

and has affected more than 700,000 babies worldwide since the year 2000.

After giving birth to a child with CDH and finding no support groups for mothers of babies with CDH, my friend, Dawn, founded the Association of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Research, Awareness, and Support, or CHERUBS, for short, in 1995.

Headquartered in the beautiful town of Wake Forest, North Carolina, CHERUBS is an international charity helping over 5,700 families in 61 countries.

Mr. Speaker, babies born with CDH and their loving families face a difficult journey, and I rise today to raise awareness and to recognize the importance of strong individuals like Dawn Williamson, who work to make the journey for others easier and more comfortable than it was for her.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer this resolution expressing support for the designation of April 2016 as National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month. This condition is far too common for us to know so little.

□ 1100

HONORING THE VICTORY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am always reminded of the greatness of America. When the word came: Go west, go west. A little church, a little general store, and a school.

I am excited this morning to honor the Victory Early College High School in Acres Home, sponsored by the Aldine Independent School District. And I thank Dr. Bamberg, the superintendent; the trustees; and, as well, Dr. Phyllis Cormier, for they are celebrating right now the National Blue Ribbon Award ceremony—yes, a public school.

Victory Early College High School is one of two schools in Houston and one of 335 schools nationally to earn the distinction of a National Blue Ribbon School at an award ceremony hosted by the Department of Education. They exemplify overall academic excellence. Yes, inner-city children, poor children, are showing progress and closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. This particular school has been exemplary in both areas.

We are also celebrating Senior Signing Day because each of our graduating seniors will graduate under the distinguished high school plan, and all have been accepted to a 4-year university. They will announce their schools at this event—a public school.

The mayor will be there. I am in Washington. I wanted to pay tribute to them. And I want to thank Aldine for letting their M.O. Campbell Center be used for a shelter for those who are fleeing the flood.

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR VETERANS ACT

(Mrs. ROBY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Protection and Advocacy for Veterans Act. This bill will engage our protection and advocacy agencies to ensure veterans are receiving the mental health care and substance abuse treatment they deserve.

Increased demand from veterans returning from war, a national shortage of mental health professionals, and a prescription drug abuse epidemic have made it difficult for the VA to keep pace with the growing need in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, progress is being made, but I believe we can do better. I also believe that we owe it to our veterans to look beyond the traditional means and bring all available resources to bear in ensuring access to proper care for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

For 40 years, protection and advocacy agencies have monitored the quality of care in State-operated hospitals, psychiatric wards, and other facilities. They have the authority to inspect medical records, make recommendations to providers, and, when necessary, take legal action on behalf of patients. I believe bringing this high degree of patient advocacy expertise to the VA can greatly benefit our veterans.

NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 24 to April 30 as National Infertility Awareness Week. Infertility is defined as the inability to conceive or carry a pregnancy to term after 12 months of trying to conceive.

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the World Health Organization recognize infertility as a disease.

Today, one in eight couples have trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy. Infertility affects approximately 10 percent of the population, but rarely are the necessary medical treatments covered by insurance. Alarming, this, too, is the case for veterans who have served our country and have become infertile as a result of their service.

This issue strikes diverse groups, affecting people from all socioeconomic levels and cuts across racial, ethnic, and religious lines.

We must acknowledge the medical and emotional aspects of infertility and continue to support efforts to make treatment more accessible to

help improve the quality of life for people with infertility.

This week, I ask that we all recognize and raise awareness on the issue of infertility as a disease and support the family-building efforts of those struggling with this disease of infertility.

TOP 50 BEST TOWNS FOR FAMILIES IN THE GARDEN STATE

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note a special distinction for several communities in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

New Jersey Family magazine has named several towns in the congressional district I serve as being among the top 50 best towns for families in the Garden State.

Nearing the top of the list, at second place, is Montgomery Township in Somerset County. Joining Montgomery on the top 50 list are Bethlehem, Berkeley Heights, Branchburg, Chester Township, Clinton Township, Cranford, Hillsborough, Lebanon, Long Hill, New Providence, and West Amwell.

I know these communities, and my wife and I live in Clinton Township. Each has excellent public schools, a strong local spirit, and each is a great place to plant roots and raise a family.

I congratulate the local leadership in these municipalities, the elected officials and community leaders—nearly all of whom are volunteers—for the excellent management of these towns. Each is very deserving of this recognition.

RECOGNIZING JOHN L. SMITH OF THE LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, the Las Vegas Review Journal, Nevada's largest newspaper, lost another standard bearer this week. John L. Smith, who resigned after citing difficulties with management, spent nearly three decades enlightening, emboldening, and entertaining the Las Vegas community.

In his resignation letter, John L. Smith said that he learned to never punch down in his weight class, an approach that is rare in journalism today.

He wrote: "You don't hit little people. You defend them."

Those principles, reflected in his columns that appeared four times a week, made him a beloved figure, a respected wordsmith, and a community leader.

It is no surprise that during the week when he resigned, he received the Ancil Payne Award for Ethics in Journalism. It wasn't the first time his work had been recognized, and I am sure it will not be the last.

