

COMMENDING PALM BEACH COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS ON BEST PRACTICES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Palm Beach County schools for promoting music educational excellence in Florida. Palm Beach County received a 2019 Best Communities for Music Education Award from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM).

This award celebrates school districts for their commitment to music education and efforts to promote music for all students as part of a well-rounded education.

In achieving this national award, Palm Beach County teachers and faculty have demonstrated an exceptionally high commitment to enriching students' lives through music.

Madam Speaker, I hope these music programs will continue to expand and give even more students the opportunity to thrive in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF COMMANDER ZEITA MERCHANT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the achievements of Commander Zeita Merchant, a proud native of Chicago, Illinois; Commander Merchant has served this great nation as an officer of the United States Coast Guard for over 22 years;

Commander Merchant served as the Commanding Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Chicago, where she was responsible for executing the Coast Guard's Port Safety and Security, Marine Environmental Protection, and Commercial Vessel Safety missions under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security on the Southern Lake Michigan shorelines of Illinois and Indiana, as well as the Chicago Area Waterway System and the Illinois River System; and;

Commander Merchant made history, in position, as the unit's first female Commanding Officer of her unit and the first African American female to command a Marine Safety Unit in Coast Guard history;

Commander Merchant's visionary leadership and operational expertise ensured the safety and security of the Nation's third largest metropolitan area through maximizing federal, state and local partnerships with her galvanizing initiatives and influence, and overseeing prevention and marine environmental responses, which sustained commerce in the busiest port complex in the Great Lakes Region.

In addition, Commander Merchant showed notable commitment to making an impact in the Austin Community in which she was raised as a board member for BUILD (Broader Urban Involvement & Leadership Development) Chicago, while also serving as a member of the

Executive Committee for the Chicago Federal Executive Board, and Community Partner with Chicago State University.

Finally, Commander Merchant served as an instrumental champion for the Midwest Boys and Girls Club, Chicago and Northern Illinois American Red Cross, the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana, the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, and many other non-profit organizations where the lives of more than 4000 youth, veterans, and community volunteers were positively impacted.

Commander Merchant and her life experiences are a testament to what young African American women from Chicago can achieve. The Chicagoland community has been truly blessed to have such a brilliant mind and committed public servant and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING SUSAN LLOYD YOLEN ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, and colleagues in extending my heartfelt congratulations, deepest thanks, and sincere appreciation to Susan Lloyd Yolen as she marks her retirement after thirty-two years of dedicated service to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England.

Susan has dedicated her professional life to ensuring that those served by PPSNE have had access to the health care and services that they need. As Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy, Susan has also been a strong voice on both the local and national stages for Planned Parenthood and the families they serve.

Throughout her thirty-two-year career, she spent countless hours leading the organization's efforts to fight for quality, affordable healthcare, as well as reducing teen birth rates and reducing racial and ethnic health disparities by removing barriers to services and information. Susan's steadfast commitment has earned her the respect and admiration not only of her colleagues at PPSNE, but that of the legislators and community activists who had the opportunity to work with her.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to extend a special note of thanks to Susan for her friendship and support over the years. She has been an invaluable resource to both myself and my staff. Susan has only ever been a phone call away and I, like so many others, consider myself fortunate to call her my friend. I am confident that I speak for everyone who has had the opportunity to work with Susan over the years when I say her passion, compassion, tenacity, and commitment will be deeply missed.

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England stands as a model for affiliates across the country and that is in large part because of Susan Yolen. Advocate, mentor, and friend, she has left an indelible mark on this outstanding organization and a legacy that will continue to inspire others to ensure that everyone has access to the affordable, quality re-

productive health care they need and deserve. I am honored to stand today to extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Susan, for her outstanding leadership and good work, as well as my very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness as she enjoys her retirement.

COMMENDING THE AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to commend the Auburn High School softball team, which captured the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Class 1 state title on June 14, 2019. The Eagles put on a dominant performance, handily defeating a quality team from Rappahannock County High School by a score of 18 to 1.

This victory carries particular meaning, as it is Auburn High School's first Class 1 VHSL girls softball state championship in its history. Their championship caps a 25-3 season. I applaud the hard work and dedication of all members of this year's Auburn High School girls softball team, and congratulate the administrators, teachers, coaches, parents, students, and fans. In particular, I would like to recognize the contributions of the team's seniors, and their head coach David Hurd. Congratulations on a great end to the season. It is another trophy in Auburn's impressive collection of championships this year. In fact, it came on the same day the Auburn baseball team won their title. It is truly remarkable when a high school wins two state championships not only in the same year, but on the same day.

CONGRATULATING THE JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (JROTC) ACADEMIC TEAM OF WHITE STATION HIGH SCHOOL

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) academic team from White Station High School in Memphis for winning the JROTC Academic National Championship on Sunday. The team, one of 32 invited to compete for the national championship at Catholic University of America in Washington, consists of rising senior Catherine Hu and rising juniors Johnnie Walton, Michael Golden and Diran Tan. Their teacher-coach is Sergeant Major Karen Boldin.

The academic championship process began with a written test in October with questions from math, science, history and other academic areas. Previous levels of competition narrowed the field to 1,200 teams, then just 32 who began their rounds on Friday. Michael Golden had the final winning answer to a question about a monument in a British city and deserves a special shout-out.