

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF ALL THINGS
ARTISTIC MINISTRIES' COMMIT-
MENT TO ARTS EDUCATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize All Things Artistic Ministries for their annual History Alive program. Their efforts enrich the lives of Michigan students through their programming.

Established in 2009 by Dr. Debby Mitchell, All Things Artistic Ministries was founded in the hopes of creating a community of artistic Michigan residents who would like to cultivate a love for the arts and humanities in the next generation. Four years after it was created, Dr. Mitchell designated Ypsilanti, Michigan as its main outreach area for arts education and student programming. The organization puts on a variety of youth programming including an eight-week "Art in the Park" summer program, formation groups for artists and creative writing workshops. All Things Artistic Ministries engages a diverse student body and helps grow their love for the arts and creative studies.

This year marks the 5th annual History Alive: Standing on the Shoulders of Giants Program put on by All Things Artistic Ministries in conjunction with Washtenaw County schools. The program runs for 14-weeks and allows 5th to 12th grade students to write, stage, and put on a play based on the lives of two distinguished Washtenaw County residents. The students first interview the "giants" and then write a play based on their lives and accomplishments. Approximately 50 students are involved in the final stage production and participate in singing, dancing, acting, photography, sound technology and stage crafting. This year's honorees are Reverend Garther Roberson and Greg Harden, two Washtenaw County community members who represent the best of southeast Michigan. We are grateful for All Things Artistic Ministries' service to our state's youth and look forward to their continued programming in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring All Things Artistic Ministries for their creative programming for Michigan youth. Their educational initiatives inspire our next generation of leaders to dream big and think outside the box.

SAFE WALK HOME NORTHSIDE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the skies of Houston, Texas were filled with ominous clouds on May 17, 2016. The school bell rang, dismissing students from John Marshall Middle

School. Josue Flores usually would have headed home, but instead he stayed after hours, participating in a science club celebration. After all, Josue wanted to be a doctor, science was his passion. As the celebration wound down, Josue headed home, making the trek along the streets on the North side of Houston. Little did he know that it would be the last time he ever walked home. A criminal approached the young boy, stopping him in his tracks. The evil murderer proceeded to stab him over and over and over again—twenty times in all. Josue's senseless and brutal death shocked the entire community. The clouds pressed down heavier, the death of an innocent child weighing on everyone's mind. No child should be in danger by simply walking home from school.

In the weeks following Josue's death, his community took action—the senseless violence must end. Soon, the "Safe Walk Home Northside" program was organized by Stella Mireles-Walters. A group of 100 volunteers stepped forward, determined to keep our children safe. A Safe Walk Home Northside aims for every resident or person in the area to keep an eye out for the children as they walk to and from school. It is because of their dedication and effort, that parents, local store employees, and many others have started to assist in guarding the streets during school hours. As a former judge in Houston, I have always been impressed the way neighbors take care of neighbors in Houston. The Safe Walk Home program has already begun making an impact and changes are evident in the community. Recently, Houstonian Cecilia Ruiz, helped law enforcement stop a kidnapper, intent on kidnapping a young teenage girl. Ruiz witnessed the young girl being forced into a vehicle as she walked down the sidewalk to school. A mother herself, Ruiz's instincts kicked in. She sprang into action: Ruiz and her daughter didn't just call 911, they stopped the perpetrator, bringing the young girl safe into their arms.

Mr. Speaker, any good southerner knows that one of the biggest mistakes you can make is to underestimate a Texas woman. But apparently, the dastardly criminal hadn't quite learned his lesson yet. As the villain fled the scene of the crime, the mother-daughter duo made chase, tracking the vehicle through a high-speed pursuit and recording the license plates. It wasn't until the vehicle fell into a ditch and the police arrived, that she felt her good Samaritan duties were fulfilled. I repeat Mr. Speaker, never underestimate a Texas woman.

Today, there is one less missing person's face haunting the dreams of Houston Police Department's finest, all because Cecilia Ruiz took action; one more perpetrator behind bars. Programs like a Safe Walk Home Northside are building our communities and ensuring that stories like Josue Flores never happen again.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF COLONEL DAVID J.
PINTER, SR.

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of Colonel David J. Pinter, Sr. whose tenure as Garrison Commander at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, concludes May 19, 2018. Colonel Pinter assumed duties as Garrison Commander at Fort McCoy on March 11, 2016.

Colonel Pinter's 29 years of dedicated service in the U.S. Army is noteworthy in every respect. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa; a master's degree in Business and Policy Studies from Empire State College, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; and a master's degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College, Washington, D.C. His military education includes the Combined Arms and Service Staff School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the National War College.

Colonel Pinter received his Army commission in 1989 from the University of Iowa Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He entered active duty and attended the Army Aviation School for flight training and then was assigned as a Platoon Leader with the 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment in Korea. He next served with the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., as a Platoon Leader and Battalion Flight Operations Officer. He then was assigned as Aviation Company Commander and 12th Aviation Brigade Operations Planner with support to V Corps in Germany. Pinter returned to the 10th Mountain Division and began training for certification in the Army Acquisition Corps. He deployed to Kosovo in support of the Joint Contracting Cell and continued his Acquisition career as an Aviation Material Development Branch Chief with the Aviation Combat Development Directorate. His follow-on assignment was as the Project Manager and Operations Officer to the Soldier, Biological, Chemical Command, and he then worked with the Office of the Surgeon General to field Chem-bio Protective Systems to Combat Support Hospitals and Forward Surgical Teams in the Iraq theater prior to and during the onset of the war.

Colonel Pinter entered the Active Guard Reserve program in 2003 with duty at the University of Iowa as the Senior Assistant Military Professor. He then served as the Logistics Officer with the newly formed 11th Aviation Command leading efforts to establish logistical support for the Army Reserve Aviation Operations of 17 units in 14 states, followed by Aviation Battalion Command in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Then, he served as a force management staff member in the Office of the Chief of the Army Reserve, as well as in the Office of the Assistants to the Chairman of the

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