

RON SLINGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Slinger for receiving the 2019 Chairman's Choice Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

The Chairman's Choice is selected annually by the Chairman of the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to recognize a member of the community who has shown leadership and outstanding support to the Arvada Chamber.

For more than 10 years, Ron has been a staple of the Arvada and Jefferson County community. During that time, Ron served as Red Rocks Community College's Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Strategic Partnerships and Workforce Solutions as well as Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Red Rocks Community College Foundation.

Ron's extensive involvement, leadership and contributions in Arvada have resulted in a significant and long-lasting impact in the community. His sense of humor and kindness bring positive energy and perspective to any opportunity he undertakes. In addition, Ron positively impacted the community through active and abundant volunteerism, leadership and advocacy. He is a true advocate for the Arvada Chamber and has fully dedicated himself to the betterment of the community.

Recently Ron took a new position as President of Miles Community College but has left a legacy in our community that will be difficult for anyone to fill. Congratulations to Ron on this recognition from the Arvada Chamber, and I extend my deepest appreciation for his contribution to our community.

HONORING TOWNSEND LEATHER FOR RECEIVING THE FULTON MONTGOMERY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EDWARD L. WILKINSON INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Townsend Leather for receiving the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce Edward L. Wilkinson Industry of the Year Award.

Townsend Leather Co., Inc. in Johnstown has been offering high-quality leather products to its customers for the past 50 years. This third-generation-business, founded in 1969 by Albert "Red" Kucel, along with his wife Dorothy and their children, now employs more than 160 partners. They maintain 128,000 square feet of manufacturing space in three buildings on Townsend Avenue, complemented by the recent opening of a 62,000 square foot building on Grove Street. Known by many as "The Stitch," this new space is located in a refurbished 1900s knitting mill. Townsend Leather Co. offers a wide range of residential, hospitality/hotel and corporate applications including

jet interiors, as well as for luxury motor coaches, show cars and yachts in more than 1,000 colors, textures, and qualities.

Townsend Leather Co. is an industry leader and reflects the best qualities of the business community in the North Country. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to congratulate the entire Townsend Leather team for this well-deserved recognition. I look forward to their future success.

HONORING DR. JAMES DENNIS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Dennis, President of McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois, for dedicating a quarter century to strengthening the school's mission and expanding its national profile.

Born in Los Angeles, Dr. Dennis had teaching in his DNA. With both his parents working as teachers, he spent his childhood living on a college campus, where he gained his passion for reading and learning. After receiving a Ph.D. in education and a law degree, Dr. Dennis began his career at the University of Southern California before beginning his tenure at McKendree in 1994. Dr. Dennis has helped transform the local college into a large university with a high percentage of out-of-state and international students. One of Dr. Dennis's most important goals is to create a relationship with every student that he can; he wants them to understand how much he values their success. When he's not focused on administration of university, Dr. Dennis enjoys traveling and spending time with his five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dr. James Dennis for his commitment to making McKendree University a top destination for young people charting their path for a lifetime of success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTING HEALTHIER LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE ACT OF 2020

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Promoting Healthier Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise Act (LIFE Act), which authorizes a national initiative to attack a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Increasing rates of overweight and obesity are now found among Americans of every age, race and major demographic group, and threaten the health of Americans like no disease or condition. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is not only to reduce overweight and obesity, but also to encourage exercise of all kinds.

The LIFE Act would provide \$25 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion (CDC) for a coordinated national effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar. Specifically, my bill would require the CDC to establish the first national strategy to combat the overweight and obesity epidemic. The CDC, either directly or through grants to states or local organizations, would train health professionals to recognize the signs of overweight and obesity early in order to educate Americans about proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct public education campaigns about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies for use in everyday life, such as in the workplace and community settings.

In 2017, estimates from the CDC National Center for Health Statistics showed that since 1971 to 1974, the percentage of children and adolescents who are obese has increased from 5 percent to 18.5 percent. The CDC also reports that Type 2 Diabetes, once considered an adult disease, is now widespread among children. The rising cost of the health care system, including insurance premiums, reflects this epidemic. Today, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight and obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S., and 75 percent of U.S. medical care costs. A focused national health initiative would provide guidance to the states to engage in similar programs, as mayors of some cities have done.

A national focus could lead to changes, such as greater participation in high school physical education classes, which dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 25 percent in 1995 and has remained constant through 2015. Changes in nutrition are equally critical because more than half of all young people consume too much fat, a factor in the increase of overweight youth. Data also show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity.

To cite an example of the need for action, the District of Columbia is one of the fittest cities in the United States, according to a 2019 study by the American College of Sports Medicine, yet even here, obesity continues to be a severe problem. Approximately one-fifth of District residents are considered obese. Most of the obesity epidemic is exercise-and-food-related.

I urge support of this important bill to mobilize the country now before entirely preventable health conditions, which often begin in childhood, overwhelm the nation's health care system.

THRIVE WORKPLACE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thrive Workplace for receiving the 2019 Chairman's Choice Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Since opening in Arvada just one year ago, Thrive Workplace—or Thrive West Arvada—has proved their commitment to the Arvada community. By offering a place for individuals and businesses to come together, they have shown their investment in the success of local entrepreneurs and businesses and their focus