

RECOGNIZING CHILDREN'S CARDIOMYOPATHY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, Risk Assessment and Training in the Schools (HEARTS) Act and in recognition of Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month.

Cardiomyopathy affects both children and adults and is a chronic and potentially life-threatening heart condition that affects how the heart pumps blood through the body. The disease presents differently in individuals, and it can be difficult to detect when there are no apparent symptoms. For those not diagnosed, the consequences can be devastating. Research has shown that cardiomyopathy is a leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest.

All too often, we hear of an adult or child collapsing unexpectedly due to an undiagnosed heart condition. The Cardiomyopathy HEARTS Act will help educate affected individuals and their families, as well as school and health professionals about cardiomyopathy and encourage families to evaluate their family's cardiac history, check for cardiomyopathy symptoms, and seek medical screening if necessary.

Despite the severity of the cardiomyopathy, little is known about the prevalence, causes, and reasons for its variability. The Cardiomyopathy HEARTS Act also addresses this by requesting the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to evaluate current research initiatives on cardiomyopathy and direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to collect and analyze national data to identify the impact, prevalence, and natural history of cardiomyopathy.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and helping the many families and children who are touched by this under-recognized condition.

And now is a great time to show our support. September is Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness, to help raise the profile and spread information about this terrible disease. By encouraging individuals to know one's family's history and heart health, and discussing it with their doctor, can help determine whether one's child is at risk.

The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, based in my home state of New Jersey, is the leading nonprofit in providing resources and support to families and children struggling with this terrible disease. They also work to raise awareness, along with their grassroots network of families and advocate for research and policies to help those suffering from pediatric cardiomyopathy.

It is my pleasure to help raise awareness for the Foundation and for pediatric cardiomyopathy.

MARKING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the College of Southern Maryland on its sixtieth anniversary. I join in thanking President Maureen Murphy, faculty, staff, students, and alumni on this milestone. Recognized by the 2019 Aspen Prize as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation, the College of Southern Maryland provides thousands of students with pathways to successful careers.

Founded as the Charles County Community College in 1958, its first classes met in the evenings at La Plata High School. A decade later, the College's La Plata campus opened its doors, and branches were launched to serve St. Mary's and Calvert Counties in the years that followed. Its name change to the College of Southern Maryland in 2000 reflected a growing regional institution of higher learning. Now, as it begins its seventh decade serving the community, the College provides a broad range of associate degrees, certifications, skills training courses, and wellness programs.

Always adapting to meet the educational challenges of its day, the College continues to adopt new technologies to further its mission. It now offers twelve fully online degree programs and is committed to continued innovation in the design and implementation of curricula. The College has stayed true to its foundational principles of diversity, affordability, accessibility, and forging innovative partnerships that benefit students. More than sixty academic institutions have partnered with the College of Southern Maryland to offer guaranteed transfer admission to its graduates who complete their associate's degrees and meet other criteria.

I've been proud over the years to support the work of the College of Southern Maryland, including by securing \$497,000 for its Nursing and Allied Health Care Training and Technology program in 2008 and \$468,000 for its STEM Workforce Initiative in 2009. I was happy to be on hand when the clinical nursing lab was opened in 2010 as well as to help facilitate a U.S. Department of Labor grant of \$1.5 million in 2012 for the College's program to teach juvenile offenders in-demand job skills for success in the workforce after their release. For the past six decades, the College has lived up to its vision of "transforming lives through lifelong learning and service", and I look forward to working with President Murphy and the entire College of Southern Maryland community to ensure that it can continue to do so.

RECOGNIZING THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF LANCE AND KARLA MORRELL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lance and Karla Morrell on the occa-

sion of their Golden Anniversary. I have had the great pleasure of personally knowing Lance and Karla for many years and consider them not only neighbors but wonderful friends. I can personally attest to their dedication to their family and community.

Lance Morrell and Karla Jane Brownmiller met as students at the University of Richmond. While attending the University of Richmond, Karla was Phi Beta Kappa and Lance was the senior class president. They married in Arlington, VA in 1968 and began their life journey together.

Lance served honorably in the United States Army and Army Reserves for more than 20 years, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. After his discharge he worked for 22 years with the World Bank where he managed projects to reduce poverty, provide clean water, and strengthen democratic governance in Southeast Asia and Africa. Lance spent years toiling in some of the poorest parts of Africa to help those most in need of assistance and Karla often travelled with him. He then founded FEI Consulting which allowed him to continue his efforts to improve living standards in the developing world.

Karla focused her attention on the family, especially their three sons. She and Lance have always been very involved in their children's education and activities. She was an active member of countless PTA's and volunteered at the snack bar at school sporting events for more than 15 years. Now, as a grandmother of five, most of her days are spent watching at least one of her grandchildren—a job that Karla adores.

Lance and Karla moved to Mantua in 1977 and immediately plunged themselves into local community activities. In fact, Karla and I served together on the Mantua Citizens Association for a number of years.

She was an irreplaceable ally during the period following a massive underground oil spill from a nearby tank farm into the neighborhood. Karla and I, along with many of our neighbors, coordinated efforts between the community, local, state, and federal agencies, and the tank farm owners. Our efforts ensured that the clean-up was done effectively, that the tank farm owners made necessary safety improvements and that they were held responsible for the damage done.

I had the great pleasure of working with Lance and Karla, along with other Northern Virginia neighbors, in the founding of the Cradle of Love Foundation. This Foundation, which operated from 2004 to 2008, was established to help provide financial support for an orphanage in the Philippines.

I often encourage people to "bloom where you are planted." This phrase, attributed to the Bishop of Geneva, Saint Francis de Sales, can mean different things to different people. To me it means that you should get involved in your community and take advantage of the opportunities to contribute that surround you. Whether it is volunteering, entering public service, coaching a youth sports team, or planting a tree, each of us has the ability and the responsibility to get involved. Lance and Karla Morrell are living examples of this philosophy in action.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lance and Karla Morrell on their 50th wedding anniversary and in thanking them for their many efforts to improve our community and the lives of others. I wish