

Dr. Merthie struggled with substance abuse for a period of time. But he found strength and redemption through faith, overcoming personal hardship, serving as a role model to others, and becoming a pillar of his community.

Dr. Merthie's life was filled with action and achievement. He established the New Life Word Center Church, offered spiritual guidance on a weekly broadcast, and empowered the next generation by founding a K-through-12 school.

It was Dr. King who said that "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

Dr. Merthie devoted his life to serving others. He lead a good life in the most meaningful sense of the term. He will be deeply missed.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional man and offering our condolences to his family and all those whose lives he touched.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VA MEDICINAL CANNABIS RESEARCH ACT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I have met with multiple veterans in my congressional district who attest to the therapeutic benefits of medical cannabis in managing their pain.

According to the American Legion, a significant number of veterans across the country—not just in my district—are currently using medical cannabis as an alternative treatment. With so many veterans using cannabis for therapeutic purposes, it is important that physicians have the information and research necessary to fully advise on the potential impacts of medical cannabis usage on post-traumatic stress and chronic pain. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is uniquely positioned to pursue that vital research.

To that end, I am introducing the bipartisan VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act, which requires VA to conduct clinical research on the safety and effectiveness of medical cannabis, in varying forms and delivery methods, for treating veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and veterans with chronic pain. The legislation requires VA to submit annual reports to Congress on the implementation of this bill for five years. The VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act is a pragmatic and sensible approach to the need for additional research and could potentially save veterans' lives.

CONGRATULATING MR. JOHN ELLIOTT

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Elliott on retiring from his position as Vice President and Senior Trust Officer of 1st Source Bank in Warsaw, Indiana. For nearly fifty years, John has served the northeast Indiana community with

distinction as an engaged citizen, cherished friend, and valued trust officer.

John graduated with a business degree from The Ohio State University in 1966, and immediately began his storied career as a trust officer at First National Bank of Warsaw. To further his education, John enrolled at the ABA Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin, as well as the National Graduate Trust School at Northwestern University. John also spent countless hours consuming information at the Warsaw Public Library, with the ultimate goal of providing the best customer service possible.

Using his foundation in academia, John Elliott devoted himself to his clients, ensuring they made sound decisions that would provide future financial security. John built a reputation for honesty, integrity and service. He was known as someone who could be counted on, day or night, to provide exceptional support. When First National Bank was purchased by National City Bank, John partnered with Steve Wessell to open a 1st Source Personal Trust Office where he continued to serve clients with honesty and integrity.

John has held numerous board positions and is a longtime member of the Warsaw Educational Foundation, Right to Life Advisory Board, and the Warsaw Plan Commission. In 2008, John Elliott was awarded the Earnestine M. Raclin Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Warsaw/Kosciusko County Man of the Year for his service to the community. In 2018, he was awarded Optimist of the Year by the Warsaw Optimist Club.

I wish John, his wife Elaine, and their family all the best in this new chapter of life. Warsaw, Indiana thanks him for over 50 years of dedication and service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENDING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS ACT OF 2019

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act of 2019.

This bill would prohibit any educational institution from receiving federal funding that allows school personnel to inflict corporal punishment on students and creates grants to encourage improvements in schools, which promote positive behaviors.

Madam Speaker, corporal punishment is a form of physical punishment where someone deliberately inflicts pain on another individual in order to punish them. In schools, it includes the spanking or paddling of children by school officials.

Although corporal punishment in schools has certainly been part of this country's history, it has been a blemish on that history and must end immediately. In addition to the fact that there is no conclusive evidence that corporal punishment mollifies disruptive behavior, it is disproportionately used against African American students and children with disabilities. These punishments can result in physical as well as emotional harm to children.

Schools must be a safe place where students are protected from harm, so that they

are able to thrive, grow, and learn. Sadly, 19 states still allow corporal punishments in school. Last year, more than 100,000 students were physically punished by being hit, slapped, and spanked. This is completely unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, schools must be a safe space for our children to learn. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critically important bill, and hope to see its swift passage very soon.

CONGRATULATING GREG POHLMAN ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greg Pohlman, who is being inducted into the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Mr. Pohlman served Carrollton Community High School for 40 years as a coach, teacher and athletic director.

Mr. Pohlman retired from his post as the baseball coach at Carrollton in 2016 after a long, successful career where he tallied up over 500 career wins. Under his leadership, the Carrollton Hawks went on to win the 2011 Illinois High School Association Class 1A State Championship following a 31 win season. This championship season gave Mr. Pohlman the record for most wins in a single season and is an outstanding coaching achievement. Mr. Pohlman's accomplishments demonstrate not only his extensive knowledge of the game, but also his commitment to the students he coached. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Pohlman rightfully earned a reputation of being a great role model to young student athletes and someone who truly gave his all to allow students to compete and learn to the best of their abilities. However, his impact went beyond the sports he coached—throughout all of his years as a teacher and coach, he tried to instill in his students and athletes the importance of being productive members of our society. Mr. Pohlman is an exceptional leader in our community and it is fitting that his years of service are being recognized in this way.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Greg Pohlman that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Greg Pohlman on his well-earned induction into the Baseball Coaches' Hall of Fame and thank him for all of his service to the community.

HONORING GLEN WOOD

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of Glen Wood, a founder of the legendary Wood Brothers