

United States' industrial base to produce generic medicines and antibiotics domestically, ensuring the readiness of our military forces.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join us in cosponsoring the "Pharmaceutical Independence Long-Term Readiness Reform Act."

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YEMENI AMERICAN BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 17, 2019*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Yemeni American Benevolent Association, an outstanding service organization in Wayne County, Michigan, for its fifty years of service.

The Yemeni American Benevolent Association was founded in 1969 to promote empowerment of people, environmental protection, and respect for cultural diversity. They have worked to cultivate community leadership, as well as providing education and other services to the surrounding community. Aside from language classes, translation services, and tutoring, the Yemeni American Benevolent Association has grown its annual scholarship program to help young people achieve their dreams of pursuing higher education. The scholarship program is an amazing achievement that has provided a pathway to a better future and encourages young people to give back to their community.

I ask you to please join me in tribute to the Yemeni American Benevolent Association as they celebrate this milestone.

RECOGNIZING THIRTEEN PLANO ISD PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

**HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 17, 2019*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate thirteen Plano ISD schools on receiving the National PTA School of Excellence designation.

This recognition program, created by the National Parent Teacher Association, works to support and celebrate partnerships between PTAs and schools across the nation.

Plano ISD is setting an incredible example, with a current Parent Teacher Association membership of more than 16,000 parents. With the help of their PTA's, Plano ISD is cultivating crucial relationships between teachers, parents, and the surrounding community.

Their dedication to improving the learning environment for students in and outside of the classroom serves as a crucial reminder of volunteerism and its role in shaping a community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these thirteen Plano PTAs on their success of putting students first and championing a quality education.

PLANO ISD NATIONAL PTA SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Barksdale Elementary PTA, Boggess Elementary School, Bettye Haun Elementary School, Gullede Elementary School, Harrington Elementary PTA, Hickey Elementary School, Huffman Elementary School, Hughston Elementary School, Mathews Elementary, Mitchell Elementary School, Pearson Early Childhood School, Robinson Middle School, Wyatt Elementary School.

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON BLADE

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 17, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing The Washington Blade on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

On October 5, 1969, Richard M. Nixon was President, John W. McCormick was Speaker of the House, Richard Russell, Jr. was Senate President pro tempore, Americans were listening to "Sugar Sugar" by The Archies, and the 91st Congress was in weekend recess. However, a few LGBTQ Washingtonians read the first edition of The Gay Blade, created by Nancy Tucker and Lilli Vincenz.

The Gay Blade survived controversy, epidemic and bankruptcy to thrive as America's LGBTQ newspaper of record, The Washington Blade. On October 18, 2019, The Blade celebrates its 50th anniversary with a gala at the Wharf.

Since its inception, The Blade continued as a monthly one-sheet newsletter until it expanded to four pages in June 1972. By April 1974, it grew to eight legal-sized sheets, and in July of the following year, The Gay Blade moved to newsprint.

During the 1970s, The Gay Blade changed its name to The Blade. Don Michaels became the editor. Michaels took The Blade out of the closet by prohibiting pen names, and he increased its frequency to biweekly. By the decade's end, the newspaper added "Washington" to its masthead.

The Washington Blade entered the 1980s with headline, "Rare, Fatal Pneumonia Hits Gay Men," one of the earliest newspaper articles on the disease that became AIDS. The Blade promoted Don Michaels to publisher, a position he held for two decades. By the decade's end, the newspaper adopted computer layout that led to its online edition in 1995.

Window Media, LLC purchased The Blade in 2001. The paper's staff unionized, and in 2008, The Blade published the first interview ever given by a Republican presidential candidate to an LGBTQ newspaper. The Blade grew steadily until November 16, 2009.

That Monday, Window Media filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy. The Blade's staff found its offices locked. Former staff volunteered to produce a new publication, DC Agenda, by the following Friday.

Publisher Lynne Brown, editor Kevin Naff, sales executive Brian Pitts and other former Blade staff members pooled their resources to

form Brown Naff Pitts Omnimedia. This company published DC Agenda weekly until April 2010, when it acquired The Blade's assets from the bankruptcy court. Like a phoenix, The Washington Blade rose from the ashes on April 30, 2010.

The Blade remains, for many in our nation's capital, including me, a weekly must-read. It continues, according to The New York Times, to be "one of the most influential publications written for a gay audience."

In closing, I remind the House of Representatives that the 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia have yet to read, and The Blade, despite its many scoops and breaking news stories, has yet to publish the banner "Washington, D.C. the 51st State."

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating The Washington Blade on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

HONOR THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. DON WAFUL

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 17, 2019*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Don Waful, who passed away at the age of 103 on September 12, 2019. Mr. Waful was known in Central New York as a decorated World War II veteran, prominent Syracuse University sports fan, and for his tenure as the President of the Syracuse Sky Chiefs baseball team.

After graduating from Syracuse University with a bachelor's degree in 1937 and master's degree in 1939, Mr. Waful went on to enlist in the U.S. Army at the onset of World War II. In the war, Mr. Waful served with the 1st Armored Division, receiving several commendations for his service including, the POW Medal, American Defense Service Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button. Notably, while in Tunisia, Mr. Waful and his unit encountered a German tank company, which subsequently took him and his unit prisoner. Mr. Waful survived as a POW in camps in Italy, Poland, and Germany before finally returning home.

Following World War II, Mr. Waful returned home to Central New York to pursue a career in insurance and to serve as the President of the Syracuse Sky Chiefs baseball team. In his role with the Sky Chiefs, Mr. Waful contributed to the design and construction of NBT Bank stadium, which opened in 1997. Along with his contributions to the Sky Chiefs, Mr. Waful was known for his unwavering support of Syracuse University sports. As a lifelong Syracuse University Football fan, Mr. Waful was a mainstay at home games, missing only three contests since 1945.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Don Waful. As a celebrated member of our Central New York community and prominent Syracuse sports supporter, Mr. Waful will be dearly missed. I ask my colleagues to keep him and his family in mind as we remember his life.