

of great bravery, dedication and service to the community. The winners are nominated by their peers, highlighting Iowa's most compassionate and caring individuals. These extraordinary people commit actions which demonstrate the potential heroism and kindness which is in all of us. Heroes of the Heartland reflect the values and vision of the American Red Cross, leaving a positive impact on central Iowa.

Meredith knows first-hand about Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH) because it took her mother's life when she was young. At 34, Meredith was diagnosed with the same incurable disease. Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension or PAH is a chronic and deadly combination heart and lung disease where the pulmonary artery causes the heart and lungs to become strained. It is less often that I meet a hero face to face but I have had the honor and privilege of visiting with Meredith and her husband, Randy who founded the Blue Lips Foundation with the goal of changing how and when PAH is diagnosed through awareness and education, as well as funding research and the development of diagnostic tools. They are warriors for a just cause.

Mr. Speaker, Meredith is an Iowan who has made central Iowa citizens very proud. She has dedicated her life, doing what is right and not seeking much attention. But it is with great honor that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring Meredith for her courage. I thank her for her service and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

OBSERVING EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe Equal Pay Day, the day when women's wages finally catch up to men's.

Fifty three years after passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, women and minorities continue to experience inequitable pay differentials. In fact, women who work full time, year round in the United States were paid only 79 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts in 2014. In Florida, a woman who holds a full-time job is paid, on average, \$34,768 per year while a man who holds a full-time job is paid \$40,971 per year. For minorities, the gap is even larger.

This equates to a combined 17 billion dollars loss of wages annually for Florida women with full-time jobs. These lost wages mean Floridian families have fewer resources to buy goods and services. The wage gap directly hurts Florida's families and our economy.

If change continues at the same slow pace as it has during the last 50 years, it will take nearly 50 more years—until 2059—for women and men to finally reach pay parity.

I join the Enterprising and Professional Women of South Florida in observing Equal Pay Day and calling attention to the continuing wage disparity women in our nation and state face.

ON THE MURDER OF YONATAN SUHER

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I express my condolences to the family and friends of Yonatan (Yoni) Suher—one of dozens killed or wounded on March 19th in a suicide bombing in Istanbul, Turkey. This horrific attack highlights the struggle we continue to face in ending these senseless acts of terrorism.

Yoni was born in my hometown of Portland, Oregon, as was his father. He shared my love for the city, as well as for the Portland Trail Blazers, and visited his family there often.

Though no longer with us, I know Yoni will live on in the hearts and minds of those nearest and dearest to him. I wish his loved ones all the best during this difficult time.

CELEBRATING DEAN CLAUDIO GROSSMAN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Dean Claudio Grossman and his 21-year tenure at American University's Washington College of Law (WCL). As WCL's first Latino dean, and lifelong advocate for human rights, he brought his unparalleled commitment to diversity and support for students of color.

Dean Grossman, a native of Chile, spent many years in political exile in Europe after serving in the administration of democratically-elected President Salvador Allende, before finally coming to the United States.

His legal scholarship is focused on international human rights and he has served in several roles within the United Nations, most notably in the United Nation's Committee Against Torture, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Dean Grossman has also served as the chair of the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies and board member of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights.

He is one of the few Latino law school deans in the country, and the first to serve in that capacity at WCL. He will be succeeded by Camille Nelson, the first black dean at WCL and the first woman in that role in the last 60 years. He leaves large shoes to fill.

As dean, he has made great contributions to the legal profession through his work expanding WCL's LL.M. program, semester abroad programs, and clinical programs that advocate for immigrants and the disabled. He has also presided over WCL's new Tenley Campus expansion.

Previous honors for Dean Grossman's work on human rights and international law include the René Cassin Award from B'nai B'rith International in Chile and the Harry LeRoy Jones Award from the Washington Foreign Law Society. Since becoming dean of WCL, Dean Grossman has received a host of honors, in-

cluding: Outstanding Dean of the Year by the National Association of Public Interest Law (now known as Equal Justice Works) in 2000, the Inter American Press Association's Chapultepec Grand Prize 2002 for his achievements in the field of human rights, the Charles Norberg International Lawyer of the Year Award from the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Inter-American Bar Association, the Lifetime Leadership Award from the Hispanic National Bar Foundation, and the Leadership Award from the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dean Claudio Grossman's remarkable efforts across his 21-year tenure at WCL. Dean Grossman has dedicated his life to human rights and international law, serving as an exemplary leader. His contributions to the legal profession have laid a foundation for generations.

HONORING SHIRLEY SAUNDERS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Bronx leader who has been a friend and partner to me in the Co-op City community for many years, the incomparable Shirley Saunders. I have been friends with Shirley ever since we attended Evander Childs High School together, and I have always known her to be a tremendous force for good in the neighborhood.

Shirley was born and raised in the Lincoln Projects in Harlem. She is a product of the New York City public school system, including my alma maters, Hunter and Lehman Colleges. For 30 years, Shirley has lived in Co-op City and been actively involved in the management of the largest co-operative housing development in the world. She was elected and held a seat as a member and secretary of the Riverbay Board of Directors, which governs Co-op City, and served in those roles for more than 12 years. Shirley has also been actively involved in other community and civic organizations, including the Parents Association for P.S. 153, for which she served as president; the Sister to Sister program; the local Boy and Girl Scouts chapters; the local little league programs; and is a founding mother of the Jack & Jill of America Bronx chapter. In fact, Shirley was such an integral part of the community, I had to make her a part of my Congressional Staff. She served as Senior Staff Assistant with me for over 20 years, and was extraordinary in that role.

But for all of her incredible service to the public, it was always family that was Shirley's true passion. She has been married to her husband, Rod, for more than 40 years, and together they have three wonderful children and two beautiful grandchildren.

This year, Shirley is celebrating her 69th birthday. On the occasion I want to thank her for years of friendship, and wish her nothing but the best.