

FELIX DIAZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Felix Diaz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Felix Diaz is a 7th grader at Jefferson Senior/Junior High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Felix Diaz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Felix Diaz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN AUTOIMMUNE RELATED DISEASES ASSOCIATION

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association on their 25th anniversary on the occasion of their annual Derby Luncheon and Auction.

Founded in 1991, the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA) was established with the mission of alleviating the suffering and impact of autoimmune diseases with the goal of eradicating autoimmune diseases throughout the U.S. and the world. AARDA's purpose is to initiate, foster, and facilitate collaboration among researchers, educators, advocates, and patient services in the autoimmune disease field while ensuring the highest level of effectiveness, ethics, and efficiency. We are proud to have such a distinguished national organization headquartered in the State of Michigan.

Autoimmune diseases affect upwards of 50 million Americans and are the second leading cause of chronic illness in the U.S. An autoimmune disease develops when the immune system, which defends the body against disease, decides the healthy cells are foreign. As a result, the immune system attacks healthy cells. Depending on the type, an autoimmune disease can affect one or many different types of body tissue. It can also cause abnormal organ growth and changes in organ function.

Many autoimmune diseases are well known including Juvenile and Type 1 Diabetes, Psoriasis, Crohn's, Fibromyalgia, Narcolepsy, and Multiple Sclerosis. Many other autoimmune diseases are lesser known, but all are difficult, frustrating, and challenging for the individual suffering with the disease.

AARDA has been a tireless advocate for those impacted by autoimmune diseases,

which impacts not only the patient, but their family, workplace and communities. Their work has not only resulted in critical research, drug treatments, and answers but has also been a critical support to those who have been diagnosed. They are responsible for remarkable accomplishments.

AARDA initiated the founding of the Center for Autoimmune Disease Research at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center, providing a major grant to facilitate start-up and continued support of the Center's research program. AARDA's advocacy was also responsible for the establishment of the Centers for Excellence in autoimmune diseases at NIH. As the Association has grown, they have increasingly funded peer reviewed research. AARDA also focuses considerable energy on educating physicians, patients, and the public. It is through these educational efforts that the field has continued to refine its focus on autoimmune diseases and their impacts, so that ultimately scientists are able to find treatments and cures.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association on their 25th Anniversary and wish them many more years of success in researching some of the most difficult diseases we face and in the support they have given so many.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE COPELAND'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE

**HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I write in recognition of Detective Mike Copeland, a financial crimes investigator from Chatham County, North Carolina.

For the past thirteen years he has served and protected the people by investigating crimes ranging from robbery and larceny to assault and homicide.

Recently, Detective Copeland managed to recover \$10,000 extorted from a victim. This noble effort marks just one example of how Detective Copeland continues to protect the ill-fated targets of malicious scammers.

I would like to thank Detective Copeland for his outstanding service and his work to protect those who become victims of financial fraud.

RECOGNIZING CARLA SANTORNO FOR HER WOMEN IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD BY THE NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Carla Santorno, the Superintendent of Tacoma Public Schools. Earlier this spring, Ms. Santorno was awarded the Women in School Leadership award by the National Superintendents Association for the passion, dedication, and innovation she brings to the lives of students.

The Women in School Leadership award seeks to recognize women educational administrators who excel in their leadership for learning, communication, professionalism, and community involvement. Ms. Santorno has gone above and beyond in these areas to help Tacoma School District students to succeed in life after school.

Tacoma Public Schools serves more than 30,000 students from kindergarten through grade 12, and employs more than 5,000 individuals. Under Ms. Santorno's leadership, Tacoma Public Schools has been recognized by the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction as one of the state's most innovative districts and has seen important improvements throughout the system across many different areas. Graduation rates have steadily increased in Tacoma high schools, decreasing the achievement gap. The district has developed a legislative agenda and has led the promotion of the Whole Child Initiative, which seeks to systematically focus on students' social, emotional, and academic needs. As a part of this effort, Ms. Santorno has initiated meaningful relationships with over 40 community organizations and has dramatically increased parental involvement. Additionally, Ms. Santorno has increased efforts to provide transparent achievement results, develop a data-driven system to recognize each student's needs, and align the budget process with the school board's strategic accountability system. All of these innovative efforts have bettered the lives of Tacoma students and the community as a whole.

Carla Santorno has committed her life to public education. She spent most of her career as a teacher, principal, administrator, and area superintendent in the Denver Public Schools before moving to Seattle to serve as chief academic officer for Seattle Public Schools. Ms. Santorno has been with Tacoma Public Schools since 2009, and has served as superintendent since 2012. The progress that has been achieved in just a few years at Tacoma Public Schools is truly remarkable and I look forward to her continued work to improve the lives of Tacoma's young people.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Carla Santorno for her inspiring work and incredible enthusiasm. Her unrelenting dedication to the Tacoma community serves as an example of the tremendous impact one person can have.

DANIEL PERGOLA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Pergola for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Daniel Pergola is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Pergola is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.