

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA ROSENBERG

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Rosenberg, the outgoing CEO of the National Council for Behavioral Health. As members of the community gather today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Linda for her leadership as a health care architect and reformer in advancing quality care for individuals with behavioral health disorders.

For 15 years, Linda has served as the President and CEO of the National Council for Behavioral Health. Under her leadership, the National Council has become the nation's most effective advocate for behavioral health care, serving 10 million adults, children, and families. Linda's work has played a critical role in expanding the financing for integrated behavioral health services, ensuring the passage of federal mental health and addiction parity law, as well as introducing Mental Health First Aid in the U.S. She also helped to ensure the inclusion of behavioral health services in the Affordable Care Act.

Linda's commitment to the advancement of behavioral health care can be seen throughout the duration of her career. Prior to the National Council, she served as Senior Deputy Commissioner of New York State Office of Mental Health and helped to implement New York's first Mental Health Court. She also has over 30 years of experience as certified social worker, family therapist and psychiatric rehabilitation practitioner. Linda currently serves on several boards of directors and is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. In her honor, the National Council recently granted her the Lifetime Achievement Award at their 2019 annual conference.

Madam Speaker, as we gather to celebrate Linda Rosenberg's lifetime of achievements, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her dedication and leadership in the improvement of mental health and substance services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, while on a fact-finding mission to South America to conduct oversight of U.S. assistance and assess the situation at the Venezuelan border, I was unavoidably detained. As a result, I missed roll call votes No. 170 and No. 171. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 170, and YEA on Roll Call No. 171.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA THOMASON

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Barbara Thomason for her outstanding service and profound impact as President and CEO of the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce.

An accomplished Texas scholar, Barbara holds a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in Management from Houston Baptist University. She also holds a Chamber Management certification from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organizational Management, and a certification in Professional Community and Economic Development.

Prior to her service at the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce, Barbara had a diverse and impressive portfolio of professional experience. She served as the Dean of Corporate and Continuing Education at Lone Star College—North Harris, worked in training and development for the American General companies, and was a small-business owner of the Gymboree franchise.

She then went on to found the Northwest Chamber of Commerce Foundation, which provides scholarships and educational resources to local students. During her time with the Northwest Chamber, Barbara has proven to be a friend, leader and dedicated citizen of Houston. Throughout her years of public service, Barbara has been a model of exceptional civic duty, and has remained devoted to the advancement of Houston area businesses through grassroot level advocacy for local safety and economic development.

In 2015, Barbara was named as a Woman of Excellence by the Women's Business Forum. The following year, Leadership North Houston honored Barbara as the 2016 Distinguished Volunteer. By 2017, Barbara was selected for a position on the Executive Board on the Texas Chamber of Commerce. Each award is well-deserved, and recognizes her steadfast service to our community.

This year, Barbara is retiring following her 15 years of exceptional service to the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce. However, I know that Barbara will continue to be a leader and champion of family training and development during her next professional venture as a consultant. I am proud to join her family, friends, and colleagues in recognizing her many contributions to Northwest Houston. I thank her and I wish all the best on her next adventure.

RECOGNIZING THE 29TH ANNUAL D.C. BLACK PRIDE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 29th annual D.C. Black Pride and the 50th anniversary of the Stone-wall Riots.

This Memorial Day week the National Capital Region welcomes members of the African American LGBTQ community to celebrate "Our Truths In Harmony" at the 29th annual D.C. Black Pride.

The festivities begin May 20th at 5:00 p.m. with the Damian Ministries' Black Pride Kick Off Reception and they close at 6:00 p.m. May 27th with Helping Us People Into Living's "Pride In the Park" festival at Fort DuPont Park.

On May 21st, D.C. Black Pride honors its 2019 award winners at the D.C. Black Pride Awards Reception. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) President and Chief Executive Derrick Johnson receives the President's Award. The 2019 Welmore Cook Awards go to Bishop Allyson Nelson Abrams, founder prelate and pastor of Empowerment Liberation Cathedral, her spouse, Bishop Emerita Diana Williams, and Dr. Di-Quartelai Quartey of the National Association of Retired Persons (NAARP) and the Robert H. Smith School of Business.

Steven "Kahos" Wilson, Founder and CEO of Ovah the Top Productions and Executive Director of the OASIS Dance Company, receives the Unsung Hero Award. Black Pride recognizes True Colors United Senior Program Officer Kahlib Barton with the Leadership Award. Shi-Queeta Lee, noted DMV Drag Entertainer and costume designer, is honored with the Earline Budd Award.

Black Pride acknowledges U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Impact Specialist Derrick Côméi "Strawberry" Cox as the Charlotte Smallwood Volunteer of the Year for 2019. Gail Oliver and Nana Amuah-Afenyi VI (born Peggjelene Bartles, known informally as "King Peggy"), chief of Tatum Ghana, receive the Curtis L. Etherly, Jr., Ally Award. Michael Beale of Mb Staffing Services, LLC, receives the D.C. Black Pride Small Business Award.

This year, Black Pride initiates the Alan Sharpe Award for contributions to art by awarding it to its namesake, Alan Sharpe, Founding Artistic Director of Washington, D.C.'s African-American Collective Theater.

Black Pride continues through Memorial Day with town halls, educational workshops, a poetry slam hosted by Mary Bowman, an interfaith worship service, and social events, including breakfasts, brunches, dinners and happy hours.

D.C. Black and Lesbian Gay Pride Day began my first year in Congress. On Sunday, May 26, 1991, 800 people gathered at Banneker Field on Georgia Avenue. I have watched it mature from an ad hoc event to one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations. Now D.C. Black Pride draws more than 50,000 participants from the United States, Africa, Europe and the Americas to our nation's capital.

D.C. Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc.) and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 53 Black Prides on four continents. I commend the volunteer Advisory Board that assists Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr., Jeffrey Richardson, Michael S. Hinson, Jr., C. Hawkins, Kenya Hutton and Genise Chamber-Woods in the planning and execution of D.C. Black Pride.

As Black Pride comes to town, I also take this opportunity to inform the celebrants and to