

from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright, and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

IN RECOGNITION OF SISTER
SUZANNE TOOLAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Sister Suzanne Toolan, a longtime force for education and social justice within my district. She is being honored by her friends with the Catherine McAuley Award for her dedication to the education of young women. I join in their joy and celebration of her decades in service.

I first met Sister Suzanne while a student at Mercy Burlingame. She taught chorale, a subject for which I was singularly unqualified. However, as my fellow students noted, Sister Suzanne was a patient and inspiring teacher. The Mercy choir is known throughout the San Francisco Peninsula for its inspiring repertoire and joyful music, particularly during Christmas and other holidays. Sister Suzanne was the heart and soul of a generation of choral singers, providing spiritual and contemporary pieces for the girls to perform.

Her role in chorale, and the impact that she had on students, was only one measure of her long career. Sister Suzanne is the composer of the hymn entitled, "I Am the Bread of Life," a deeply moving piece that inspires Catholic and other Christian congregations around the globe. Sister put the words of Jesus to music in 1964 during her free period between two classes. The San Francisco Archdiocese was to hold an event and Sister wished to contribute.

As she later stated, she didn't initially like her work so when the bell rang for her to go back to class she ripped up the song and tossed it into the wastebasket. A student, who was nearby, came out of the infirmary and said, "What was that? It was beautiful!" So, Sister retrieved the song, scotch taped it together, and submitted it.

It may be irreverent to say so, but in January of 1964 the Beatles song "I Want To Hold Your Hand" hit No. 1 on the Billboard Top 100 Chart. However, for many of us, that song couldn't hold a candle to Sister Suzanne's "I Am the Bread of Life." The church has its relics, but in this instance the workpiece of the Beatles is the relic and that of Sister Suzanne is a perpetually inspiring song, translated into at least 20 languages, that reminds us of the everlasting. For her work, Sister Suzanne was called an "Icon of the Second Vatican Council" and received the Benedictus Award from the Liturgical Commission of the Diocese of San Jose, presented by Bishop Patrick McGrath, in 2016.

As noted by her supporters and friends, Sister Suzanne is also the author of a book enti-

tled Canticles and Gathering Prayers, a composite of services and canticles written for groups gathered in prayer. Her work allowed Catholics to understand their faith in the vernacular, making faith more accessible.

Sister Suzanne is immensely well educated. She holds a master's degree in humanities and a second master's degree from San Francisco State University. She did compositional work at Michigan State University, liturgical study at the University of Notre Dame, and choral work with Robert Shaw at San Diego State University. She introduced Taize Prayer and worship to the West Coast in 1983. After her stellar career at Mercy Burlingame, Sister Suzanne founded Catherine's Center, a transitional house for women released from prison. It is a ministry of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of San Mateo County.

I recently viewed a photo of Sister Suzanne during her era as a Mercy Burlingame teacher. She was swinging her baton and had a smile from ear to ear. Music has the power to inspire us to great deeds. Sister Suzanne conveyed that power in overwhelming force to impressionable minds seeking the knowledge of math, science, literature, and leadership. These are core subjects at Mercy Burlingame, and core subjects of any young woman seeking to come into her own as a young adult. Sister Suzanne never let them down. I know because I was one of those young women who was captivated by Sister Suzanne's powerful spirituality and joyful musical grace.

As we reflect upon her life, I cannot offer her a musical analogy to illustrate her impact upon her students and the world. However, I can offer an historical allusion that I believe is apt. When Churchill spoke from the floor during times of grave crisis, Parliament was roused to act and the course of western civilization was sharply and famously revised. We know that the music of Sister Suzanne Toolan, both famous and less so, inspires millions. She has never held high office in civic life but instead chose to announce the glory of the highest office that any of us may attain. Who can doubt that her accomplishments will shape our civilization for hundreds of years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE HUNDREDDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ELMIRA KIWANIS CLUB

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Elmira Kiwanis Club.

The Kiwanis Club of Elmira is a branch of Kiwanis International, a global volunteer organization dedicated to bettering the world through their communities and the children in them. Over their century-long history, the Elmira Kiwanis have had more than ten thousand local residents join them in serving their community, providing over one million hours of community service.

In their mission to better their community, the Elmira Kiwanians have partnered with a variety of local organizations. They have lent their support to groups such as the YMCA, the Arctic League, Food Bank of the Southern

Tier, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army, providing service or financial support to help make their community a better place to live. Over the last one hundred years, the Kiwanis Club of Elmira has donated more than five hundred thousand dollars to community groups and organizations.

The Elmira Kiwanis Club has been dedicated to helping children both at home and abroad. Elmira students have felt their support as the Elmira Kiwanis Club has backed programs such as the Terrific Kids and B.U.G.S (Bringing up grades) programs. Elmira Kiwanians recognize the potential of graduating high school seniors by awarding scholarships. To support children abroad, members have joined with Kiwanis International projects to benefit UNICEF.

Most recently the Elmira Kiwanis Club established the Hometown Heroes Banner program, proudly recognizing military service of more than two hundred twenty-five local men and women who have served our country and fought for our freedoms.

One hundred years of service in the community is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Elmira Kiwanis Club on this impressive milestone and look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the Elmira Kiwanis Club.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANNA DIAZ-
WHITE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anna Diaz-White as she is honored by 180 Turning Lives Around at their annual celebration on May 3, 2019. Ms. Diaz-White's exemplary leadership and contributions to 180 Turning Lives Around are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

For over 40 years, 180 Turning Lives Around has provided a safe outlet for victims of domestic and sexual violence, providing shelter, resources, counseling, and advocacy. The support that the agency provides to the community is truly immeasurable and Ms. Diaz-White's 35 years of service at 180 Turning Lives Around are indicative of her dedication to the agency and the care of the individuals and families they serve.

Joining 180 Turning Lives Around in 1985, Anna Diaz-White brought her experience from the financial sector to the non-profit in her role as Fiscal/Grant Administrator. Less than 10 years later, Ms. Diaz-White was unanimously selected by the Board of Trustees to serve as 180's Executive Director. Under her leadership, the agency has grown immensely, serving over one million people and expanding its outreach and services. Her vision and innovative thinking have created new standards of service in the field and serve as a model for other domestic violence agencies in New Jersey.

With her direction, 180 Turning Lives Around has built one of the largest and most inclusive domestic violence shelters in New Jersey, engaged and educated local law enforcement, created the Monmouth Family Justice Center, Amanda's Easel Creative Arts