirations to succeed in high school and complete post-secondary education.

Over the course of the school year, Crittenton presents structured curricula that are science-based, age appropriate, and medically accurate. In 26 sessions, the programs teach girls about healthy relationships with their peers, dating partners, and parents; reproductive health, nutrition, and fitness; and life options, including post-secondary education and careers. Through active learning activities—role-play, games, or group discussion—Crittenton helps the girls acquire “real world life skills” such as communication, conflict resolution, assertiveness, and negotiation; managing emotions, impulses, frustration, and stress; and goal-setting, planning, problem-solving, and decision-making.

In addition, to help participants envision a future and become increasingly motivated to achieve that future, Crittenton organizes out-of-school enrichment activities that expose them to college and careers. But the programs’ “secret sauce” is the relationship that program leaders form with the girls. Program leaders are culturally competent, well trained, highly experienced youth development specialists. They create a welcoming environment and a “safe space” that inspires the girls to speak openly with a caring adult and each other; they talk with the girls honestly and non-judgmentally; and they model positive behavior.

A central component of Crittenton's programs is a focus on the “whole girl” and her future, with a goal of heightening her awareness of life options. Through the experiences the programs provide, girls learn to recognize and value their gifts and develop invaluable

life and leadership skills. Most importantly, they develop a belief in their ability to succeed, even in challenging situations.

Crittenton was originally established in Washington, DC in 1887. Its mission has evolved from rescuing young girls from sex trafficking and exploitation to providing a residential home as a safe haven with caring trusted adults for single mothers and their babies. As society and the need for services changed, so has Crittenton. The Florence Crittenton Home was sold in 1983 and the organization launched a series of successful multi-year programs for teen girls and young women. Today, Crittenton Services of Greater Washington provides three key programs.

SNEAKERS (Self-efficacy, Nurturance, Expectations, Assertiveness, Knowledge, Empowerment, Responsibility, and Success), a program that enables vulnerable girls who are navigating the challenges of adolescence to thrive;

PEARLS (Parenting, Education, and Responsive Life Skills), a program that enables pregnant and parenting teens to succeed as students and parents; and

4C'ING the Future (Crittenton College and Career Connection), a college and career access program that engages parents and prepares 8th grade girls to become the first in their families to attend college.

For many years, Crittenton's programs have been changing the trajectories of teen girls' lives. Crittenton girls are avoiding risky, unhealthy behaviors; acquiring social and emotional skills that are essential for academic and life success; becoming motivated learners who will graduate from high school; and using their voices, time, and talent to serve others. They also have a vision—and a plan—to achieve their academic, personal and professional goals.

I am pleased to share with my colleagues this wonderful example of the invaluable contributions that non-profit organizations make to their communities. I extend my gratitude and appreciation to Crittenton for all it does to change lives and wish it a very happy anniversary.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF ASCC'S
UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEAGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about the funding of an Upward Bound program at American Samoa Community College in 2003.

[Press Release, Oct. 9, 2003]

FALEOMAVEAGA SPEAKS OUT ABOUT CONFUSION SURROUNDING ASCC'S UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he is speaking out about the confusion surrounding ASCC's Upward Bound Program and is also making all letters pertaining to this matter available to the public.

“On June 22, 2003, Hipa Neria, the Director of ASCC's Upward Bound Program, called my office and requested my assistance in finding out whether or not ASCC's grant application would be funded.” Congressman