President Warren distinguished herself as a warm and friendly face amongst the students and staff of Kent State. Whether she’s championing access to the boardroom or cheering on the Golden Flashes on the field, her energy, presence, and compassion can be felt campus-wide.

I was proud to work with Dr. Warren to help secure funding to advance research efforts at Kent State. With Dr. Warren’s leadership, the research being done at Kent State will go a long way to help solve real-world issues. I thank President Warren for her service to the students and community and wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF IMAM OMAR SULEIMAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and thank Imam Omar Suleiman for offering the opening prayer before the House of Representatives this afternoon.

Imam Suleiman is a world-renowned scholar and theologically driven activist for human rights. He is the Founder and President of the Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research and a professor of Islamic Studies at Southern Methodist University. He’s also the resident scholar of the Valley Ranch Islamic Center and Co-Chair Emeritus of Faith Forward Dallas at Thanks-Giving Square, a multi-faith coalition of clergy for peace and justice. He frequently writes for CNN, USA Today, The Guardian, HuffPost, and The Dallas Morning News.

His career started in his hometown of New Orleans where he served as the Imam of the Jefferson Interfaith Clergy Association in New Orleans for 6 years and directed the “Muslims for Humanity” Hurricane Katrina Relief effort. It was during this time that he was recognized on a national level as being a strong advocate of community service, interfaith dialogue, and social justice. He co-founded the East Jefferson Interfaith Clergy Association and was awarded for his outstanding civic achievement by the Mayor and City Council of New Orleans in 2010. He’s also the founder of MUHSEN, a national nonprofit umbrella organization serving the community to establish a more inclusive “Special Friendly” environment for our brothers & sisters of all disabilities.

In July 2016, he marched with demonstrators in Dallas against the killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. In the wake of the tragic shooting of officers after that protest, he was chosen to lead the invocation at the Presidential memorial alongside former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush. The D-Magazine published a feature on him titled “The Religious Leader Dallas Needs.” His work in bringing people together was the subject of a BBC documentary in 2016, and work with Muslims featured in PBS in January 2017, and in 2016, he was a recipient of the United Nations Global Goals Award with Faith Forward Dallas. He led the airport pro-

tests in Dallas against President Trump’s Muslim ban in 2017; led a group of clergy to the Mexico border that intercepted a bus of children taken from their parents under the family separation policy; and has worked closely with the families of the victims of police brutality to amplify their cause. Most recently, he was recognized by CNN as one of the most influential Muslims in America and included amongst the Frederick Douglass 200 most influential Americans whose modern day work embodies the legacy of the great abolitionist.

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

HON. TOM REED
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board.

Southern Tier Central has been serving the communities of Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties since 1969. As a regional council, Southern Tier Central promotes coordination between the neighboring counties to provide a regional approach to improving the economy, the environment, and the quality of life for citizens of the Southern Tier. Their work to provide planning for economic development, transportation, human services, and flood assistance helps the communities of the Southern Tier grow and thrive.

The Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board provides a variety of services to the region. As the designated Local Developmental District of the Appalachian Regional Commission and an Economic Development District of the Economic Development Administration, Southern Tier Central is able to qualify for special grant funding and project assistance to promote important local economic and community development projects. Over the last half century, Southern Tier Central has helped to provide more than eight hundred dollars in grant funding and technical assistance to the region.

Fifty years of serving the community is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board 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 commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF
HON. JOHN KATKO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. Throughout May, my colleagues and I will bring attention to the impact of mental illnesses on American society, as well as Congress’s role in addressing mental healthcare issues facing the country. It is an honor to collaborate with my colleagues in the Congressional Mental Health Caucus to raise awareness for mental health and reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness, and create legislation that improves mental health outcomes for Americans.

Mental illnesses have a devastating effect on the struggling to take that first step. This includes changes in mood, social interactions, sleep patterns, and eating habits. Sadly, the most extreme consequences of mental illness are when an individual inflicts self-injury or takes their life. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death among Americans age 24 and younger. Approximately 1.4 million Americans attempt suicide each year and over 47,000 Americans lose their lives to suicide. The United States has 3,700 suicide attempts daily and 129 suicide deaths per day. This equates to one suicide every 116 minutes.

