

JESSIE MARTINEZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessie Martinez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jessie Martinez is a student at Jefferson Jr/Sr. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessie Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jessie Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2019**

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Outpatient Mental Health Care Act of 2019.

Medicare Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHPs) provide a structured and clinically intensive alternative to hospitalization for patients who otherwise might require sustained inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. PHP psychiatric patients typically receive four to six hours of treatment per day, five to six days a week in hospital-based settings and community mental health centers. However, the severity of a patient's illness often prevents that individual from obtaining or seeking transportation to a PHP facility, or from accessing high quality food. Additionally, some psychiatric medications that are prescribed to the patient cannot be safely administered without food.

Currently, Medicare does not cover the costs of nutritional planning, meals or transportation for patients who receive psychiatric treatment in PHP programs. Therefore, PHP facilities are responsible for the cost of providing food and transportation. This exacerbates financial burdens that many PHPs and countless other community organizations are experiencing in these difficult economic times.

Medicare also does not provide for vocational counseling. However, this counseling provides a direction for patients that they might not find on their own. Therefore, vocational counseling is vital for individuals while they work through their treatment allowing them to set employment goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

Madam Speaker, my bill will require Medicare to reimburse PHPs for providing transpor-

tation, food, nutritional services and vocational counseling. The bill also establishes a Behavioral Health Advisory Committee in which a diverse group of behavioral health stakeholders would examine and provide recommendations on how to address the persisting challenges of access, stigma, quality and operability in the mental health delivery system.

PHPs are a cost effective alternative that can prevent mentally ill individuals from facing expensive inpatient care, incarceration, or institutionalization. The growing role of mental health PHPs in our health care system requires that we amend the law to assist PHPs in delivering the services, care and support to those who are living with severe and chronic mental illness.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

**HONORING GARY ROGERS, THE 2019 FAYETTEVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER**

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Gary Rogers for receiving the 2019 Ambassador of the Year award from the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

Gary is a Senior Marketing Consultant with the Beasley Media Group that represents many of our local radio stations. He has an esteemed passion for radio and an unmatched drive that makes him a sound resource for our community.

This prestigious honor is not the first for Gary. He was included in the Fayetteville 40 Under 40 Class of 2018, Ambassador of the Year in 2016, and was the recipient of the Chairman's Award in 2017. He continues to serve his community by investing and volunteering with non-profit organizations such as the Media Team and Children's Ministry at Breezewood Church.

While he is dedicated to his career and service in the community, it is clear his real passion is his marriage to his wife and being a father to his three year old, Charlie. In his efforts to set a wonderful example for his son, he serves as an ambassador with the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce and has been for the last four years.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Gary Rogers on receiving the 2019 Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year award.

JEMIMA NGOMA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jemima Ngoma for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jemima Ngoma is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jemima Ngoma is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jemima Ngoma for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**RECOGNIZING KRISTINE PETERSEN IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Kristine Petersen, whose long-term service in law enforcement has had a significant impact on Southern Florida.

Over thirty years ago, Kristine, a single parent, moved to Hendry County and worked as a waitress and secretary. In 1986, she began her career in law enforcement as a dispatcher with the Hendry County Sheriff's Department. After successfully completing the Southwest Florida Criminal Justice Academy, Kristine was appointed as a Sheriff's Deputy for Hendry County, making her the second female to do so. Through this role, Kristine helped build Hendry County's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program, an important initiative that teaches middle schoolers the danger of substance abuse. During this time, she dedicated her evenings to working as an instructor with the Criminal Justice Academy for the Lee County School Board. Her passion for community service is of the highest caliber, and her selfless character is truly demonstrated in her work for public safety.

In 1998, Kristine began working as a detective for the City of Clewiston's Police Department. In 2003, she became the Assistant Police Chief where she served in this role until 2012. Her honorable work ethic and determination has extended beyond law enforcement. Kristine was appointed to Clewiston's City Commission where she won consecutive four year terms in 2014 and 2018. She also served as Vice Mayor from December of 2014 to December of 2016. Currently, Kristine is employed by the Hendry County School Board to serve as Clewiston High School's Public Safety Academy Teacher. In addition to this role, Kristine also participates in the City of Clewiston's Chamber of Commerce Board.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to know Ms. Petersen and it is a privilege to acknowledge the dedicated work she has done for Hendry County. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.