NATIONAL MARFAN AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise awareness of Margan syndrome and related heritable connective tissue disorders by observing National Marfan Awareness Month.

Marfan syndrome is a rare genetic condition affecting roughly 1 in 5,000 Americans. Marfan syndrome impacts the connective tissue throughout the body, which can lead to various health issues. Some of these health issues can be disabling or even fatal. In Marfan patients the largest artery in the body, the aorta, can weaken, enlarge, and rupture. By raising awareness today I seek to promote recognition and early diagnosis of Marfan syndrome so that serious cardiac events can be prevented.

Early diagnosis and proper treatment are the keys to managing Marfan syndrome and living a full life. I am pleased to announce that the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology have released new treatment guidelines for thoracic aortic disease. Since recognition and proper treatment are the major components of preventing the most serious health issues, I call on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to work closely with the Marfan syndrome community to raise awareness of these conditions and the new treatment guidelines.

While there is currently no cure for Marfan syndrome, efforts are underway to enhance our understanding of the condition and improve patient care. I applaud the National Institutes of Health, particularly the National, Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculo skeletal and Skin Diseases for their research efforts in this regard. I encourage NIH to expand research efforts in this area moving forward.

On behalf of the Marfan syndrome and related heritable connective tissue disorders community, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing February as National Marfan Awareness Month.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join millions of people across the nation to celebrate Black History Month. This year's theme, ''At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington,'' acknowledges two pivotal impacts on American history.

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the proclamation to end slavery in the South and to preserve a republic for all people. A century later, hundreds of thousands of people of all backgrounds marched to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., seeking equality for everyone in America.

It was also where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous ''I Have A Dream'' speech which echoes through the nation even until this day. Both events marked the beginning of endless opportunities for minorities serving as foundations for the structure of public organizations of the 21st century.

Fighting for equality is a constant struggle that requires the efforts of all of us in our time. As we celebrate the 150th year of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March of Washington, we must keep working towards progress by reducing poverty and encouraging higher education in our communities.

I have dedicated my life to promoting equality for all as I continue to remember the racial and social injustices that took place many years ago. I will remain persistent in advocating for progress alongside my fellow Colleagues in Congress.

THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to one of the single most important environmental crises facing our Nation and the global family: the threat of global warming. This past Tuesday, President Obama spoke in this chamber about the necessity of addressing global warming in order to avoid imminent, disastrous consequences.

The science of global warming is clear and empirical: the earth's atmosphere is getting warmer, due to an increase in carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels.

As a result, we are experiencing more violent and turbulent storms, longer drought seasons, and dangerous and costly wild fires in our nation's wooded areas and forests. Now is not the time to debate whether global warming is real or not, but to begin bringing together elected officials, the scientific, business, environmental, and NGO communities to come up with a comprehensive and sustainable clean energy road map for America.

I strongly agree with President Obama that Congress must take immediate action to address climate change. America is one of the most technologically advanced, innovative, and wealthiest nations in the history of the world. We already have the scientific expertise and resources needed to reduce our carbon emissions and quickly transition to clean sources of energy that can power our homes, factories, and automobiles.

The good news is that by quickly transitioning away from fossil fuels towards renewable sources of energy, we can create scores of new good paying jobs, while at the same time, reducing the threat of climate change—before it is too late.

There were those who once said that we couldn't increase the fuel efficiency of our vehicles—but we did. They said we couldn't reduce our dependence on coal—but we did. When I was just a child, there were those who said that our nation could not build the Hoover Dam and provide power to millions in the Southwest—but we did. The cries of impossibility are nothing new; I have heard them my whole life. They are just as misguided now, as they were then.

The Earth is getting warmer. Our best scientists having been telling us for decades that we need to address the problem, but we have not paid sufficient attention to them. We are literally at a do or die moment in our history. We've taken important steps to address climate change, but they aren't nearly enough, given the catastrophic implications of continued foot dragging.