Not only does suicide have severe emotional costs on families and communities, but also on our economy. It is estimated suicide and self-injury reduce the economic output of the United States by $69 billion per year.

The suicide epidemic is expensive for nearly the same amount of deaths in the United States as another prevalent health crisis: the opioid epidemic. It is estimated opioids were the cause for 47,600 deaths in America, only a few hundred more than suicide. While some of the opioid crisis is due to overprescribing and inadequate pain management, a large portion of the problem comes from the lack of treatment facilities, inadequate funding and attention, and rightfully so, reducing suicide and improving mental health treatment deserves the same recognition. Congress has a responsibility to assist individuals experiencing mental health challenges through effective legislation and research subsidies.

Congress should advance policies that increase Americans’ access to mental healthcare treatment as a mechanism for preventing self-harm incidents and suicide attempts. Just one third of Americans with mental illness receive treatment, and this is in desperate need of additional trained therapists, psychologists, and counselors. This lack of access can be partly attributed to a shortage of mental healthcare professionals in certain communities. In order to establish a more reliable supply of mental healthcare professionals, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano and I recently introduced the Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act of 2019. Our bill delivers professionals to areas that require mental healthcare experts the most by forgiving their secondary student loans. It invests in bolstering our mental health workforce, while expanding treatment for Americans with mental illness.

Americans across the country, regardless of age, social status, or background, are affected by mental illness. Mental Health Awareness Month serves as an opportunity for any of my Congressional colleagues, Republican or Democrat, to join the conversation. Together, we can improve mental health outcomes for Americans across the country by engaging in thoughtful discussion and crafting efficient policies.

Finally, it is an honor to once again co-chair the Congressional Mental Health Caucus with
Congresswoman NAPOLITANO. I am grateful for her continued leadership and commitment on this issue and I look forward to further collaborating with her.

HONORING NEW ROCHELLE YMCA 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIO L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize an institution that has helped children and families in my district for an astonishing 120 years, the New Rochelle YMCA.

On January 15, 1899 a group of New Rochelleans gathered at 56 Woodland Ave. in New Rochelle to discuss the possibility of creating a YMCA. On February 3, 1899 the New Rochelle YMCA received its article of incorporation.

The original home of the Y was located at 480-482 Main Street where a building committee was established to create a permanent home. Twenty-six years later the YMCA purchased the Hendricks property at the corner of Division St. and Burling Lane (now Memorial Highway) and began raising money to build a new site. Fallowing the economic uncertainty of the stock market crash, the new building was completed in 1931.

A true charitable organization, the Y was involved with the soldiers at Fort Slocum during both world wars, providing them with room and board while on leave from their base, as well as providing room for the American Red Cross. Several local community organizations used the Y facility as meeting halls for their respective groups. Over the years the Y provided many programs for the New Rochelle community, with the pool being the most popular feature and by 1939 had a membership of over 2,200 people. Over the years, the Y developed a rich history in diversity.

In the 1980s they moved into its current home on 50 Weyman Avenue, a space it shared with the Boys and Girls Club.

The YMCA's presence in the community has continued to increase over the last ten years, as the focus of the Y shifted from a "swim and gym club" to a community based charitable organization, which offers affordable programs, in addition to providing financial aid for children and families in need. Currently the YMCA serves close to 5,000 members, with a great majority of seniors and children. The YMCA has developed a Universal Pre-K program in partnership with the New Rochelle school district.

The New Rochelle YMCA has served the community for 120 years. On the occasion of their anniversary, I'd like to congratulate and thank their entire team for all they have done.

HON. JAMIE RASKIN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, while the nation has been focused on Russian interference with the 2016 presidential election and questions of presidential obstruction of justice, President Donald Trump's violation of fundamental principles and norms of American democracy have been far more comprehensive. In the last three months, more than 400 attorneys—including former federal and state judges, United States Attorneys, managing partners of large law firms, law deans and other distinguished lawyers from around the country—have stepped forward in a broad and unprecedented effort to defend American democracy and the rule of law against official lawlessness.

The lawyers have signed and published an "Open Letter to The President and Congress" identifying five fundamental norms and principles of our democracy which they believe the President has violated. These violations involve the President's unjustified attacks on the mainstream media, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the country—have stepped forward in a broad and unprecedented effort to defend American democracy and the rule of law against official lawlessness.

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