

can take to prevent or postpone the progression of the disease.

I thank the millions of doctors, nurses, health professionals, and concerned Americans who are engaged in the fight against diabetes, and I am proud to continue to join with my colleagues in the Congressional Diabetes Caucus to do all that we can to develop and pass legislation that will aid in the treatment and prevention of this disease. Americans must get tested, get informed, and spread the word about the dangers of diabetes. The sooner we know, the sooner we can act to prevent or postpone the impact of this disease.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIDDEN OAKS NATURE CENTER

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 26, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax County Park Authority and the staff and volunteers of Hidden Oaks Nature Center on the occasion of the Center's 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1969, Hidden Oaks Nature Center has become an invaluable part of the Annapondale Community Park and serves as an example of Fairfax County's ongoing commitment to the preservation of our natural environment. The Center offers a variety of programs and activities designed to promote the engagement of the public with their surrounding environment including live animal displays and a trail network featuring ponds, creeks, woodland and a rain garden. Hidden Oaks Nature Center also offers programs throughout the year to teach children and families about nature, including summer camps, tea parties, campfires, and animal feedings.

This rich bounty of natural resources has led to Hidden Oaks Nature Center becoming a staging location for community groups looking to assist with connecting the community with the natural world. One of the key partners has been the Boy Scouts, who use the Center for hundreds of hours of merit badge classes each year, as well as for support for Eagle Scout projects. Fairfax County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council, the citizen volunteer group charged with advising the Board of Supervisors on environmental matters, holds their monthly meetings at Hidden Oaks. These meetings are open to the public, providing another avenue for Hidden Oaks to continue its important mission.

The efforts of the staff and volunteers at Hidden Oaks have produced significant results. Chief among these is the designation of the greater Mason District as the fourth-largest certified Community Wildlife Habitat in the United States by the National Wildlife Federation. As Fairfax County continues to grow, with a population now exceeding 1 million, the continued preservation of our natural capital will only become more important. Even in the midst of the concrete jungles of New York City, the architects of that metropolis knew that it was critical for the wellbeing of the city's residents to have access to green space. The same is true for Fairfax County and the work done by the staff and volunteers at Hidden

Oaks Nature Center helps to ensure that the environment remains a priority for our community. This prioritization of nature and of access to green space is one of the many reasons why Fairfax County residents continues to enjoy such a high quality of life.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in once again congratulating the Fairfax County Park Authority and the staff and volunteers of Hidden Oaks Nature Center for their continued stewardship of our natural environment. The fact that this stewardship has continued unabated for half a century is a testament to the impact that Hidden Oaks Nature Center has had on our local community and how deeply it is valued as a resource. I thank them for their service to our community and wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN JOSEPH C. MCCONNELL, JR.

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 26, 2019*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of United States Air Force Captain Joseph C. McConnell, Jr. Before his tragic death in a flight-testing accident, Captain McConnell served his country in both World War II and the Korean War, where he was a triple jet ace and still holds the American record for most jet kills.

Captain McConnell entered the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1943 during World War II; flying 60 combat missions in Europe as a B-24 Liberator navigator. Following the war, he went on to earn his pilot wings in 1948 and subsequently fought in the Korean War. Captain McConnell served as a pilot with the 39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing, Fifth Air Force and was stationed at George Air Force Base in Victorville before being assigned to K13 in the Republic of Korea. Within four months, Capt. McConnell had shot down 16 enemy fighter jets, becoming the leading jet ace of the Korean War and the first triple jet ace in American history. "For his extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations", President Eisenhower presented Capt. McConnell with the Distinguished Service Cross, the Nation's second highest decoration for valor. On August 25, 1954, Capt. McConnell was killed while service testing the newer, more powerful F-86H Sabre at George Air Force Base.

Captain McConnell's skill and daring over foreign battlefields in defense of our nation was unmatched during the Korean War. Although he was tragically taken from this earth far too early, his spirit lives on in the dedication and professionalism of the men and women of the United States Air Force that continue to follow in his footsteps today.

HONORING MRS. LILLIAN AUDREY SEAYS

**HON. VAL BUTLER DEMINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 26, 2019*

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of someone I consid-

ered my sister and friend, Mrs. Lillian Audrey Seays, who passed away on November 20, 2019, three days before seeing her 82nd birthday.

Always a champion for reading and education, Lillian served for 22 years as the librarian at Memorial Middle School. The Orlando community could not have been prouder when in 2016, the Media Center was renamed in her honor.

Lillian Seays had a mission in life, and it extended well beyond her commitment to the youth of Central Florida. Lillian understood the importance of educating other cultures about the accomplishments and challenges of African Americans throughout Florida. In 1997, she and her husband, Lester Seays, co-founded ONYX Magazine, through their own publishing company, LBS Publications. Rooted in strong tradition, style and grace, ONYX Magazine continues to be a premier magazine that empowers, entertains and inspires persons of diverse backgrounds from around the world. The LBS Foundation has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarship to deserving youth.

Lillian Seays was actively involved in her community where she served as a charter member of the Orange County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., President and Treasurer of the Orlando Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Under her leadership, Orlando experienced several "firsts," including the first sickle cell screening clinic, health fair, Minerva Awards, and the very first and unforgettable Ebony Fashion Fair Show. Please note that the Ebony Fashion Fair Show raised thousands of dollars for scholarships. In addition, Lillian led the initiative to develop the Delteens of Orlando, now known as the Delta Gems, a mentoring group for young women.

Moreover, Lillian Seays was a member of the Links, Inc., publisher and co-author of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and an active member of New Covenant Baptist Church.

Lillian Seays was a true public servant who never forgot that service to humankind was a direct reflection of her service to God. We truly believe Central Florida is better, stronger and kinder because of her unselfish love for her community.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Lillian Seays will be missed by all who knew her, but we are forever grateful for her service, and join her family and the Orlando community in celebrating a life well lived.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 MVLE ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 26, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize MVLE and its 2019 Award Recipients.

For 48 years, MVLE has provided employment opportunities and support services to individuals with disabilities and thereby created an environment which has allowed its clients to live in dignity and as independently as possible. MVLE has achieved this success by partnering with local businesses as well as with government agencies and other not-for-profit organizations. MVLE, its staff, and dedicated volunteers and supporters can be proud