America cannot afford storms like Hurricane Katrina or a Hurricane Sandy every year. Our farmers and our family tables cannot afford droughts year after year. Our children and grandchildren cannot afford a New York City flooded by higher sea levels, or a breadbasket that is too scorched to feed the country, or more frequent heat waves that place thousands of low-income and elderly persons in peril.

We must act now to speed up the transition to renewable resources, reduce carbon pollution, and usher in a new era of technological development. Remember—our automotive industry was on the brink of collapse. Yet, thanks to timely government investment and the efforts of our greatest asset—the American worker—we are now manufacturing the best cars in history.

We need to address our transportation concerns in an environmentally friendly way. There should be more electrically augmented automobiles filling America's garages and our roads. We need more Chevy Volts and Ford Energi's coming off the assembly lines in Michigan and other states. Auto emissions need to be even lower. We must invest in clean public transportation systems, such as light rail and electric bus transportation. America can, and should, be the envy of clean energy enthusiasts around the world.

We need to modernize our power grid to leverage wind and solar. Our rivers and tides are resources that we need to utilize. By creating clean energy through these technologies, we can ensure a stable future for our nation. We will ensure that our rivers are full, not dry. We will preserve thousands of miles of coastlines for our next generation. We will keep our farms green, our supermarkets well-stocked, and our families well-fed.

I encourage my fellow members to heed the President's call to action and pass bipartisan reforms that will lead to a future safe from the climate calamities.

HONORING THE WORK OF DR. SOLOMON GOLOMB

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Mathematics at the University of Southern California (USC), Dr. Solomon Golomb. On February 2, 2013, Dr. Golomb was named a National Medal of Science laureate by President Obama for his outstanding contributions to the realm of communications technology. His innovation and dedication to the advancement of science has shaped our ability to communicate via cell phone as well as our ability to communicate in deep space.

Dr. Golomb had an illustrious academic career prior to working at USC. He received a

Ph.D. in Mathematics from Harvard University as well as two honorary doctorate degrees. He was a Fulbright Fellow, and is currently a member of the National Academy of Engineering as well as a Fellow at both the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and the American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He has received numerous awards and medals for his work including the USC Presidential Medallion and the Shannon Award of the Information Theory Society of the IEEE.

Dr. Golomb started his career at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he played a key role in formulating the design of deep-space communications for subsequent lunar and planetary explorations. After joining USC as a professor in 1963, he became one of the ''Magnificent Seven'' founders of the USC Communications Sciences Institute, which has made profound contributions to mathematics and engineering, particularly in interplanetary communications. His efforts have helped to make USC a center for communications research.

Dr. Golomb's contributions have touched our lives in numerous ways. His pioneering work in shift register sequences has extensive military, industrial and consumer applications. Today, millions of cell phones utilize technology based on Golomb's contributions to the field. His mathematical coding schemes made it possible for us to see clear video images from the Mars Rover Curiosity. And he has been referred to as ''the godfather of Tetris'' for creating polyominoes that inspired the invention of the tile-matching puzzle video game.

USC has long been a center for scientific innovation and I am proud to have such an incredible leader like Dr. Golomb working in California's 37th Congressional District.

IN MEMORY OF NANCY FLAKE, A JOURNALIST'S JOURNALIST

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember a journalist's journalist and a dear friend.

This week, Montgomery County was saddened to read the news about the loss of Nancy Flake, a journalist who cared deeply about our community.

A short, but valiant battle with cancer took Nancy away from us too soon, but I wanted the nation to know more about this amazing woman because I will always appreciate her diligence, her fairness and her obvious love for all things education-related.

William Gordon and Julia Ann Roberts welcomed their daughter, Nancy to this world in Bartlesville, Oklahoma on May 10, 1956. Nancy would continue to love all things 'Sooner' long after becoming a Texan.

She taught herself to read at age 4 and never stopped reading everything she could get her hands on. She loved music and was a self-taught guitar player. Nancy earned her journalism degree at the University of Central Oklahoma and got to pursue her love of reporting here in Montgomery County where her reporting and columns, earned the respect of public officials like me, our community, Courier readers, and her peers who showered her with numerous awards.

