

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTING NATIONAL SERVICE AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Promoting National Service and Reducing Unemployment Act to address one of the greatest workforce tragedies resulting from today's economy—our unemployed young people—and to spur economic growth and to alleviate strain on state and local governments. This tragedy is not only harming our young people, but it is also costing our government billions of dollars each year in lost productivity, lost tax revenue and other costs. Although total unemployment has reached a relative low (3.5 percent), the unemployment rate for young people is eight percent. These young people have not had a fair chance to use the high school or college education we strongly urged them to obtain.

What is particularly disappointing, particularly in today's low unemployment economy, is the high unemployment rate for young people who heeded our advice to graduate from high school and college. The total unemployment rate is currently eight percent for people 16 to 24 years old, 4.5 points higher than the overall employment rate, and hundreds of thousands of them now compete for unpaid internships wherever they can find them. By significantly expanding AmeriCorps, my bill would need no new administrative structure or bureaucracy but would allow unemployed young people to earn a stipend, obtain work experience and develop a good work history to help secure future employment. The net cost of the expansion would be low because these young people would be providing urgently needed local services that are being eliminated or curtailed because of state and local budget cuts, such as after-school programs, tutoring and assistance for the elderly.

The bill would significantly expand job opportunities for young people who have done what they could to enter into the job market, but, despite their best efforts, remain unemployed in this economy. AmeriCorps participants receive a living allowance and are also eligible for an education award equal to the value of a Pell grant, school-loan forbearance, health care benefits and child care assistance. By expanding AmeriCorps, we would reduce the number of unemployed young people, provide them with work skills and experience and help cash-strapped state and local governments provide services that they would otherwise have to cut or eliminate altogether.

For some time, it has been clear that policies to address the most stubborn forms of unemployment need to be targeted in order to be effective. Without significant targeting, many young graduates will continue to face their first years as adults without jobs and with no way to acquire necessary work experience. They deserve a better start in life as adults. I ask my colleagues to support this urgently needed, targeted assistance for young, unemployed Americans.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF LILIJA GRUMULAITIS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable life of Lilija Grumulaitis and recognize her unwavering dedication to her community and causes closest to her heart.

Although a devoted American, Lilija was not born in the United States. Born on February 15, 1938 in Marijampole, Lithuania, Lilija migrated to Germany and Australia before calling America home. Her journey began during World War II when Russian forces attacked Lithuanian cities—making it impossible to live peacefully under communist rule. In 1944, her family sought refuge in Berlin, Germany for four weeks. At the young age of six, Lilija vividly recalls uttering her first words in English to an America soldier at a refugee camp in Wiesbaden, Germany, “Thank you for my freedom.” Lilija's family dreamed of moving to America—where she could practice faith and support candidates freely—but at the time, her family had the option to safely relocate to Australia through the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRAA).

Many years later, Lilija was able to fulfill her dream to come to America when she married Leonas Grumulaitis. In 1958, the couple arrived at Ellis Island in New York. The pair would go on to live in New Jersey, Illinois and Florida before making their permanent home in Conroe, Texas in 1979. It was in Texas where Lilija would establish a lifelong legacy of service. Seeing a need for representation, Lilija helped establish several civic organizations and was an honorary member of Rotary Club Lake Conroe. With a strong sense of civic duty, she went on to be a strong supporter of both President Reagan and President George H.W. Bush. She was entrusted to gather diverse crowds and encourage others to use their freedom to vote.

One of Lilija's proudest moments was on July 26, 1972—the day she became a U.S. citizen. For decades after obtaining her citizenship, the joy of liberty never left her, once stating how inexpressible it was to see the Statue of Liberty years later. Anyone who knows her, knows she never failed to take advantage of the opportunity to thank veterans for her freedom as she had done as a six-year-old in Germany. For years, she expressed her gratitude through Christmas cards to over 200 veterans each year and was a guardian on two of the Lone Star Honors Flights. Lilija is a remarkable patriot and example of how we can best serve our community.

While we mourn with Lilija's family, we also celebrate the life, service, and legacy that will live throughout our community. I am proud to join her family, friends, and the Eighth District of Texas in honoring her life and steadfast devotion to the United States of America.

HONORING AVERY DOGGETT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Avery Doggett. Avery is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Avery has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Avery has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Avery has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Avery Doggett for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING THE 2020 NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize Catholic schools and parishes in our nation as we celebrate National Catholic Schools Week. As we approach this celebration, I am excited to announce that this year's theme is “Catholic School: Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed” which resonates with my District which is home to thirty-five Catholic schools. Parochial education strives to instill faith, community involvement, and commitment in the classroom to shape each generation of students into well-educated, compassionate members of our communities. For forty-six years, Catholic schools have taken part in this tradition, which provides a time to reflect on and commemorate their contributions to education.

Due to the National Catholic Educational Association's (NCEA) leadership, 99.2 percent of all students at Catholic schools graduate high school and 86.2 percent go on to four-year college. The NCEA's legacy of success is a testament to the quality education and guidance through faith that each student receives through their time in Catholic schools.

As a proud graduate of St. Anne Grade School in East Moline, Illinois and Spalding Catholic High School in Peoria, Illinois, I am honored to co-sponsor legislation supporting National Catholic Schools Week. The religious values and foundation of faith instilled through Catholic schools guides my daily life and continues to strengthen my relationship with God. My wife and I are thankful that our three sons have the opportunity to attend Catholic schools, allowing them to be immersed in the Catholic faith, endure a quality education, and participate in community service.

During National Catholic Schools Week, I extend my sincere blessings to Catholic