

Don Sykes was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1936, the second of eight children born to Rose Bolden and father Chester Sykes who died when Donald was three years old. He lived in Chicago public housing while growing up, but said he never felt impoverished. Donald graduated from Wendell Phillips High School, and later taught at Phillips High School, while his younger siblings attended the school. He received a bachelor's degree at Northern Illinois University and later received a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

In 1968, Donald became the Executive Director of the Social Development Commission (SDC) in Milwaukee and joined the war on poverty. He led SDC for the next two decades and during his tenure, the agency grew into Milwaukee County's largest anti-poverty agency. I am proud to say that early in my career, I was employed by SDC in one of my first professional positions. In 1993, Donald was appointed to serve as the director of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Relations for President Clinton; he served in Washington, DC for the next seven years developing nationwide welfare and anti-poverty programs. In 2007, Donald returned to Milwaukee to assume leadership of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MWIB), known today as Employ Milwaukee—a public/private partnership that coordinates employment and training programs for adults and youth in Milwaukee County. He announced his retirement from MWIB in 2014, concluding a career of working on behalf of low-income people and the community as a whole. Donald was a gentleman who seldom spoke ill of anyone and who was open to considering differing viewpoints.

Donald married Geraldine Kirksey in 1960 and their union produced two sons, David and Dennis. In the 1970s, Donald and Gerri sponsored Trevor Knight, who became a beloved member of their family. He is survived by his wife Gerri, Sons David (Valerie), Dennis and Trevor (Laura); Grandchildren Travis (Susan), Ashley (Graham) and Tyler; Brothers Leonard and Clifton; Sisters Alberta and Patricia; Nieces Stephanie, Sharon, Jackie, Lisa, Sonja and Shamieka; Nephews Kenneth, Chris, Carleton; and numerous aunts, cousins, grand nieces and nephews. He leaves a strong legacy of leadership for his children and grandchildren to model.

Mr. Speaker, Don was my friend, and a valued member of Milwaukee and the 4th Congressional District. I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in a salute to the late Donald Sykes.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEBBIE  
WATROUS AND HER SERVICE TO  
NEW HAMPSHIRE HUMANITIES

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere gratitude for Debbie Watrous and her 24 remarkable years of service to New Hampshire Humanities.

Debbie's time and dedication to serve our state through this organization has been an in-

valuable contribution, and I congratulate and thank her on her tremendous work.

During her time as Executive Director over the last 13 years, Debbie helped make public programming more accessible. Her work allowed more Granite Staters to discover culture, history, and new ideas.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and all those who have benefitted from Debbie's work, I thank her for her many years of service to the Granite State. I wish her great joy and success at FoodCorps.

HONORING NATIONAL RECOVERY  
MONTH 2017

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of National Recovery Month 2017. According to the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality's 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 20.8 million individuals aged 12 or older were classified with a substance use disorder, while approximately 43.4 million Americans aged 18 or older had a diagnosed mental illness in 2015. Moreover, in 2015, more than 8.1 million U.S. adults aged 18 or older had co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. These disorders often require long-term, high-quality treatment and support services.

Now in its 27th year, National Recovery Month is coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) every September to increase awareness of the importance of behavioral health conditions and to highlight the achievements of those who have reclaimed their lives in recovery. National Recovery Month also affords Americans the opportunity to learn more about effective prevention, treatment and recovery programs designed to assist those dealing with behavioral health challenges and to celebrate the dedicated service providers who make recovery possible.

The theme for this year's commemoration of National Recovery Month is "Join the Voices for Recovery: Strengthen Families and Communities." The 2017 theme was selected in order to highlight the critical role families and communities play in supporting individuals throughout the recovery process, as well as to encourage individuals in recovery, their family members and their support networks to stay the course by reflecting upon their shared experiences, successes and achievements. I applaud this year's National Recovery Month theme for incorporating the importance of family and community resources in promoting a positive outcome.

Here in the District of Columbia, there are thousands of women and men working day in and day out on behalf of community-based organizations, nonprofit/advocacy associations, health care providers and both local and federal government agencies to support residents who are in recovery from mental and/or substance use disorders. Entities such as the D.C. Department of Behavioral Health, University Legal Services, D.C. Superior Court Men-

tal Health Community Diversion Court, the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) all offer specialized programming and services to help those confronting behavioral health challenges.

To mark this year's commemoration of National Recovery Month, CSOSA, along with other D.C. public safety partners, will sponsor a series of events, panel discussions and programs designed to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance abuse disorders throughout the District and to promote people in recovery and those working in the field of recovery. For example, on September 12, 2017, CSOSA's Reentry and Sanctions Center will host an open house to educate the public about CSOSA's treatment services, as well as to promote the ideals and theme of National Recovery Month 2017.

With over 80 percent of CSOSA's entering population self-reporting a history of substance abuse and approximately 40 percent reporting a diagnosed mental illness, CSOSA places a priority on providing quality programming and treatment services. CSOSA provides clients in need of treatment with a variety of services, including detox and short- and long-term residential and aftercare. In addition, CSOSA's Reentry and Sanctions Center provides high-risk clients with intensive assessment and pre-treatment services as well as those with co-occurring substance use and behavioral health challenges.

Mental and/or substance use disorders affect all communities. Yet, with the proper professional help, support and treatment, we know that people suffering from these disorders can achieve healthy and productive lives in recovery. The annual commemoration of National Recovery Month is designed to celebrate the gains made by these individuals and to further educate the American public on the transformative nature of substance use treatment and mental health services.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me and the millions of other American voices of recovery this September in support of National Recovery Month 2017.

NATURAL DISASTERS AND THE  
FEDERAL RESPONSE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2017*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma will both go down in history as two of the most costly and destructive hurricanes in United States history. Hurricane Harvey is thought to be the most powerful hurricane to hit Texas in more than 50 years. Countless individuals, homes, and businesses across the country have been left devastated in their wake. Initial estimates suggest that Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma will have caused between \$150 and \$200 billion in damage to property, homes, and public infrastructure.

These unprecedented storms have already set new records in severity and cost to our nation as we begin to look toward recovery. A strong and coordinated federal, state, and local response is absolutely vital in these critical moments following the storm. More than