

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Americans affected by Sarcoidosis and other related inflammatory diseases to observe April as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.

Sarcoidosis can affect any part of the body and cause serious disabilities by forcing one's vital organs and central nervous system to become hyperactive. While this rare and devastating disease annually affects over 200,000 people throughout all demographics, there are significant racial, gender, and age-related differences, as it disproportionately impacts African-Americans, women, and individuals between the ages of 20 and 40.

Although research suggests the cause of Sarcoidosis is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression of the disease are still unknown. The unique nature of Sarcoidosis makes it an enigma in the realm of medical science, and despite increasing advances in research, it remains difficult to diagnose with limited treatment options and no known cure. Over the years, several of my colleagues and I have spoken on the House and Senate floors about this fatal disease. During the 103rd session of Congress, I introduced H.J. Res. 399, a House Joint Resolution designating Monday, August 29, 1994, as "National Sarcoidosis Awareness Day" while also urging my colleagues in Congress to support extensive research to find a suitable cure and treatment method for individuals with Sarcoidosis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing April as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month by acknowledging the need for more efficient research into the causes, diagnostics, and potential treatment options for Sarcoidosis. I am pleased to have the chance to bring a relatively unknown disease to light and to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with this life-threatening ailment.

HIGHLIGHTING THE VALUE AND
IMPORTANCE OF INTER-
NATIONAL STUDENTS

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the value and importance of international students in the United States. I am fortunate enough to represent numerous colleges and universities in my district. I have a deep appreciation for the important role these institutions play in providing opportunities for students around the globe.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the largest university in my district, enrolls over 10,577 international students from 116 different countries. Illinois State University boasts 502 students from 73 countries and

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has 368 international students from 24 countries—all of these numbers represent an increase in last year's numbers for each university.

I am proud to represent institutions like these that welcome the world's brightest learners. I believe that today's students become tomorrow's leaders. The former presidents of both Ecuador and the Philippines earned doctorate degrees from universities in my district, and I know that presidents and prime ministers all over the world have earned their college degrees right here in the United States.

Welcoming international students and scholars strengthens our diplomatic ties with countries across the globe and contributes significantly to national security and to our economy. International students are vital to our nation's fabric. Through the exchange of ideals, languages, and cultures, diplomacy is strengthened and our world is made a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS ABOLITION AND ECO-
NOMIC AND ENERGY CONVER-
SION ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2019, a version of which I have introduced since 1994, after working with the District of Columbia residents who were responsible for the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion ballot initiative, passed by D.C. voters in 1993. My bill still requires the United States to sign and ratify an international agreement to disable and dismantle America's nuclear weapons, to provide for strict control of fissile material and radioactive waste and to use nuclear-free energy. In lieu of joining such an agreement, this new version of the bill also gives the United States the option to ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Treaty). Many nations have already signed onto the Treaty. The Treaty was drafted by the United Nations in conferences in March and July of 2017, which is why I did not include it in my previous bills. According to the United Nations, the Treaty is "a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination." I am pleased by the international progress on this important issue.

Our bill continues to provide that the funds used for nuclear weapons programs be redirected to human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care, Social Security, restoring the environment and creating carbon-free, nuclear-free energy. The conversion to a peace economy would occur when the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have begun elimination under an international treaty or other legal agreement.

The bill is particularly timely considering the ongoing nuclear threat from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Our country still has a long list of urgent domestic needs that have been put on the backburner. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and that still possesses

one of the largest nuclear weapons arsenals, I urge support for my bill to help the United States reestablish its moral leadership in the world by redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons to urgent domestic needs.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM F.
ROGERS, JR., RECEIVING THE
CABARRUS COUNTY LIBERTY
BELL AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William F. "Bill" Rogers, Jr., on receiving the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award.

A Tennessee native, Bill began his practice in Concord, North Carolina in 1980 focusing on Family Law. Bill has a reputation of being professional, tactful and emotionally supportive to his clients while providing counsel during difficult times.

Bill lives in Cabarrus County with his wife Nanda, and three children, Hannah, Seth and Rachel. When he is not busy with his practice, Bill volunteers for multiple non-profits in the community, including Habitat for Humanity, Coltrane Life Center, Hospice of Cabarrus County, and Cabarrus Workshop. In addition to volunteering and spending time with his family, he enjoys both playing and listening to bluegrass, traveling to the beach, and riding his motorcycle.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented to an individual that educates others on and uphold laws that support American freedom. Throughout his involvement in Cabarrus County, Bill has helped many people regain their confidence in our judicial system by being a constant resource of knowledge. There is no doubt in my mind that Bill will continue to help the people of Cabarrus County with his unwavering commitment to serving others.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Bill Rogers as the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award recipient and wish him well as he continues to uphold our American freedom.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF INTERNATIONAL STU-
DENTS

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to recognize the contributions of international students and scholars.

At a time when nations around the globe are increasing their efforts and deploying new strategies to attract international talent, enrollment in American institutions is on a decline. Ohio's 15th Congressional District, and the nation, benefit from these students, and we are at risk of losing this valuable talent.

In addition to bringing diverse perspectives and new ideas to our classrooms, international students have an economic impact. They create jobs and stimulate our economies. In fact, it is estimated that in the 2017–2018 school year, in the 15th District alone, international students contributed over \$48 million to our economies and created over 500 jobs.

But the economic value that they contribute to this country is not in dollars and jobs alone. In fact, individual current and former international students contribute their talents in our communities each and every day across this great nation.

