

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND TROY PERRY

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2018*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Troy D. Perry of Los Angeles, California, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) which this year celebrates its 50th Anniversary. Today, we celebrate his commitment to MCC and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Community.

Rev. Troy Perry has been a force and pioneer for LGBTQ human rights, advocating for legal, spiritual, and social equality. As the founder of the Metropolitan Community Church in 1968, he created the first church designed to minister to the needs of its LGBTQ members. What began as a small gathering in his apartment, blossomed into the flourishing organization of the MCC with churches across the country. The MCC created a safe space for members of the LGBTQ community to congregate.

Along with establishing the MCC, Rev. Perry was one of the founders of the first gay pride event in Los Angeles in 1970. With the goal of commemorating the Stonewall uprising of 1969, he collaborated with other community leaders to create Christopher Street West, the organization that held its first gay pride parade on June 28, 1970. Because of his visionary and inspiring actions, LA PRIDE continues today under the auspices of Christopher Street West. Rev. Perry continued his advocacy for gender and sexual equity and became the first openly gay person to serve on the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations in 1973. In recognition of his vital work for LGBTQ rights, Rev. Perry was invited to the White House by President Jimmy Carter to discuss his civil rights work. Rev. Perry continued his advocacy on the national stage, being appointed as an official delegate to the White House Conference on Hate Crimes and the White House Conference on AIDS by President Bill Clinton.

Rev. Troy Perry has been honored by many esteemed institutions over the years for his work on behalf of the LGBTQ community. Rev. Perry received the Humanitarian Award from the American Civil Liberties Union, Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter and has been honored by the Gay Press Association for his advocacy and work establishing progressive and inclusive communities of faith.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Reverend Troy Perry, a paramount voice for peace, tolerance, and understanding for his lifetime of outstanding service to the LGBTQ community and to our nation.

### HONORING NATHAN DAVIS AND CHILDREN'S CARDIOMYOPATHY AWARENESS MONTH

#### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2018*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Nathan Davis of Norman, Oklahoma, and in support of Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month.

As an infant, Nathan had a virus which caused his heart to develop dilated cardiomyopathy, a life-long and degenerative heart disease that thins the heart muscle. The heart virus also caused Nathan to have a seizure that lasted three days. He survived against the odds but was left with long-term effects of cardiomyopathy and his seizures. Nathan grew up in a town that focused heavily on sports but was never able to play. His seizures caused short-term memory loss, exacerbated by his daily heart medications. These life challenges have also caused Nathan to suffer from mental health illnesses. His daily prayer is that with increased awareness and funding for cardiomyopathy that eventually a cure can be found.

September is Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness month, which helps to raise the profile and spread information about cardiomyopathy and the effects it can have on children and their families. As in the case of Nathan, cardiomyopathy can lead to life-long difficulties, or, tragically, death. It is a leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest, particularly among young people, and is the leading cause of heart transplants for children over one year of age. Because symptoms are not always obvious, cardiomyopathy can easily remain undetected, with often fatal consequences. The mortality rate for pediatric cardiomyopathy exceeds that of all childhood cancers combined, and yet there is a shocking lack of both awareness and research on this terrible disease.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Nathan Davis and his fight to raise awareness for cardiomyopathy.

### RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL RICE MONTH

#### HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2018*

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the numerous rice farming-families and industry stake-holders across Mississippi and the five other major rice growing states. The month of September does not only mark the beginning of harvest season across the hundreds of rice farms in my home state, but it also marks National Rice Month. We recog-

nize the American families and over 125,000 individuals that grow, harvest, mill, and process this important crop.

In my home state of Mississippi, 2,194 jobs are supported by these farmers, generating \$110.9 million in total labor income. The rice production system, from start to finish, contributes more than \$302 million to the state's economic output.

Rice production in America has grown tremendously over its 300-year history; almost 85 percent of the rice consumed by Americans is produced across these six states, and I am proud Mississippi is among them. In Mississippi, rice farmers on average harvest over 150,000 acres, producing more than 1.25 billion pounds of rice each year.

Along with feeding American families and exporting their crop to 120 countries, rice farmers are conservationists and stewards of the land. While increasing their yields by over 50 percent, American rice farmers have significantly reduced their energy, land, and water use over the last 20 years. By using 35 percent less land and 53 percent less water, rice farmers have cut costs, increased productivity, and created a more sustainable future for our American farmlands.

We take the time during the month of September to thank those farmers, millers, and merchants, and the lives that they impact; both as job creators, and as a group that feeds our families across the country and around the world.

### CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S CARDIOMYOPATHY AWARENESS MONTH

#### HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2018*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month, and events such as AED Hunt on the Hill which raise awareness on the lifesaving value of AEDs.

According to the American Red Cross Organization, improved training and access to AEDs could save as many as 50,000 lives each year, and all Americans should be within 4 minutes of an AED and someone trained to use it. With an average response time of 8–12 minutes for first responders once 911 is called, it's a responsibility for all of us to prepare to help in the event of a cardiac emergency. Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S. and for each minute defibrillation is delayed, the chance of survival is reduced by approximately 10 percent.

As a doctor, I've seen the value of accessible AEDs firsthand. Several years ago in 2011, I was grabbing coffee on a layover in Charlotte Douglas International Airport on the way to Washington, D.C. when I heard someone call out for a doctor. At that point, an individual had collapsed to the ground and was

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