

COMMENDING STUDENTS AT MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR WORKING TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY ISSUES

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great program that is promoting civic engagement in Florida and across the country. The YMCA's Junior Youth In Government Program is a model legislative forum where students learn to write bills, as well as develop critical debate and leadership skills. In Martin County, the Junior Youth In Government Program started at Murray Middle School, and now all middle schools in Martin County have successful programs.

I want to especially recognize four students who dedicated their time in this program to addressing the water quality issues plaguing our community. Emma Mauri, Jasper Millette, KJ Thompson and Donovan Soars all recognized the pressing issues caused by polluted water and harmful algal blooms.

These students researched the issues thoroughly, proposed policy changes and successfully got their bills passed. They exemplify the kinds of future leaders we need in our government because they understand that protecting our environment is also essential to defending human health and strengthening our economy.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Emma, Jasper, KJ and Donovan on their success, and I also hope these programs will continue to expand to give even more students the opportunity to learn more about how citizens can participate in our government.

RECOGNIZING THE 44TH CAPITAL PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 44th Capital Pride Celebration, which will take place on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. From May 31 to June 9, 2019, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and others (LGBTQ+) communities and their allies in the National Capital Region will "shhhOUT, Past, Present & Proud."

On Father's Day of June 15, 1975, Deacon MacCubbin, owner of the Lambda Rising Bookstore in Dupont Circle began Gay Pride Day as a block party on 20th Street, between R and S Streets NW. Pride Day outgrew the curbs and sidewalks of 20th Street and moved to Francis Junior High School in 1980. The next year, a Pride Parade from Meridian Hill Park to Dupont Circle joined the renamed Gay and Lesbian Pride Day.

Over the years, the Pride festival has changed both in location and participation. In 1995, Pride Day moved to Freedom Plaza and on Sunday, June 8, 1997, a rebranded Capitol Pride Festival opened on Pennsylvania Avenue. In 1991, D.C. Black Pride joined the Pride Celebration followed by Youth Pride in

1997. As momentum grew, D.C. Leather Pride began in 2006, while Transgender and Latinx Pride began in 2007. This year, Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) inaugurate API Pride, and seniors over 60 years of age observe Silver Pride.

Each June, Capital Pride recognizes individuals and organizations that have advanced causes important to the LGBTQ+ community in the National Capital Region. The Paving The Way Award acknowledges an individual or organization that has provided exemplary contributions, support or advocacy that impacts the larger LGBTQ+ community. The Alliance proudly awards the 2019 Paving The Way Award to The Washington Blade, America's LGBTQ+ Newspaper of Record.

The 2019 Hero Award recipients are Kimberley Bush, Director of Arts and Cultural Programs at the DC Center for the LGBT Community; Rea Carey, Executive Director of the National LGBTQ Task Force; Martin Espinoza, co-founder and President of Stonewall Sports; Ben de Guzman, Acting Director of the D.C. Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs; Amanda J. Hackett, Esq., an attorney in private practice who specializes in immigration matters for LGBTQ+ communities; and Tony "And I Thank You" Nelson, one of D.C.'s leading and most respected emcees and comedians.

Capital Pride gives the Engendered Spirit Award to outstanding advocates, activists and supporters of the transgender community. This year's recipients are: Xemiyulu Mariibusan Tapepechul, a Nawat Trans Femme from Kuskatan (El Salvador) and Larry Villegas-Perez, a Native American-Hispanic born in Venezuela. Donald Burch, III and Alan Thompson receive the Bill Miles Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service. The Larry Stansbury Award for Exemplary Contributions to Pride goes to Team DC, the association of LGBTQ+ sports clubs in the DMV region. Capital Pride also awarded the National Center for Transgender Equality the Breaking Barriers: Community Impact Award.

I have marched in the Pride Parade since my election to Congress. I look forward to marching this year. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 44th Capital Pride Celebration.

COMMEMORATING THE 54TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 54th anniversary of the successful national Head Start program, which empowers children to succeed across the country.

Head Start is a critical program that is based on the simple premise that every child, regardless of their socioeconomic status, should be able to succeed in life. Head Start offers education, health and nutrition services to economically disadvantaged children, as well as parenting and employment supports to their parents.

Head Start is a wise and cost-effective investment in families and communities. For

every dollar invested in Head Start by the federal government, the country realizes almost nine dollars in benefits through increased earning and reduced reliance on social programs.

In my state of Wisconsin, Head Start provides parent education, preventative health care, and home visits to nearly 17,000 Wisconsin children and families at over 280 locations statewide. In addition, just last year, Head Start provided crisis assistance to over 3,700 families in Wisconsin in the form of emergency food, clothing or shelter.

Yet, the need is much greater. In 2017, of the nearly 42,000 children in Wisconsin ages of three and five in poverty, only 31 percent had access to Head Start. Of the 50,985 children under the three in poverty, only 6 percent had access to Early Head Start. This is troubling when we know the difference that this program can make. Earlier this year, I again joined colleagues in asking the House Appropriations Committee to boost funding for Head Start.

So I commend those who have helped make this program such a vital part of communities in the past 50 plus years, the dedicated teachers, parents, and others who invest so much in our children. Madam Speaker, I commend Head Start for the difference it is making for children and families in Wisconsin and throughout the nation and urge this Congress to improve and strengthen it for another 50 wonderful years.

HONORING DR. BEVERLY WARREN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Beverly Warren, who has announced her retirement as Kent State University's 12th president.

Beverly Warren, Ph.D., Ed.D., began her tenure at Kent State on July 1, 2014. As the university's chief executive officer, President Warren oversaw one of the nation's largest university systems. Under her leadership, the university embarked upon a systemwide, inclusive process to consider a bold and distinctive future for Kent State University. The six-year plan, A Strategic Roadmap to a Distinctive Kent State, is the result of this effort. With Students First named Priority One, the plan identified strategies that distinguished Kent State as an exemplar among the nation's best public research universities, with a distinctive blend of teaching, research and creative excellence.

Under Dr. Warren's leadership, the university enrolled its most academically advanced freshman class ever and has achieved record enrollment in its Honor's College program.

With a background in physical education, President Warren also has led the charge to turn Kent State into one of the healthiest campuses in the nation. She launched a series of wellness initiatives, including prohibiting smoking and tobacco use on campus as of July 2017.

Dr. Warren also leveraged her leadership throughout the Northeast Ohio community. She has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for The Cleveland Orchestra and served on the boards of directors for Team