

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

VETERAN'S PROSTATE CANCER TREATMENT AND RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of H.R. 6092, the Veteran's Prostate Cancer Research and Treatment Act. This bill will support our Nation's heroes who are diagnosed with prostate cancer.

September is recognized as National Prostate Health Month, or Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. The timing could not be better to advance the Veteran's Prostate Cancer Research and Treatment Act from the House floor.

Prostate cancer is the number one cancer diagnosed at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and this bill will improve the care our veterans receive every step of the way. Whether it be at an early screening, the difficult moment a veteran receives a prostate cancer diagnosis, during treatment, during recovery, or while receiving end of life care, our veterans deserve the best.

The VA is already a notable leader in prostate cancer research and the goal of this legislation is to help the agency build on its success. A clearly defined national clinical pathway for the treatment of prostate cancer is needed because 500,000 veterans are being treated for it in the VHA today. 16,000 veterans are diagnosed with prostate cancer annually—nearly 43 each day.

The most common cancer diagnosed in the VA health system should be met with the most recent clinical data, national expertise, and state-of-the-art technology. Another element of my bill is the creation of a national prostate cancer registry. Cancer registries are important because they inform research and lead to improved treatment protocol, and thus, outcomes. The creation of a registry supports the goals of the clinical pathway and allows for updates and improvements as researchers learn more about the disease.

I thank my colleague Mr. CUNNINGHAM for working with me as the democratic lead on this bill. I encourage all of my colleagues to support the Veteran's Prostate Cancer Research and Treatment Act today so that the VA may better support our veterans' health moving forward.

COMMENDING THE LIFE AND WORK OF REVEREND LEON FINNEY, JR.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and commemorate the life of Reverend

Leon Finney, Jr., who stood at the forefront of advancing the cause of justice in Chicago and throughout the nation.

A spiritual mentor of mine at McCormick Theological Seminary, where he founded the African American Leadership Program, which was responsible for the training of innumerable African American Pastors in receiving their master's degrees. Rev. Finney's work in Chicago's spiritual, educational, and civil rights communities was deeply intertwined and catalyzed positive change for the most vulnerable members of our society.

Rev. Finney was an organizer's organizer. Shortly after serving his country in the Marine Corps, he would join the Woodlawn Organization, a community group in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood where Rev. Finney worked tirelessly to revitalize Woodlawn after the neighborhood was nearly decimated in the 1960s and 1970s. Rev. Finney's activism would open the eyes of those across Chicago and the United States to what is really possible when communities come together. The arc of Rev. Finney's legacy is long and stretches from Congressman Ralph H. Metcalfe, Jr. to Reverend Jessie L. Jackson, Sr., from Mayor Harold Washington all the way to former President Barack Obama.

A deeply spiritual man with an unparalleled understanding of how faith could help uplift entire communities, Rev. Finney served as the pastor of three churches, and was the founder of the Christ Apostolic Church, which would later merge with the Metropolitan Apostolic Community Church where Rev. Finney continued to serve the people of Chicago's South Side as a senior pastor. Rev. Finney's sense of justice was also evident throughout his career in public service, beginning with his three decades of service on Chicago's city planning commission, followed by a chairmanship of Chicago State University's board of trustees, and continuing as a board member of the Chicago Housing Authority for five years thereafter. His strong commitments to equity and community empowerment enabled these organizations to better serve the people of Chicago for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I along with countless others, are in deep mourning due to Rev. Finney's transition, but we all remain committed to furthering his life's pursuit. My condolences are extended to his immediate family, his church, and to his many friends. His legacy lives on.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GALE SAYERS

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gale Sayers, who passed away this week. A native Kansan, Gale was a revered athlete in the Sunflower State.

Known as the Kansas Comet, Gale played football at the University of Kansas for three years before getting selected by the Chicago Bears in the 1965 NFL draft. He went on to become the youngest professional football player ever inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Though Gale's career was cut short after a knee injury, he was still considered a renowned player for many years and inspired young athletes across the county. Many will remember his accomplishments on the field, but he also contributed to the community in other ways. At KU, Gale joined the student march for fair housing. Most notably, Gale spoke up about the pattern of head trauma football players face over time and its long-term consequences, a topic that was still relatively unknown and unstudied.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply grateful for Gale's contributions and I know that even in his death, he will continue to be remembered for generations. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Gale's family and friends.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JORGE NUÑEZ

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jorge Nuñez, a tireless fighter for peace and social justice.

In the 1980s, Jorge made the difficult decision to immigrate to the United States in order to flee the terrible violence that had fallen on his beloved countrymen and women in El Salvador. Although he was new to this country, he continued to dedicate his life mission to fight for the oppressed and the dignity of all human beings.

If you ask Angelenos about Jorge Nuñez, they will tell you he is known for his social service work. He started his advocacy efforts as a community organizer in Los Angeles with the Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF), where he promoted the vote of Salvadorans and Latinos. He later became a respected staff member for State Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez, and subsequently completed his career as Assistant to the President of the State Senate, Kevin De León, and as Board Member Emeritus of SALEF.

Regardless of his titles, Jorge devoted himself to working tirelessly for the rights of immigrants and their families, including TPS holders, day laborers and braceros. He never said no, and his desire to help was always present, even in his last days.

Jorge's humility and commitment to his values were his finest characteristics. His kindness and sense of humor were a couple of the reasons he was so well-liked and respected in all social circles.

Jorge leaves behind a beautiful family, his wife Sonia, and four children, Damaris, Edwin, Jorge and Marvin.

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