

Fueled by the pain of her loss and anger over what she felt was a preventable death, Jennifer's mother has spent the past seven years working as a social justice advocate and pushing the Jennifer Act, a bill named after her daughter, that would empower families to help loved ones who are struggling with addiction.

Jennifer Reynolds had been struggling with an addiction to prescription pills for over a decade before her death. Over the course of that time, Sharon Blair sought the state's help and filed five different petitions under the Marchman Act, which allows for the involuntary treatment of substance abusers for three days. Only one of the petitions was granted, and 72 hours wasn't enough time to help her daughter. According to Sharon, "Jennifer was dying in front of me."

DOMENIC & VINCENT ROSA—SEABROOK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Domenic and Vincent Rosa were the oldest of six children. They were good sons, brothers, cousins and friends. They both had big hearts and were remarkably compassionate people. They did mixed martial arts, skateboarded, cooked, played ice hockey for many years and taught skating clinics to kids who adored them. They were decent students and most importantly, they were respectful. They both began battling with substance abuse at the age of 14. They would manage to be "good" for a while—trying to manage their demons—before falling down again. Both boys eventually lost the fight.

Their family considers themselves blessed to have known Domenic and Vincent and are grateful for their short stay with them. They both gave their family the guidance to help others.

After losing his two eldest sons, Chucky Rosa vowed to make a difference through awareness and education. In an effort to reach those who are suffering from addiction or trying to help a loved one, he visits schools and treatment centers to tell his story and educate young audiences about the dangers of substance abuse. If Chucky can save at least one child by sharing his experience of loss, strength and hope, it is all worth it.

Domenic and Vincent were cremated and their family spread their ashes into the ocean. Now, Chucky wakes up each morning and takes a dip in the sea, regardless of the weather. He starts his day with both of them.

JESSICA MARY MILLER—GLENSHAW, PENNSYLVANIA

Jessica Mary Miller died at the age of 31. Jessica struggled with addiction for 15 years and was also afflicted with severe mental illness.

Jessica died at the hands of her mentally ill boyfriend. She had been in the relationship for only five months and thought she found the "love" of her life. Jessica had been doing much better than she had been in the past, and her mother was hopeful she may be ready to overcome her struggles with addiction. But like many women who battle addiction, she desired a partner who would make her feel worthy and wanted. It didn't matter what they looked like, how old they were, or what they provided financially—she just needed assurance from a romantic relationship.

One night, after Jessica's boyfriend's unemployment check came in, they got into a fight about how the money was going to be spent. Her mother only assumes this was the main argument from the phone call she got from Jessica that night. After they spoke on the phone at approximately 10 PM, the police were at Jessica's mother's door at 5 AM to tell her Jessica had been strangled and was

found outside the steps of her apartment. At first, the police told her mother that Jessica died by suicide but the boyfriend was later charged and convicted for murder by strangulation and is now serving 25 years in jail.

Jessica's mother is writing to show that not only drug overdoses are killing our children, but also the fallout of both drug use and mental instability. Not only girlfriends or spouses, but the innocent children who can't fend for themselves when their parents are so engulfed in their addiction.

It has been three years since Jessica's death and there isn't a day that goes by that her mother doesn't think of her. Many might find this strange, but her mother does not hate the person who took Jessica's life, as he is just as sick as Jessica was. They chose to be together and she knew what he was like, and chose to stay. A mentally healthy person would not put herself in that position. This was not Jessica's only bad romantic relationship, they were all bad, and her addiction drove her from one bad relationship to another.

STEVE RAUKAR: TIRELESS
ADVOCATE FOR THE NORTHLAND

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Raukar of Kelly Lake, Minnesota for his 33 years of exceptional public service. Steve will be retiring from the St. Louis County, Minnesota Board of County Commissioners this January, and having worked with Steve on many projects in the Northland I want to wish him the very best in his much deserved retirement. In every one of Steve's many roles he goes above and beyond to ensure residents of Northeastern Minnesota receive the best possible services from St. Louis County.

Steve and I have worked together on many projects across St. Louis County, from an expansion project at the Port of Duluth/Superior to Federal funding issues at the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, to the proposed Northern Lights Express Minneapolis to Duluth/Superior passenger rail line. He is a tireless advocate for his constituents and throughout his career has improved the lives of countless Minnesotans.

Steve is retiring from the St. Louis County Board of County Commissioners after serving 28 years on the board. Prior to that he served on the Hibbing school board and on the staff of then Minnesota Lt. Governor Rudy Perpich. He is no stranger to hard work and even after retirement will continue to serve on several boards of other organizations in the region.

I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing Commissioner Steve Raukar for his career of dedicated service to residents of Northeastern Minnesota.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MRS. LUPITA CORTEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of one of Laredo's most passionate educators, Lupita Cortez.

Mrs. Cortez was born in Laredo, Texas on the 16th of February in 1956 to Teresa and Vicente Gutierrez. After graduating high school in 1974, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Texas A&M—Kingsville and a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Texas A&M International University. Her passion for learning led her to dedicate her life to teaching the children of Laredo through the Laredo Independent School District, where she worked to better students' lives for over 35 years.

Mrs. Cortez's devotion to the school district led her to assume the role of principal at the elementary, middle and high school levels. She ended her career in education at Don Jose Gallego Elementary School, a school given its name to appreciate and honor the contributions of her very own grandfather. Throughout her life and career, Mrs. Cortez, was always held in high regard because of her unwavering belief in love and selflessness, as well as her steadfast leadership. Through a combination of optimism and strong will, Mrs. Cortez worked hard to bring out the best in everyone in her company. This extended to her children as well, who have gone on to excel in the fields of education, medicine and law. She held herself to the highest of standards in both her professional and personal life, and this was reflected in the way that she interacted with those around her: treating everyone with the utmost kindness and respect.

Mrs. Cortez is survived by her parents, Teresa and Vicente Gutierrez; siblings, Vicente (Gloria) Gutierrez, Jr., Teresita Gutierrez, Margie Gutierrez, Javier (Elvira) Gutierrez and Nora (Ernesto) Meza; husband, Oscar Cortez; and children, Christine Alyson Cortez, James Vincent Cortez, M.D., Leslie Ann Cortez and Oscar Cortez, Jr. Her legacy will remain strong through the seeds of hope, wisdom and endurance that she planted in those around her. The mentoring and guidance that she provided will persevere throughout the community she touched. Her passion for serving others through her love of education will not be forgotten, and her dedication to her work is a model that all should strive to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to remember the legacy of Lupita Cortez.

IN HONOR OF 100 YEARS OF ACTIVISM BY THE WOMEN'S CITY CLUB OF NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Women's City Club of New York (WCCNY) in recognition of a century of activism. Committed to giving women a voice, WCCNY has been a leading advocate for women's rights and equality.

In 1915, women in New York still could not vote, but they took their citizenship very seriously. After realizing that they would soon gain the ballot, 100 suffragettes gathered in New York City to found WCCNY as a place where they could learn about issues and influence public policy. These women wasted no time in tackling the complex problems of their day,