

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT LAKES CENTER

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the 50th anniversary of the Great Lakes Center (GLC). For more than half a century, the Great Lakes Center has worked to improve the quality of the environment by providing the best possible science to decision makers concerned with the health and sustainability of our freshwater resources, with a primary focus on the Great Lakes and their watersheds.

The Center was established in 1966 when Howard Sengbush formed the Great Lakes Laboratory. The Great Lakes Center's field station is located on SUNY Buffalo State's waterfront campus along the Black Rock Channel. It is a multidisciplinary research, education, and service institute focused on advancing our knowledge and understanding of the largest body of freshwater on Earth.

The Great Lakes Center is the only institution within the SUNY system with a research field station physically situated along the water. The Center maintains a large fleet of research vessels dedicated to specific types of research and educational functions.

Over the last eight years under the Direction of Sasha Karatayev, the GLC saw sustained activity and productivity: over 80 research papers published, 240 presentations given at various state, national, and international meetings and 35 funded projects totaling over 14 million dollars. This living laboratory dedicated to the investigation of the ecology of the Great Lakes and its tributaries is staffed by research scientists, educators, technicians and professors with the Biology department. The Center provides opportunities to obtain Masters of Arts and Masters of Science degrees in Great Lakes Ecosystem Science.

The Great Lakes ecosystem is complex, dynamic, and fragile. The work conducted at the GLC informs policy makers, educators, community leaders, and environmentalists—and contributes toward effective stewardship and decision-making. As part of the Great Lakes Observing System, the GLC operates the only operating observation buoy in eastern Lake Erie. The GLC continuously works to reverse the damage of decades of abuse neglect of the Great Lakes. The Center continues to explore opportunities to expand its educational programs within the regional community.

In February of this year, I was proud to speak on the House Floor during Great Lakes Day to demonstrate the importance of Congress to continue to fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Since the creation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in 2010, nearly \$1.6 billion has been invested in projects to clean up the Great Lakes, the world's largest freshwater system. Locally, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative supports a number of initiatives including the restoration of the Buffalo River.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to once again speak about the Great Lakes with pride in this visionary, vitally important and internationally renowned center whose home base is my alma mater, Buffalo

State College as its Gold Anniversary will be celebrated on April 15, 2016. Congratulations and deepest appreciation to all those who contributed to the past and present of this Center as the preservation, protection and promotion of the Great Lakes is of immeasurable importance to our future.

**THANKING LANICE LAWSON FOR HER HUMANITY AND TENACITY**

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Lanice Lawson for the support she has offered to the city of Flint and its residents during the Flint Water Crisis.

With nearly 15 years of experience in the nursing field as an RN, Ms. Lawson knew all too well the devastating effects of lead in the body. Although no longer a resident of Flint herself, she empathized with the struggles of those affected by the water crisis specifically the children. Out of concern for these children, she organized the Bottles for Babies initiative.

Ms. Lawson's original intent was to supply the school children of Flint with clean drinking water. The water in the Flint community schools had been completely shut off and the children were expected to bring their own bottled water to school each day. With the need for clean water being so great across the city, Bottles for Babies was later extended to include consistent home deliveries to the elderly and physically handicapped.

To date over \$65,000 has been raised by the Bottles for Babies GoFundMe fundraiser and over a quarter of a million bottles of water have been delivered to Flint residents. This is the type of direct support the people of Flint need. The type of support the city of Flint is still not receiving from its own State government.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by Ms. Lanice Lawson and thank her for the service she has provided to the city of Flint.

**HONORING JOE BORELLI**

**HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staten Island resident Joe Borelli's dedication and leadership in serving the 51st Council District and the South Shore of Staten Island.

Born in Staten Island, Joe has always been very active in his community. He has been involved in the Staten Island Growth Management Task Force, the West Shore Light Rail Task Force, the Brookfield Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee, and helped spearhead the formation of the South Shore Local Development Corporation. Additionally, Joe was one of the key leaders in the successful fight to eradicate polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from public school buildings. Joe has consistently proven himself to be a leader in the movement to reduce taxes, tolls, and fees in New York City.

As a volunteer, Joe currently serves on the Development Board of St. Joseph by the Sea High School, as well as the Friends of the College of Staten Island, an organization that raises money for scholarships. Additionally, Joe assists dozens of non-profit, veteran's, and community organizations in accessing governmental grants. Joe has also helped raise private money for equipment to support handicapped Children at Mount Loretto, and has worked with the Verdino Foundation to bring a top quality Little League facility to the South Shore.

As an elected official, Joe previously represented his South Shore constituents in the New York State Assembly. He was the ranking minority member of the Assembly Cities Committee, and he also served on the Health, the Housing, the Transportation, the Mental Health, Banks, Education, and Energy Committees. From his time in the State Assembly to his current role as a city councilman, Joe has consistently been a staunch advocate against energy cost increases, as well as the common core curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Borelli has a remarkable history of dedication to serving the people of Staten Island. I thank him for all of his great work and I am proud to honor this great man who has consistently put others before himself, and continues to be such a positive influence on our communities.

**HONORING DR. RUBEN ARMIÑANA**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative HUFFMAN, rise to honor Dr. Ruben Armiñana as he prepares to retire after serving as the president of Sonoma State University for over two decades. We wish Dr. Armiñana and his wife, Marne Olson, a happy retirement with time to spend with their children and grandchildren.

Born in Cuba, Dr. Armiñana came to the United States as a child with the American-sponsored Operation Peter Pan, and settled in Texas with his aunt and uncle. He earned his Associates Degree from Hill Junior College in Texas, before going on to complete his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Texas at Austin. After completing his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of New Orleans, he joined Tulane University's administration. While living in New Orleans, Dr. Armiñana also worked as a news anchor and consultant for a Spanish-language news program. Dr. Armiñana's career in education brought him to California in 1988, and, in 1992, Dr. Armiñana was appointed President of Sonoma State University.

While California State University presidents serve five years on average, Dr. Armiñana has served Sonoma State University for 24 years—an impressive tenure in which he has supported great developments for the university. While serving as President, Dr. Armiñana oversaw the expansion of the school's curriculum and student body, making Sonoma State University one of the most sought-out campuses in the California State University system.

Dr. Armiñana's work also led to many additions to the campus during his tenure. The Environmental Technology Center, completed in