

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE FOUNDER'S DAY OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for its extraordinary legacy and work it does all throughout the nation.

On January 15, 1908, nine college students on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. founded Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

These nine courageous women founded this sorority right before WWI and only a few years after Reconstruction.

From the core group of nine at Howard, AKA has grown into a force of more than 290,000 collegiate members and alumnae, constituting 1,007 chapters in 42 states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Germany, Liberia, South Korea, Japan, Canada, South Africa and the Middle East.

I take great pride in my sorority's tradition of service and the many programs that it has established to serve our communities.

One of the founders, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, dreamed of creating a support network for like-minded women coming together for mutual uplift, and coalescing their talents and strengths for the benefit of others.

What began as a small band of sisters in 1908, transformed over the ensuing 112 years into a globally-impactful organization of nearly 300,000 college-trained members, bound by the bonds of sisterhood and empowered by a commitment to servant-leadership that is both domestic and international in scope.

As Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has grown, it has maintained its focus in two key arenas: the lifelong personal and professional development of each of its members; and galvanizing its membership into an organization of formidable power and influence, consistently at the forefront of effective advocacy and social change that results in equality and equity for all citizens of the world.

I want to salute Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, the 30th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority who is currently leading the mission to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of "Service to all mankind."

One of our native Houstonians who led our beloved sorority was Mattelia Grays. As National President, Grays' focus included chapter programs designed for specific community that the chapter served, educational grants, Job Corps and leadership training.

I would also like to acknowledge Faye Bryant, the 21st International President of Alpha

Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Another native Houstonian, under her leadership the theme of the AKA Sorority became P.O.W.E.R. During her tenure, Bryant also created the Alpha Kappa Alpha Connection, completed construction on the Sorority's national headquarters and initiated the African Village Development Program in collaboration with Africare.

For over a Century Alpha Kappa Alpha has been the foundation of the Sisterhood that helps to focus the energies and talents of African American women on some of the most daunting social, cultural and economic problems our communities face.

The AKA Sisterhood has empowered women to face the challenges that are particular to girls and women of color to create something that is greater than any individual member.

We each recognize that we are but one small part of a larger whole, but when that whole acts as one we are impossible to defeat.

AKA has enriched minds and encouraged life-long learning; provided aid for the poor, the sick, and underserved; initiated social action to advance human and civil rights; worked collaboratively with other groups to maximize outreach on progressive endeavors; and continually produced leaders to continue its credo of service.

RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOCA RATON'S OPAL AWARD HONOREES LAURA REISS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2020

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of the important work done by the Rotary Club of Boca Raton and to congratulate a recipient of their Outstanding People and Leaders (OPAL) awards, Laura Reiss.

Laura has always believed in a world where people celebrate and support each other. In 2008, she harnessed this belief and started a free after-school Kindness program at Sunrise Park Elementary in Boca Raton, FL where her children were going to school. This kindness movement that began as a single club became The Kindness Matters 365 Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that educates children about the importance of being kind to themselves and to others, and contributing to society so they can make a positive impact in their communities and the world.

The Foundation has spread to nine states, with more than 500 ambassadors and 4,000 members in 90 chapters. As part of their service-learning based and community service projects, these clubs have collected and distributed over \$1,347,300 in goods, supported 45,900 individuals, raised \$2.5 million in disaster relief, and reported over 613,213 community service hours.

Through her philanthropy, service, and selfless sacrifices, Laura Reiss has touched countless lives and made a lasting impact on our South Florida community. The work she does and the time she has put in is truly deserving of this award.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Laura and to all of tonight's honorees. As we begin this new year, I am confident that the Rotary Club of Boca Raton will continue to be a cherished institution in South Florida that better our community. I greatly appreciate the Club's work and am pleased to honor their OPAL and Lifetime Legacy Award honorees.

HONORING MAUREEN TAYLOR— LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE AND COMMUNITY CHAMPION

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exemplary Detroit community activist and human rights champion, Maureen Taylor.

As Chair for the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Maureen Taylor has worked tirelessly to fight and advocate for families in need for nearly three decades. Maureen graduated from Marygrove College in 1983 with a Bachelor's in Social and Wayne State University in 1994 with a Master's in Social Work. Shortly after graduating, Maureen began her fight for social and economic justice for families experiencing economic hardship across the State of Michigan. Whether fighting water-shutoffs or working toward food security, Maureen has never shied away from standing up to corporations, elected officials, or others to ensure that our families have access to their basic needs. She has been instrumental in facilitating workshops and trainings with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that residents have access to public services and benefits, as well as protections against harmful policies.

Maureen is a dedicated and courageous advocate and organizer whose passion and work is truly commendable and greatly appreciated. She has been recognized and honored as the first recipient of the Angelo B. Henderson Community Commitment Award, as well as countless of other awards for championing the rights of economically disadvantaged families. Maureen Taylor embodies the meaning of social change and lives it through her daily work.

Please join me in recognizing Maureen Taylor's outstanding contributions to the great state of Michigan and the 13th Congressional District.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.