

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BROWARD SENIOR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate ten exemplary men and women from Broward County who were recently elected to the Broward Senior Hall of Fame.

These outstanding citizens are individuals from all walks of life who have contributed greatly to the vibrancy and well-being of South Florida. Many have served in the military, held elected offices and judgeships, volunteered, and worked as doctors. Several have provided distinguished service on boards of organizations that benefit our communities and make Broward County the outstanding place that it is to live, raise a family, and retire.

The names of these ten distinguished inductees to the Broward Senior Hall of Fame are Sandra K. Booth; Mitchell "Mitch" Ceasar; Commissioner Sue Gunzburger; Mohsin Jaffer, MD; Marie Goodrum Johnson; George A. Kling, MD; Arlene Lakin, Esquire; Patti Lynn; Judge Ronald J. Rothschild; and Jack Shifrel.

Again, congratulations to these outstanding individuals. I wish them the best of luck with their induction and continued service to Broward County. It is with great pleasure that I honor them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I look forward to hearing of their continued work and service.

NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Infertility Awareness Week, which ran from April 24–30. The CDC recognizes infertility as the inability to get pregnant after one year of trying. It affects both men and women, and there are a variety of causes. Resolve, the National Infertility Association, estimates that it affects approximately 10 percent of the population.

For couples dealing with infertility, there are a number of options. They can choose to adopt, or try to conceive through IUI, medications, or assisted reproductive technology like in vitro fertilization (IVF). Although none of these methods is guaranteed, improvements to technologies and treatments in recent years have increased the likelihood of successful therapy.

Not all families have access to this technology. Under present law, the Department of

Veterans Affairs (VA) is expressly prohibited from covering IVF for women and men who have served our country in uniform. This is especially galling considering that many of these veterans are facing infertility as a result of injuries incurred during their service. That is why Senator MURRAY and I introduced the Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act—to repeal this outdated policy and specifically authorize provision of fertility treatment. Our bill also provides other important resources to military families, including cryopreservation of gametes and adoption assistance.

As we recognize National Infertility Awareness Week, it is my sincere hope that we not lose sight of Americans experiencing infertility. And it is long past time that Congress authorizes VA to cover fertility treatments, including IVF to wounded veterans, so they can achieve their dreams of starting families.

COMMEMORATING MOTHER'S DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 108th observance of Mother's Day.

As a mother of two children myself, I understand the hardships and difficulties that so many mothers face every day in our country.

We honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of home and family as the true foundation of the Nation.

I want to pay tribute to my late mother, Ivalita Jackson, who stood the test of time in raising and rearing her children.

To the mothers of Houston, too many to name here, I salute you for your dedication to raising and saving your children.

Today, thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women, and children throughout the Nation.

Mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding and compassion, all while overcoming the challenges of modern society.

I want to congratulate and praise all of the mothers in America for all of their hard work.

Mothers have a huge influence on our everyday lives; as William Ross Wallace's famous poem reminds us: "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world."

It is in the same breath that I commend all mothers, including those giving birth to infants who will take their first breath and suckle first from mothers behind prison bars.

These infants' lives are just as valuable as those of any young Americans upon whom we will come to rely on, in building the next great generation.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the infants of mothers across the nation die at a rate of 5.96 deaths per 1,000 births.

Those deaths increase to a devastating 7.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births for Hispanic mothers when they are incarcerated, and an appalling 14.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births among African American mothers behind bars.

Other studies have documented that incarceration of mothers elevates the risk of their children dying by 29.6% for the average infant, concentrating effects during the post-neonatal period.

If these mothers' children are to grow strong and resilient, we must ensure that they have access to the nourishment and sustenance that only their mothers can provide, body and soul, in order to sustain their formidable futures for which we, alongside their mothers, hope and pray.

Cognizant of the dangerous phenomenon affecting these mothers and snipping at the heels of the life to which they give young Americans, I recently introduced H.R. 5130 the, "Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016," or the "SIMARRA Act," to expand healthcare and wellness services in Critical Stage Development Nurseries for infants and their mother-inmates.

H.R. 5130 allows infants, born to female inmates in federal prisons, to remain with their mothers in specialized housing units during the critical stages of their development in efforts to reduce infant mortality amongst this population, and to reduce recidivism rates amongst their mothers once they have completed their sentences.

Many of these mother-inmates self-report being born themselves to mothers in prison; but instead of retaining necessary physiological and psychological bonds with their mothers, many were wrenched apart and placed in the fledgling foster-care system.

Eleven percent of those children separated from incarcerated mothers and placed into foster care experienced at least two changes in caregivers during the period of the mother's incarceration; and sometimes these mothers, even when they have short prison sentences, never see their child again—forever lost to the foster-care system.

As a mother, I cannot imagine being unable to contribute to the sustainability of my child's life and wellness.

This practice is devastating the wellbeing and safety of America's infants, denying them the ability to lactate, bond and thrive with their mothers, as healthy infants require during the critical stage of development.

Just as we commemorate Mother's Day, it is time that our nation recognizes a long-persistent need to break the cycle of generational, institutional incarceration amongst mothers convicted of non-violent crimes and the children they birth behind prison bars.

H.R. 5130, the, "SIMARRA Act of 2016," gives those infants born to incarcerated mothers a chance to succeed in life.

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