

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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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.

TRIBUTE TO CARL BURT

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 11, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carl Burt of Des Moines, Iowa, as one of Iowa's 2016 Heroes of the Heartland, sponsored by the American Red Cross of Greater Iowa.

Each year, the American Red Cross serving greater Iowa honors individuals for their acts 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.

In announcing the Award, Red Cross officials explained why Mr. Burt is being recognized for his heroism. Last spring, he was having an outdoor dinner with a friend and her mother when the friend noticed her mother slouched back in her chair, barely breathing. Mr. Burt immediately took action and attempted to begin cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) but her jaw was clenched. He told his friend to call 9-1-1 emergency while he continued giving rescue breaths. Mr. Burt started doing chest compressions and after only two compressions, the mother suddenly awakened. Emergency services arrived, checked her vitals and determined that she had had a seizure but would recover. As part of his daily role as a jail service aide for Polk County, Iowa, Mr. Burt is required to be certified in CPR.

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

COMMEMORATING APRIL AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 11, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the importance of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I have always believed that our children are our nation's greatest strength and resource.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is remembered as a time to reflect and renew our shared dedication and responsibility to protect every child in our country, no matter their social or economic background.

As elected officials, we have an obligation to condemn this violence, work for stronger en-

forcement of the law and provide adequate funding for programs to assist children who may have experienced such abuse.

There is no crime greater than an individual can commit than the crimes of child abuse, in all of its forms.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) established the first federal child protection legislation, and was signed into law by President Nixon on January 31, 1974.

This marked the new precedent for the national response to child abuse and neglect.

Then in 1983, President Reagan proclaimed the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention month.

In 1989, the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect awarded nine grants to assist in developing and implementing community-based prevention strategies, in furtherance of that cause.

In addition, these grants assisted in developing a coordinated multidisciplinary training program for professionals and community leaders to improve public awareness campaigns, and implement crisis intervention programs.

In 1996, under the Clinton Administration's emphasis on collaboration and integration among child and family serving systems, a new grants program called the Community-Based Family Resource and Support (CBFRS), was created.

These grants reflected the belief that public and private child abuse prevention and treatment programs must work together toward common goals.

In 2005, there was a renewed commitment to make child abuse prevention a national priority.

As a result, the Children's Bureau focused on making safe children and healthy families a new priority, a theme that was also adopted by the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Mr. Speaker, children were not forgotten during the great debate over the Patient Protection Affordability Care Act, which included key provisions that created the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

Thus far during my time in Congress, I have continually proposed amendments aimed to assist families and children across the nation.

My amendment to HR 3700, which was passed in this chamber, directed the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Labor to work together to produce an annual report on inter-agency strategies.

These strategies would strengthen family economic empowerment by linking housing with essential supportive services, such as employment counseling and training, financial growth, childcare, transportation, meals, youth recreational activities and other responsive services.

Once again, I thank my colleagues in the House for their efforts in protecting the children of this nation.

Mr. Speaker, this important month serves to remind each and every one of us, that as Americans we have a solemn responsibility to educate, feed, and protect our children at all costs.

HONORING ALECIA A. DECOUDREAU

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 11, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Mrs. Alecia A. DeCoudreaux. Mrs. DeCoudreaux serves as the President of Mills College, my Alma Mater, and will be stepping down to conclude a successful tenure in academia.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Mrs. DeCoudreaux began her academic career as a student of English and Political Science at Wellesley College in 1976. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree, Mrs. DeCoudreaux continued her education and received a Doctor of Laws degree from the Indiana University School of Law in 1978.

While at Mills, Mrs. DeCoudreaux furthered inclusion by instituting the first women's college policy for admitting transgender students. This policy has become a model for women's colleges across the nation. She also expanded Mills' global focus and reach by participating in the U.S. Department of State's Women in Public Service Project (WPSP), hosting 25 women delegates from 22 countries in a 10-day conference focusing on women solving the climate crisis.

Mrs. DeCoudreaux led the campus community and collaborated with the school's board of trustees to find solutions to tough economic circumstances. Many educational programs have suffered similar downturns, and Mrs. DeCoudreaux's commitment to higher education succeeded in sustaining Mills College.

In January 2016, Mrs. DeCoudreaux joined 11 other Northern California colleges and universities in signing the Oakland Promise College Pathway Partnership, which offers financial aid and mentoring support to Oakland high school graduates. These graduates learned the skills necessary to continue a path in academics and further their careers.

Her many accolades portray Mrs. DeCoudreaux as a tireless advocate for access to education, including the Award for Education from the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the ABC 7 News Profiles of Excellence Award; the Madam C.J. Walker Pioneer Award; and recognition as a Leadership California Trailblazer. She was selected as one of San Francisco Business Times' Most Influential Women in Business, and she was included in Diverse Issues in Higher Education magazine's 30 Women Making a Difference feature.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Mrs. Alecia A. DeCoudreaux, I salute you. I thank you for your outstanding leadership in higher education and wish you continued success as you transition to this exciting new chapter of life.

ON THE PASSING OF LAWRENCE D. KOONCE, SR.

**HON. KAREN BASS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 11, 2016*

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to note the passing of a long-time community advocate, Lawrence D. Koonce, Sr.