

the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act being signed into law. The SUPPORT Act was the most comprehensive law ever enacted by Congress to take on a drug crisis—a bold response to an opioid epidemic that has affected every corner of our country.

The SUPPORT Act took big strides in addressing the crisis by expanding access to treatment and recovery services, providing communities with the tools and resources they need to be successful on the front lines, ensuring we have effective systems in place to keep these powerful drugs from getting into the wrong hands, and more.

I was proud to have my legislation, the Opioid Addiction Action Plan Act, included in the final package. My bill requires a comprehensive look at government practices—including reimbursement, coverage, and data collection—and allows us to find alternate methods of treating pain through innovation by making Medicare and Medicaid more flexible, adaptable, and focused on preventing and treating addiction.

The SUPPORT Act recognized that while this crisis has reached every zip code, a one-size-fits-all approach won't remedy the issue effectively, and that's where the role of community comes into play. I believe community is at the heart of many issues facing our nation right now and is a key component for those struggling with opioid addiction.

Having a support network and a sense of belonging is important to all of us, so it is imperative that on a community level we guide those who are fighting addiction, whether that be a family member, neighbor, or a compassionate stranger. The SUPPORT Act helps communities do just that, by propping up community organizations with technical or financial assistance, establishing peer support networks, and distributing best practices for those on the front lines within the community, like health professionals or law enforcement.

As a society, we must do better to ensure those who are struggling know that they are not alone, and that they have a team of support around them. The stigma surrounding substance use disorders is real and detrimental to those who need help or are trying to rebuild their lives. The language we use to talk about them is incredibly important to breaking the stigma. We wouldn't define a person with cancer or Parkinson's by their disease and addiction is no different.

The SUPPORT Act was a giant leap in the right direction, and while we are already seeing real results, we must continue to work together, from Congress down to the community leaders, to help those who are struggling and end this devastating crisis for good.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAJOR
GENERAL RONALD HRANT
MARKARIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of Major General Ronald Hrant Markarian, who passed

away on October 12, 2019. Major General Markarian valiantly served our country for 46 years in the California Army National Guard and the Air Force.

Major General Markarian was born in Fresno, California on June 27, 1931 to Theodore and Rose Markarian. He graduated from Clovis High School and was a member of the California Cadet Core. While in high school, Major General Markarian joined the California National Guard. He was in the Heavy Mortar Company of the 185th Infantry Regiment for three years. He then attended California State University, Fresno. During that time, he enrolled in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. After graduation, Major General Markarian joined the United States Air Force. His assignments included duties such as B-47 and B-52 strategic bombers. In 1964 he completed his master's degree in public administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Major General Markarian was also Chief of Air Reconnaissance Operations in Southeast Asia. He flew 116 Reconnaissance missions during that time. One of his duty stations was in Hawaii and he served as the Pacific Air Forces Director of Plans and Programs. He was Commander of the 548th Reconnaissance Technical Group. Major General Markarian also worked for six years at the Pentagon and was the Chief of Air Reconnaissance Systems and Director of the United States Air Force Intelligence Reserve Forces.

After 30 years of military service, Major General Markarian retired in August 1980 as a Full Bird Colonel in the Air Force. His need to serve did not end at his retirement. In 1987, Major General Markarian was nominated by California Governor George Deukmejian to be appointed by President Ronald Reagan as California State Director for the Selective Service System. Later, Pete Wilson, Governor of California then appointed him to be the California Commission for the Commemoration of the Second World War. He was appointed Commanding General of the California State Reserve and later promoted to Major General in 1990. In 1994, he was appointed to the California Veterans Board. Major General Markarian retired with 46 years of uniformed military service in October of 1995 after he became a member of the California State Military Reserve.

Major General Markarian's commitment to public service and our country is truly remarkable and he was a key leader in the community in many capacities even after his military years. He was a founding member of the Central California Veterans Home Support Foundation (CCVHSF) and assisted in acquiring the land for the California Veterans Home in Fresno where he lived during the later years of his life. Major General Markarian was the president of Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, American Red Cross and the Military Intelligence Corps Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Major General Ronald Hrant Markarian. His service to our nation and contributions to veterans in the Central Valley will not be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING CONGRESSMAN
STEVE CHABOT

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Congressman STEVE CHABOT on the birth of his granddaughter, Keira Noelle Bischof, on October 21, 2019.

As a proud grandfather, I understand firsthand how exciting this joyous occasion is for Congressman CHABOT and his wife, Donna. Kiera will be welcomed home by her big brother, Reed.

My wife Alice and I extend our best wishes to the Chabot family as they celebrate their new addition. We wish them continued health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING MELISSA "MISTY"
GRANDEL, 2020 MISSOURI TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melissa "Misty" Grandel for being named the 2020 Missouri Teacher of the Year.

If there is one thing people know about Misty, it's that she is a Missourian through and through. Generations of her family, including Misty, grew up in rural Webster County near the town of Fordland, Missouri. She attended Fordland High School and went on to study English at Drury University. After a few years into her teaching career, she was asked to teach at Fordland High School where she has been teaching for 21 years.

Misty knows the importance of education in a rural community. The Fordland School District serves 550 students, and over half of them qualify for free and reduced-price meals. Despite this statistic, 97 percent of students graduate on time, and 61 percent go on to attend college. This would not be possible without teachers like Misty who are passionate about their students and their community.

Misty doesn't just put in her time and go home. She goes above and beyond for the children of Fordland High School. Along with teaching six courses, she also sponsors after school and extracurricular activities including the Beta Club. Through her work with the Beta Club, she shares her passion for giving back to the community with her students.

Every day, Misty walks into her classroom not just to teach, but to instill lifelong values into the children of Fordland High School. She goes above and beyond for the children she teaches and the community she serves. She is well-deserving of this achievement, and we are proud to have her represent Missouri in the National Teacher of the Year program.