But this passionate reporter was so much more than words on a page, she was a dedicated mother and friend. Mason and Marty can attest to both their mother's protective nature and her intense pride in their accomplishments in high school and now in college. Her friends have too many stories to recount here today of her willingness to listen to any problem, her wise counsel towards solutions and her ability to make them laugh even in the toughest of times.

Just last month, Nancy learned she had cancer and she fought it with the same strength, courage and humor she brought to journalism and has passed down to her sons, who were with her when she left this world to become Heaven's intrepid reporter.

Today, her sons, her father, brother, Bill Roberts Jr., his wife Jayne; her sister, Carol Starrett and husband David; numerous nieces and nephews and a myriad of friends, coworkers and members of the community she touched with her gifts, are saying goodbye at a special memorial service at The Woodlands United Methodist Church.

Booker T. Washington once said ''Success in life is founded upon attention to the small things rather than the large things; to the every day things nearest to us rather than to the things that are remote and uncommon.'' Nancy helped us all understand and appreciate the every day things nearest to us in ways we might not have appreciated without her insight. She cherished the small things with her precious sons and now they will cherish wonderful memories knowing she is in our Lord's loving embrace.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DONALD McKINNEY TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE RESIDENTS OF CALIFORNIA'S 49TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the exceptional work of Donald McKinney over the course of his 11 year service as a District Representative in my Vista, California office. In that role, Don was my principal representative to the communities of Oceanside, Fallbrook, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and military and veterans throughout the greater San Diego area.

Don's work was exceptional throughout his tenure, and he distinguished himself as a dedicated advocate for the Marines and their family members aboard Camp Pendleton. From housing and medical care, to transportation and infrastructure, Don took up any cause he believed would improve the quality of life for our Marines and dependents.

Shortly after I took office in 2001, we became aware of appalling conditions many Marine families were living in on base. The housing stock at Pendleton was worn out, some of it dated back as far as World War II, and many dwellings had mold contamination and other unsafe conditions. Don met repeatedly with base officials and over the course of many visits, carefully documented the housing conditions and assembled a binder of facts and photos. He walked miles and miles in the Pentagon halls meeting with any military or civilian leader who had a role in building or maintaining Marine housing. Don made sure that decision makers 2,000 miles away saw the pictures and understood the urgency so that it wouldn't get lost as just another line on a spreadsheet or item in a report. Marines and their families were living in these conditions, and that was unacceptable.

Today, Camp Pendleton provides some of the finest housing available to servicemembers and their dependents. Much of the older family housing has been torn down and replaced and the rest fully renovated. The base now has 29 new Bachelor Enlisted Quarters buildings. Don's advocacy raised awareness within the chain of command and contributed significantly to the improvement of housing quality aboard Camp Pendleton.

Don's work earned him the good-will of the Marine Commanders at Pendleton and he worked to ensure they had strong relationships with local leaders in adjacent communities. This paid dividends most recently when local, state and base officials work collaboratively to improve the flow of traffic at the Fallbrook Gate, reducing wait times to enter the base from 30 minutes to less than one minute. This small project provides a notable improvement in the quality of life for civilian and military personnel who commute to jobs on base each day.

Don facilitated more than 500 hours of negotiations between the Fallbrook Public Utilities District and Camp Pendleton to bring the sides to agreement to settle water rights litigation that has been pending for more than 50 years. A final draft settlement is now awaiting final approval at Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Finally, Don was an advocate for improved medical care for autistic military children, working to make sure they have access to the most effective treatments and to raise awareness so they can gain access to the care they need and deserve.

In a last email to his colleagues, Don shared the experiences that were most meaningful over the years. Helping an injured Marine navigate a civilian bureaucracy to get a contractors license and a single mother clear an error by the Justice Department that allowed her to run a daycare center meant the most throughout his years.

Along with these notable achievements, Don did all of the things our aides do on our behalf when Congress is in session and we are away from our districts—countless meetings, appearances at the local Rotary or Chamber of Commerce luncheon, awards presentations and other public appearances.

I extend heartfelt thanks to Donald McKinney for his good work and exceptional service on behalf of the House of Representatives and the constituents of the 49th District.