

Due to an enormous increase in the costs of operation, the Boys Home was discontinued in 1973. Its assets were sold, and the proceeds formed the endowment fund known as the Lark Ellen Lions Charities. From that time until now, Lark Ellen has approved donations of approximately \$1.5 million for the benefit of inner-city youth.

After many decades of meeting in the Biltmore Hotel, the Los Angeles Host Lions Club currently meets at Taix Restaurant in the Echo Park community, just north of downtown Los Angeles, where it now concentrates its service activities.

Today, the Los Angeles Host Lions Club participates in many projects, including:

Providing volunteers at health fairs to work the Lions Mobile Health Screening Unit, an RV vehicle outfitted so an eye professional can screen low-income patients for visual acuity and possible eye diseases such as glaucoma.

Sponsoring two Leo Clubs, teenage leadership development programs in conjunction with inner-city youth centers: The Salvation Army Red Shield Youth Center and El Centro del Pueblo in Echo Park. The sponsorship includes funding for travel and lodging for the Leos to attend regional leadership forums and other events.

Conducting community needs assessments to learn how the club can do the most good and serve more people.

Distributing food baskets/bags to families with children in inner-city schools.

Supporting district and multi-district projects such as Lions Camp at Teresita Pines, the Student Speakers Contest, Lions in Sight, and Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

Participating in the celebration and recognition of Flag Day by distributing American flags with patriotic presentations at local elementary schools.

Sponsoring inner-city youth as participants in the California Youth Exchange Program, which provides them an opportunity to spend six weeks with participating Lion families in Japan and Europe. In exchange, the club hosts teenagers coming from other Lions clubs from Europe or Japan.

Helping to decorate the Lions float appearing in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade.

Participating with community partners on projects that focus on the environment.

The Los Angeles Host Lions Club has had a great 100-year tradition. The vitality of its members and their commitment to service assures us all that the motto of Lions, "We Serve," will be upheld for many years to come. On Saturday, September 29, 2018, the L.A. Host Club will hold its Centennial Gala Celebration at the Crowne Plaza Hotel-Los Angeles in Commerce. More than 300 Lions and friends from throughout California will attend to commemorate this significant milestone.

Mr. Speaker, Congressmembers WATERS, NAPOLITANO, SCHIFF, CHU, BASS, GOMEZ, and I ask our colleagues to please join us in celebrating the Los Angeles Host Lions Club's 100th anniversary. We also thank the Lions for their service, and for improving the quality of life of those they have worked with and helped.

CONGRATULATING THE ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY'S 2018 DISTINGUISHED HUMANITARIAN AWARD HONOREE, MS. ANNIE SIMONIAN TOTAH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Armenian Assembly's 2018 Distinguished Humanitarian Award honoree, Ms. Annie Simonian Totah.

For over forty years, Ms. Totah has been a leading defender of human rights and a vocal advocate of Armenia, Artsakh and the Armenian-American community. Ms. Totah was the first woman to serve as Chair of the Armenian Assembly of America and she remains an effective spokesperson for Armenian issues on Capitol Hill. Her life as a community leader and activist has truly been a journey of dedication.

I have known Annie throughout my entire congressional career and I can say without hesitation that Annie's passion, dedication and commitment to Armenia and Artsakh is unparalleled. Since the demise of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, Annie has worked tirelessly with Members of Congress to help secure billions of dollars in assistance to Armenia. Her contributions with the Armenian Assembly have included efforts that saw the enactment of several pieces of legislation and Missions to Armenia that have raised awareness and understanding of key issues.

Ms. Totah helped mobilize relief efforts to provide temporary shelters for the homeless victims of the 1988 earthquake in Armenia, and collaborated with the Marshall Legacy Institute to help launch the "Mine Detection Dog-Partnership" program in Armenia. Annie was also involved early on in the creation of the U.S.-Armenia Task Force for Economic Cooperation, and continues to encourage trade and investment between the two countries.

Ms. Totah is the recipient of many honors and awards, including: The Ellis Island Medal of Honor; Medal of Appreciation by the President of Artsakh; and the Encyclical of Gratitude and Appreciation by His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Annie Totah and the Armenian Assembly on this occasion and for its powerful voice and professionalism that has truly made a difference.

TRIBUTE TO LUKE GWARTNEY AND THE JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FALLEN OFFICERS MEMORIAL

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a young man in the Third District of Kansas for his hard work to ensure law enforcement officers who have given the ultimate sacrifice to protect our communities and uphold the law are not forgotten.

Earlier this month—on the anniversary of 9/11, I met 16-year-old Luke Gwartney, an Eagle Scout from Olathe West High School, at the dedication for the Johnson County Sheriff's Office Fallen Officers Memorial.

I was inspired by Luke's story and hard work to create the Fallen Officers Memorial that brought us all together that day.

Luke worked tirelessly for months to find volunteers, get supplies, and receive donations to make this memorial a reality. In the end, he raised \$8,000 and was able to construct the memorial, which honors three exemplary police officers in our community who lost their lives in the line of duty over the last few years: Master Deputy Brandon Collins, Sgt. Willard Carver, and Det. Gerald Foote.

This memorial reminds us of the service and sacrifice of our law enforcement officers and continues to honor them with the gratitude and respect they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, join me in thanking Luke for adding this wonderful contribution to our community.

CELEBRATING DR. WADE MCLEOD

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to celebrate Dr. Wade McLeod's forty-five years of incredible service to the Round Rock community. Dr. McLeod's life and career reflect hard work, activism, and dedication to what's best for Central Texas.

As one of four veterinarians in his family, it could be said that Dr. McLeod's passion for veterinary medicine is in his blood. Raised on a West Texas ranch near Sweetwater, he graduated from the Texas A&M University veterinary program in 1969 and opened Round Rock's first veterinary clinic in 1973. In no time, his practice became one of the most beloved animal clinics in the city.

While Round Rock has grown over the years, Dr. McLeod has nurtured a small-town feel at the clinic. His practice focuses on small pets and he employs tried-and-true business practices to keep costs to a minimum that translate into savings for his patients. Dr. McLeod's business acumen, work ethic, and commitment to putting customers first speak to the common-sense values that Texans hold dear.

This small business leader is also an activist who responds to those in need. Over the years, Dr. McLeod has worked with patients who could not afford medical care for their pets and provided treatment for injured strays. He donated half of his clinic space to volunteers who cared for stray animals before there was a shelter in the area. Through his selfless devotion to others, Dr. McLeod has impacted countless families and is a beloved pillar of the Round Rock community.

Retirement is meant to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. I thank Dr. Wade McLeod for his service and dedication to his community. I proudly join his family, friends, and colleagues in wishing nothing but the best for his richly-deserved retirement.