I'm proud to have international students contributing in a significant way in my own congressional district. To cite just one example, Rebin Muhammed is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Mathematics at Ohio University in Athens. His area of focus is Ring Theory, which is key in the design of codes that facilitate space travel, digital communications, and high-fidelity music recording. Originally from Iraq, he is helping inspire the next generation of mathematicians by volunteering with the Southeast Ohio Math Teachers' Circle and The Math League of Southeast Ohio, which coordinates math-related activities for diverse groups of middle and high school age kids.

It is students like Rebin who deserve an immigration system that works. Perhaps most importantly, we should continue to attract students by creating a path to green cards for the most talented. We should not educate future leaders and innovators, only to force them out of our country when they are on the verge of the next breakthrough.

With tomorrow, May 1, as "Decision Day" for students to commit to colleges across the country, I want prospective international students to know their contributions are valued, and they are welcome here. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the contributions of international students and in working to make sure the United States is the destination of choice for the best and brightest across the globe.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARINE 1ST
LT. BRIAN McPHILLIPS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Marine 1st Lt. Brian McPhillips of Pembroke, Massachusetts, a dedicated soldier who gave his life protecting his country.

Brian McPhillips was a native of the South Shore of Massachusetts, and attended Boston College High School. McPhillips joined the United States Marines in 1998, and continued to serve following his graduation from Providence College in 2000. He was based out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and served with the 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division until deploying to Iraq.

Both in school and during his time with the Marines, McPhillips earned a reputation for being bright, enthusiastic, conscientious, and always willing to go the extra mile. He could have chosen to pursue any number of paths in life, but he was propelled by a deep and enduring love of his country and a desire to be

on the front lines of defending it. Testimonials from former classmates, teachers, and fellow service members speak to McPhillips' unwavering spirit of service and loyalty.

Tragically, Lt. McPhillips passed away on the battlefield on April 4, 2003. As the South Shore's first casualty of the Iraq War, his loss was felt deeply by everyone in the community where he grew up. His memory and spirit will live on through his loving parents, David and Julie McPhillips, his sister Carolyn McPhillips Quigley, and through the legacy of his courage and devotion to his platoon, the military, and to God and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF REAR
ADMIRAL JOHN P. NEAGLEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rear Admiral John P. Neagley of Edison, New Jersey, who is retiring from the United States Navy this year. Rear Admiral Neagley has dedicated 35 years to the Navy and his service is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Throughout his distinguished career, Rear Admiral Neagley has upheld the principles of duty and valor. He has served at sea extensively and was deployed several times. From his service in Operation Desert Fox, to his command of USS *Fitzgerald* (DDG 62) during deployment in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, Rear Admiral Neagley has bravely helped maintain the security of our country.

In addition to his service at sea, Rear Admiral Neagley has held various leadership positions in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Littoral Combat Ship Program Office. In his most recent assignment as Program Executive Officer, Unmanned and Small Combatants, Rear Admiral Neagley was responsible for the Navy's small combatant force, mine warfare capabilities and unmanned maritime systems. His experience, knowledge and initiative have distinguished Rear Admiral Neagley as an outstanding leader who has exemplified honor, integrity and professionalism throughout his Navy career.

Rear Admiral Neagley is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire and received his commission from Officer Candidate School in 1984. He holds a master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University, a Master of Science degree in Financial Management from the Naval Post Graduate School and a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval Command and Staff College.

Madam Speaker, once again, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Rear Admiral John Neagley for his 35 years of service to the United States Navy. I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking Rear Admiral Neagley for his honorable service to our great nation.

HONORING YAVAPAI COUNTY
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, LORI
MARKHAM

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lori Markham for being chosen as Teacher of the Year by the Yavapai County Education Foundation. Lori is a first-grade teacher at Abia Judd Elementary School in Prescott, Arizona and she is a shining example of an educator who enriches and inspires the students she teaches. Lori is a proud graduate of Northern Arizona University and she is currently in her 24th year of teaching at Judd Elementary school. She has not only dedicated her life to educating her students, but also to bettering the education system in Yavapai County, serving on many district-level committees and as a mentor for new teachers.

Recounting the reasons she became a teacher, Lori mentions she was lucky to have teachers dedicated to her success by not only being role models but parental figures and mentors. She has dedicated two decades inspiring hundreds of children to try hard and dream big.

I thank Lori for working tirelessly to educate and uplift students, and I celebrate the impact she has had on her local community in Yavapai County and the entire state of Arizona.

HONORING JAMES PREMO'S 60
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
WESTVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. STEFANK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a lifetime of dedicated service as James Premo celebrates his 60th year with the Westville Volunteer Fire Department.

James Premo first joined the department in April of 1958, and quickly proved an invaluable asset, serving in a variety of leadership roles including Fire Chief on three separate occasions and as the department's treasurer. He has also proudly served in a number of roles outside of the department such as Franklin County Deputy Coordinator and Fire Investigator, as a member of the board of the New York Association of Fire Chiefs, and on the New York State Firemen's Loan Board.

James Premo has not only bravely served the department and his community as a volunteer firefighter, but also the entirety of New York State in his elected and appointed positions. He has undoubtedly helped foster future generations of firefighters that protect our lives and livelihood, and has left an indelible impact on his community. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to thank James Premo for his many contributions to the North Country and congratulate him on his 60th year with the Westville Volunteer Fire Department.