

ACS is more than sufficient to determine citizenship statistics within the U.S. We must ensure that all individuals are counted in the decennial census, thereby providing accurate allocation of federal funds and representation in Congress, not reduce participation by already undercounted minorities because they fear answering questions that are already addressed elsewhere.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING KEVIN TURPIN FOR RECEIVING THE TIDEWATER CHAPTER HUMANITARIAN AWARD

**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Kevin Turpin on receiving the 2019 Humanitarian Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Kevin's lifetime of service and commitment to the promotion of respect among people of diverse backgrounds. As Executive Director of the Life Enrichment Center, he serves the local community by providing tutors for children struggling in school or at home. He has gathered over 250 volunteers to serve the children, and the ministry continues to expand. The positive impact will be seen for many generations.

Kevin's dedication to strengthening bonds among people of different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize his leadership and the role he plays in making our community a better place. The Tidewater Region has significantly benefited from his presence.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of The American Legion, the nation's largest wartime veterans' service organization.

Through the years, The American Legion has evolved from a group of World War I veterans into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Today, membership stands at over two million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines.

The Legion is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization, with a strong grassroots involvement in politics and the legislative process. The Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation, and vol-

unteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.

The Legion stands behind the issues most important to our nation's veterans, backed by resolutions passed by volunteer leadership. Legionnaires' sense of obligation to their community, state, and nation drives their advocacy for veterans and their needs.

On March 15, 1919, members of the American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris for the first American Legion caucus. Congress chartered the group that September. That November, delegates to The American Legion's first National Convention established the Legion's values of service to community, state, and nation. Those values would form the Legion's four pillars upon which this great organization of men and women still stands: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

These pillars remain in place to support veterans, national security, patriotism, and the children and youth of America, the future of our great nation. Based on these pillars, the Legion has built programs with an unparalleled impact on American society during its first century of service.

The Legion has influenced considerable social change in America and won substantial victories for veterans, advocating for the establishment of the Veterans Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the G.I. Bill. The G.I. Bill helped make higher education, home ownership, and future employment possible for veterans; it also provided an opportunity for veterans to dispute the characterization of military discharge, which had been at the discretion of the commanding officer without an explanation. Eventually, this policy led to the founding of the Board of Veterans Appeals.

For decades, the Legion also fought to strengthen the nation through a non-mandatory "Universal Military Training" so our country would be prepared in the event of war. Out of this belief came the Reserve Forces Act of 1955, which launched the modern Reserve component of our military, as well as the National Guard.

The Legion has also produced or supported many important programs for children and youth. Some of these are well-known to many Americans, including American Legion Baseball, one of the nation's most successful amateur athletic programs; Boys I Girls State and Girls I Boys Nation; the National Oratorical Contest; The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation; the Boy Scouts; and scholarships. Around the country, the Legion has also sponsored the Junior ROTC, youth law enforcement academies, and a Junior Shooting Sports program.

Since 1989, victims of disasters have received tens of millions of dollars from the Legion's National Emergency Fund. The Legion has also funded research to help veterans who have suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, Gulf War Illness, burn pits, and other service-connected problems and diseases. In the 1980s, the Legion partnered with Columbia University to prove Agent Orange killed thousands of Vietnam War veterans, made many more sick, and caused birth defects among their children. Eventually, the Legion sued the federal government so that affected

veterans and their families could get the necessary care they needed and were owed.

These are just some of the accomplishments and programs The American Legion provides for our veterans and youth. Our country would not be as strong as we are today without the Legion's advocacy, services, and compassion for its fellow Americans during times of war and times of peace.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking The American Legion for its 100 years of exemplary leadership, dedicated service, and outstanding commitment to ensuring our country remains strong for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING APRYLE CRISWELL JACKSON

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Apryle Criswell Jackson, an educator for the School District of Osceola County, Florida. Apryle graduated Cum Laude from California University of Pennsylvania with a double major. She was one of a very few women in the 1970s to participate in the coaching certification program there.

Apryle has taught for 39 years. She started in the Elizabeth Forward School District in Pennsylvania and has spent the last 36 years in Osceola County. She has always taught "at risk students" in grades kindergarten through Adult Ed.

Apryle has always been an advocate for children. She has donated her time to various athletic programs in Osceola County. Apryle was one of the first coaches when Buenaventura Lakes started their Little League program. She has served on the board of directors for numerous organizations throughout Osceola County. She is a First-Class Girl Scout and recognized the need for a program in Osceola County. Apryle worked diligently to start the Friendship Service Unit for Girl Scouts. She is also an advocate for children with disabilities in the county. She encouraged the music director at Harmony High School to start a music program for special needs students this school year.

Apryle has been active in the Osceola County Education Association for over 35 years. She has been president for the last eight years fighting for better working conditions of all educators in Osceola County. Under her leadership, OCEA has held numerous events for children. They recently distributed over 10,000 books to students. In 2017, following the tragedy of Hurricane Maria, Apryle worked with local agencies to host an event where evacuee students, and their families from Puerto Rico, could get the assistance they needed and distributed books to all children in Spanish and English. Under her leadership OCEA has developed numerous programs to support children in our community.

Apryle's dedication to serving those in our community is an inspiration to all. Apryle Criswell Jackson, for that we honor you.