

have had the honor and privilege of serving for the past 18 years.

I thank God for His grace and guidance and for keeping me fit of mind and body, so that I could faithfully serve my constituents and our country.

I thank my constituents, the people of the Virgin Islands for their overwhelming support at every election from 1996 through 2012, and for their advice, counsel and their prayers during my tenure.

I thank the leadership under whom I have served—Republican and Democrat—for their support of legislation and the concerns of the people of the Virgin Islands. But I especially thank my Democratic leaders for their unwavering support and advocacy on my and my constituents behalf.

Special thanks to the leaders and the members of the Congressional Black Caucus from the first Chair MAXINE WATERS, all the way to our most recent Chair MARCIA FUDGE and all in between.

I have been successful in my ability to represent my district and to contribute to their health and wellbeing and that of all of the people of this country and beyond, because of their overwhelming support.

Being named as Chair of the CBC Health Braintrust gave me a national platform that allowed a non-voting member, from a Territory that many members could not locate on a map, the opportunity to influence not only local but national policy. And I thank the leaders and members of our TriCaucus partners—the Hispanic and Asian Pacific Caucuses—and my fellow Delegates for their support as well.

And above all I thank the very best staff anyone could ask for. Without them I could not have accomplished anything and my family who sacrificed so that I could serve.

In these 18 years I served on several committees: Natural Resources where I was a Ranking member on the Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee and chair of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Wildlife, Oceans and Fisheries; the Committee on Small Business, the Committee on Homeland Security and finally with the Support of the CBC, I became the first delegate ever to serve on the exclusive Committee on Energy and Commerce. I particularly thank Chairwoman FUDGE, Assistant Leader CLYBURN and Leader PELOSI for that honor.

I have been blessed to serve in interesting times and during the terms of three presidents—Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama.

Even without a vote I participated in discussions on every major issue in these 18 years both in Congress and in each White House.

And I have been fortunate with the help and support of the many who I have thanked to have been able through increased rum cover over funds, forgiveness of disaster loans, enabling borrowing and helping to ensure territories were included in the recovery act to help stave off what would have been a far worse impact from the national and global recession.

My staff and I were able to increase funding for roads and provide new funding for wastewater treatment systems and other infrastructure repair. First responder funding reached unprecedented highs.

And even though we were unsuccessful in our efforts to get state like treatment for the territories in the Affordable Care Act, I count as one of my most important legacies is the

fact that working with my TriCaucus colleagues I was able to include many provisions for us that will enable coverage, service and protections for the four and a half million of us, as well as health equity and other provisions that benefit all Americans.

I had the privilege of working with others to create and maintain the Minority AIDS Initiative, to improve Ryan White, to expand the Children's Health Insurance, and to create the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH.

There is more, but most of all I am proud of the individuals and families we have helped in our district and Washington offices.

We helped resolve immigration, veterans, military, TWIC card, VICORP, social security, and Homeland Security issues, some involving saving jobs or getting them thousands of dollars they were owed. We were not 100% successful, but we always pursued the issues on behalf of our constituents to the nth degree.

So again to everyone who voted for me, who supported my efforts and who helped to provide the tools for a better life for the people of the Virgin Islands, thank you.

I will forever be grateful to all of you and will always consider it the highest honor to have been able to serve the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and my country for 18 wonderful years.

HONORING COMPAÑEROS EN SALUD/PARTNERS IN HEALTH, NFP

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health, a not-for-profit grass roots organization in Aurora, Illinois that is celebrating its 15th Anniversary.

Since 1999, Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health, NFP has provided assistance for members of the Hispanic community and other diverse groups to ensure equal access to health care and other social services in the Fox Valley. I would especially like to recognize Dr. Lulu Blacksmith, Compañeros en Salud's founder, for her dedication and leadership of the organization.

Through programs such as the Latina Health Festival, the Men's Health Festival, and Language Access Healthcare, Compañeros en Salud has become an important resource for our community. Since its founding, the organization has been expanding its focus into areas such as mental health and diabetes, while still offering high quality service to those who need assistance the most.

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health, NFP as it celebrates its 15th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING NIU'S LEADERSHIP ON CAMPUS SAFETY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Northern Illinois University from my district for its proactive leadership in creating safe, supportive living-learning communities by protecting all students from sexual assaults.

I commend NIU President Doug Baker for convening a Task Force on the Violence Against Women Act to bring together students, faculty, staff, administrators, public safety officials, and the DeKalb community on this important issue. To illustrate this collaboration, I would like to insert a student perspective into the RECORD offered by the President of NIU's Student Association.

Their hard work resulted in the Task Force Report which contains recommendations that enhance NIU's efforts in the prevention of sexual assault, provide support for sexual assault victims and survivors, and strengthen policies and processes related to student conduct and reporting. I am proud to say NIU is among the first universities in the nation to conduct such a comprehensive and public review.

My constituents' health and safety is a top priority. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hard work of NIU's Task Force and look forward to continuing to work with NIU on our shared commitment to campus safety.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

One of the most memorable days in a parent's life is the one in which they send their child off to college. Parents can only hope the well-being of their child is in good hands. It is our duty as decision makers in the university community to make sure we have a safe environment for our students. This is why as President of the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Student Association, I reached out to groups across campus, from the NIU Police to our Health Enhancement Department, to collaborate on a White House-initiated campaign called "It's On Us". The It's On Us campaign mobilizes students and advocates for their awareness of responses to and prevention of campus sexual assaults, a pressing issue facing our nation today. I commend everyone involved with the campaign for making a positive change to our campus culture.

It is exceedingly important to note this student-led movement is the bottom-up companion to a top-down approach by the university administration. I recognize and applaud the efforts of NIU President Doug Baker and his administration for their proactive approach to addressing sexual assaults on campus, embodied in the work of the Presidential Task Force on Violence Against Women Act. This task force and the report created from it will play a crucial role in the health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and community members. It makes me a proud student to see NIU as one of the national leaders paving the way on such significant issues. Judging by the energy felt around campus, I believe my fellow students agree.

JOE FRASCCELLO,
President, STUDENT ASSOCIATION,
Northern Illinois University.