PARK FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A 2016 GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the administrators, staff, and students from the Park Forest Elementary School in State College, Pennsylvania, on being named a 2016 Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Park Forest is 1 of only 47 schools across the entire Nation to earn this distinction, which is given to schools for their innovative efforts to reduce their environmental impact and reduce utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure sustainability practices.

In addition to the elementary school's efforts to reduce its energy use and waste footprint, it has also received grants to construct an outdoor compost bin and created a garden compost program. The school grounds also include vegetable, herb, pollinator, and rain gardens. In partnership with Penn State University, the school has also built a greenhouse which later served as the model for two built at a school in Rwanda.

This just scratches the surface of the initiatives undertaken at Park Forest Elementary, and everyone involved deserves praise for their efforts.

OPIOID ADDICTION

(Mr. RUPPERSBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge House leadership to take action against the scourge of opioid addiction that is plaguing our communities.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdoses now surpass car accidents as the leading cause of injury-related death for Americans between the ages of 25 and 65.

In Baltimore, opioid overdose has been declared a public health emergency. There are about 19,000 active heroin users in Baltimore City, and far more who abuse prescription opioids.

But this isn't just an urban issue. I have personally heard from families from all walks of life throughout my district that have been devastated by heroin and prescription drugs. No socioeconomic level is safe.

To this end, I urge leadership to move the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act forward. Among other measures, this important bipartisan bill will expand the availability of naloxone to law enforcement agencies and other first responders to help reverse overdoses, expand resources to identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction, and ex-

pand disposal sites for unused prescription medications to keep them out of the hands of young people.

Only through a comprehensive approach can we stop and reverse current trends.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHIEF JUSTICE PERRY HOOPER, SR.

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and contributions of Chief Justice Perry Hooper, Sr., who passed away this past Sunday.

Justice Hooper was born in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1925. He served our Nation in the United States Marine Corps before attending the University of Alabama School of Law. He went on to be elected probate judge and later circuit judge in Montgomery County.

His groundbreaking election as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in 1994 marked the first time a Republican had served on the court since Reconstruction.

Justice Hooper brought dignity and grace to the Supreme Court, along with his consummate professionalism. He raised the court to a higher level. Whether you were a lawyer or a party, he treated you with respect and fairness.

Most importantly, Justice Hooper understood that judges don't make the law, but decide cases with wisdom and fairness. So on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to share my deepest sympathies with his wife, Marilyn, and four sons. Justice Hooper will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING SOPHIE MARIE EDWARDS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sophie Marie Edwards, an incredible young woman who has made ending hunger her personal passion.

Realizing that some of her friends in elementary school didn't have enough to eat, Sophie founded Square Meal Project when she was only 8 years old. Since then, she has raised more than \$6,000 for food banks and local feeding programs. Through her efforts, more than 1,000 kids have been able to receive a healthy summer lunch. She has also made it her mission to educate everyone she meets about the problem of hunger in America.

Sophie's work in her hometown of Marietta, Georgia, led her to be recognized as a youth advocate for the national No Kid Hungry campaign.

I am inspired by Sophie's commitment, by her compassion, and by her drive to end hunger. Sophie teaches us all that you are never too young to

make a difference. I have no doubt that Sophie will continue to do great things to end hunger now.

AR KIDS READ

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work being done in my home State of Arkansas by AR Kids Read.

When I was the chamber of commerce chair in Little Rock, I was proud to help AR Kids Read expand 3½ years ago with the goal of improving literacy rates among our children in Arkansas.

In the 2014–2015 school year alone, AR Kids Read was able to provide over 400 trained tutors to serve 1 hour a week in 47 different schools in central Arkansas.

This inspirational program helps nearly 1,000 students each year struggling to learn to master reading in the first through third grades. AR Kids Read has been recognized by one of the five model programs at the Reading is Fundamental—RIF—50th Anniversary Gala here in Washington, D.C.

I extend my congratulations and best wishes for much continued success to AR Kids Read and thank all of my fellow citizens who volunteer as tutors.

MARY ANN WASIL MEMORIAL TOAST

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and to celebrate the life of Mary Ann Wasil, one of my personal heroes and one of the strongest women I have ever known, who passed away earlier this month.

Mary Ann possessed a tenacious spirit, an unyielding faith, a heart full of love, and an infectious smile. She was one of a kind. She was a police officer, an actor, a development officer for her church and its elementary school, and the founder of a nonprofit organization, a health activist, and a mother to three incredible children.

Breast cancer was what took Mary Ann from us, but it is also what one of her lasting legacies was born from—a successful and much-needed breast health initiative, the Get in Touch Foundation. She was a vocal champion for the Affordable Care Act and access to high quality, affordable health care for all.

In 2010, Mary Ann won a contract from Balboa Press to publish her memoir, "A Diary of Healing: My Intense and Meaningful Life With Cancer." Throughout its pages, you can hear Mary Ann's laughter, you can feel her courage, and you will often find yourself crying with her, experiencing the twists and the turns of her journey.

My heart goes out to Betsy, to Mary, and to Eddy. Your mother was quite