

PATTY DUKE “QUEEN OF TV MOVIES AND TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES”

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Patty Duke, an American icon and advocate for those suffering in silence from various forms of mental illness, who passed away on March 29, 2016 at the age of 69.

Patty Duke was born Anna Marie Duke on December 14, 1946 in Elmhurst, New York.

Anna Duke and her siblings grew up in a difficult household, raised by an alcoholic father and a mother who suffered from what was then called “manic depression,” later known to be bipolar disorder.

Anna Duke was introduced to acting by her brother’s managers, John and Ethel Ross, who changed her name to Patty and eventually became her guardians.

Later in Patty Duke’s life, she revealed that she was a survivor of sexual assault.

In 1959, Patty Duke’s first big role came when she was cast as Helen Keller in the Broadway version of *The Miracle Worker*, with Anne Bancroft portraying her teacher, Anne Sullivan.

Then in 1962, that play was turned into a feature film, in which she also starred.

For her performance in the film, the 16-year-old won a “Promising Newcomer” Golden Globe as well as an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress—making her the youngest person to win an Oscar at that time.

Sadly, following her Oscar win, Patty Duke began to privately unravel.

The abuse she endured along with her family’s history of bipolar disorder began to plague her.

All the while, she continued to dazzle the outside world with a successful career.

Patty Duke then starred in her own sitcom called *The Patty Duke Show*, which she artfully played two cousin characters simultaneously.

In 1965, she also became a pop music contender with her top 10 hit “Don’t Just Stand There” and headlined the acclaimed film *Billie*, which was the first movie ever sold to a television network.

Thus, began Patty Duke’s reign as the “Queen of TV Movies.”

Patty Duke continued her big-screen career by starring in the cult classic *Valley of the Dolls* in 1967 and indie films such as *Me, Natalie* in 1969.

Patty Duke married assistant director Harry Falk, remaining in the marriage from 1965 to 1969.

After her marriage ended, Patty Duke bore a son named Sean Patrick Duke.

In 1972, she married actor John Astin, who played Gomez in the television version of *The Addams Family*.

John Astin adopted her son Sean, and fathered her second son, Mackenzie Astin, born in 1973.

Then in 1976, Patty Duke won her second Emmy for the highly successful mini-series *Captains and the Kings*.

Other popular TV movies followed, including the 1979 small screen version of *The Miracle*

Worker, in which she portrayed Anne Sullivan, a role that won her third Emmy.

In the mid-1980s, she became president of the Screen Actors Guild.

Her 1987 autobiography, *Call Me Anna*, was made into a TV movie in 1990 in which she portrayed herself and served as co-producer.

Following in 1992 second book, *A Brilliant Madness: Living With Manic Depression Illness*, was published.

With the help of family and friends Patty Duke was able to quiet her personal demons, and become a vocal advocate for those suffering from mental illnesses, along with dispelling social stigmas attached to them.

Patty Duke died on March 29, 2016 in Coeur D’Alene, Idaho, at the age of 69 from a sepsis infection from a ruptured intestine.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to take a moment of silence in remembrance of this strong woman who was able to stand against the suffocating struggles of depression and became a source of inspiration for hundreds of thousands of Americans struggling with mental illnesses.

STANDARD MERGER AND ACQUISITION REVIEWS THROUGH EQUAL RULES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 2745 or the SMARTER Act.

This bill is another delay tactic that stops us from the meaningful work of passing a budget.

Too many bills that have come out of the Judiciary Committee this year are designed to erode consumer rights and roll back established judicial precedent.

We should be considering and debating meaningful bills to address criminal justice reform and common sense gun safety.

Instead, we are here voting to fix a problem that does not exist and does not need our attention.

A Politico article from two days ago was titled “Congress setting a low bar for doing nothing.”

My Democratic colleagues and I have bills and agendas that we would like to bring to the floor to address real problems facing real Americans.

This bill is not smart. It is a timewaster and I hope after spring recess we can come back to a robust agenda and work on behalf of the American people.

HONORING SYDNEY ALDERMAN PERRY ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2016

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today marks the end of an era at the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven as they gather to celebrate the retire-

ment of their President and CEO, and my dear friend, Sydney Alderman Perry.

Sydney began her career with the Jewish Federation and JCC nearly 30 years ago in the Department of Jewish Education. Education was her passion and over the course of her seventeen years in that department she not only worked to improve the synagogue supplementary schools, she also developed and implemented a number of innovative education programs for both adults and teens.

In addition to “A Taste of Honey,” an adult learning lecture series that attracts hundreds of adults, Sydney spearheaded the Israel Experience Savings program, which helps young people travel to Israel and initiated Talmud Torah Meyuchad, an individualized Jewish education program for children with special needs. But perhaps the contribution she is most proud of is the establishment of the successful community Hebrew High School, MAKOM, which serves hundreds of teens throughout the New Haven area every year.

She was tapped as associate executive director to supervise such things as the Holocaust Education and Prejudice Reduction Project and went on to become the executive director of the federation for six years, before taking on the title of CEO of the merged federation and the Jewish Community Center of New Haven.

Under her leadership the federation has expanded its agenda and outreach to enhance Jewish life and enrich the lives of those most in need both locally and internationally. Food4Kids sends local students who depend on the breakfast and lunch programs home with a backpack of staples for the weekends. The Jewish Coalition for Literacy has more than two hundred volunteers who read and talk with students. The federation supports the elderly housing complexes as well as educational institutions across Greater New Haven and raises funds for Yale Hillel and the University of Connecticut Hillel; the Jewish Historical Society and the JCC.

Beyond her leadership at the Jewish Federation and JCC, Sydney is an extraordinary advocate for Jewish continuity. She has served as a consultant to the community on educational endeavors, including the Anne Frank Project, Shepherd ’92, Jerusalem 3000 and the celebration of Israel’s 50th Anniversary. Sydney is an extraordinary scholar, often called upon nationally to give workshops and has served as scholar-in-residence for several communities.

Sydney has shown an unparalleled dedication to Jewish education in our community and throughout the nation—a commitment that is reflected in the myriad of awards she has been honored with over the years. She is an inspiration.

I am proud to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered this evening in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sydney Alderman Perry for her incredible work with the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven and her outstanding service to our community. My very best wishes to her, her children, and grandchildren for many more years of health and happiness as she enjoys her retirement.