

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELLEN K. ANNALA, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ellen K. Annala for her 23 years of service as President and CEO of the United Way of Central Indiana. The people of my Congressional district and the State of Indiana are forever grateful for Ellen's contributions and commitment to making the United Way what it is today, a powerful force for positive local development.

Over the years, Ellen's leadership has been critical in providing community leaders with the vision and necessary resources to discover new solutions and address the needs of our state and ensure the welfare of our citizens. As the first female leader of the United Way of Central Indiana, Ellen has been instrumental in bringing together Hoosier leaders from all walks of life to make our communities better places to live.

Due to Ellen's strong leadership, the United Way is making tomorrow a better place by helping children today. She has tirelessly promoted early childhood learning by partnering with Indianapolis Public Schools in an effort to dramatically increase the number of children performing at grade level by sixth grade.

Today, the United Way of Central Indiana is even better equipped to support many of the region's rural communities as a result of Ellen's guidance. She has opened offices and brought resources to the five counties surrounding Indianapolis, giving the United Way the unique ability to respond to local needs.

On behalf of the grateful constituents of the Fifth Congressional District, I congratulate Ellen on the occasion of her retirement. Thank you, Ellen, for your 23 years of dedicated leadership with the United Way of Central Indiana. Best wishes to you as you pursue new challenges in the many bright years ahead of you.

IN RECOGNITION OF CASIMIR
PULASKI DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Casimir Pulaski Day. I believe it is important that each year we celebrate and retell the story of this great Polish-American hero of the 18th century, and no one does it better than Illinois with our state holiday. But it is not just the story of one man. It is also true that when we celebrate the memory of Casimir Pulaski, we honor great principles and values that are just as true today.

Principles like the idea of sacrifice for something you believe in, something much bigger than yourself. Casimir Pulaski was willing to risk and ultimately sacrifice his life for the idea of creating a new democracy—and today, young men and women are doing that very

thing around the world. When we honor Casimir Pulaski, we honor our young men and women in uniform who are in harm's way even today.

The lessons of this day include the importance of international cooperation, US—Poland friendship, and immigration reform.

Casimir Pulaski made an amazing journey, considering the difficulty of travel in those days. He became, not just a participant in an historic struggle, but a great leader, a general, and helped shape the future of the United States of America. Young Polish soldiers are serving right now as part of a US-led coalition in Afghanistan and deserve our thanks today for standing shoulder to shoulder with us. When we honor Casimir Pulaski, we honor them too.

And how many young Poles living here in Chicago are waiting for their chance to be Generals or simply wear the uniform of the United States or study so they can discover a cure for cancer or be the entrepreneur that develops the next new technology? But a broken immigration system is blocking their dreams. We can honor Casimir Pulaski by working to make this generation of Americans welcoming to the dreamers and all Polish immigrants who have embraced this country.

I don't think Casimir Pulaski was asked for his visa when he mounted his horse and picked up his weapon. Today, visitors to our country from Poland should not be asked either. That is why, once again, I am a vigorous advocate for the Visa Waiver program for Poland. And by pushing for this change, we all honor the memory and heroism of Casimir Pulaski.

I hope that this day will be one during which all Illinoisans and Americans will focus on the significance of this day and this one man on our lives in the 21st century.

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECOGNIZED AS A "TREE CAMPUS USA" COLLEGE FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jamestown Community College and its faculty, staff, and student body whose commitment to the environment has earned them the distinguished award as a "Tree Campus USA" college for the fourth consecutive year. As the first community college in New York State to earn this distinction from the Arbor Day Foundation, JCC met the necessary criteria by fulfilling five standards: maintaining a campus tree advisory committee, campus tree care plan, providing annual expenditures to the tree program, observing Arbor Day, and service learning projects for students. By achieving these standards, Jamestown Community College displayed effective management of their campus trees and collaboration with the community to foster urban forests.

The Arbor Day Foundation created this national program to recognize colleges and universities who exhibit dedication to sustaining their campus and community forestry as well as engaging their student body and faculty in

these conservation goals. With one million members, Arbor Day Foundation has grown to become the largest nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees. It has helped campuses throughout the country plant hundreds of thousands of trees and last year "Tree Campus USA" colleges and universities invested \$23 million in campus forest management.

Jamestown Community College stands as an example to the community and other colleges and universities for making initiatives to sustain the environment by protecting and maintaining trees.

I applaud their many efforts and look forward to Jamestown Community College's continued leadership on this front.

ACKNOWLEDGING ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF MEMBERS OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, and I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge the advocacy and public service of the members of The Links, Incorporated.

As an organization, The Links has made service to others the founding principle of the organization. Through friendship, we build relationships based on the premise that by our numbers, we are strong. With that strength, we can uplift others.

The Links, Incorporated had as its humble beginning the friendship of two women, Ms. Margaret Hawkins and Ms. Sarah Scott. Formed in 1946, these women worked to engage the African American community in Philadelphia in civic, educational, and cultural opportunities. Each friend invited a friend, and today The Links, Incorporated, is represented by 274 chapters and more than 12,000 professional women of color.

Through its various initiatives, The Links, Incorporated is breaking new ground in providing humanitarian support and closing the achievement gap in our schools. In my role as Chair of the National STEM Career Readiness Initiative, I have used my platform as a Member of Congress to raise awareness about the need for students' science and math literacy, and to increase the ranks of women and minority STEM students, engineers, scientists, and those in academia.

Throughout the history of The Links, we have focused our efforts on children, as they will be the future generations of leaders. Recent initiatives include tackling childhood obesity in our communities, increasing the retention and graduation rates of minority students, and facilitating international involvement and global awareness to serve the educational, health, and cultural needs of people of African descent throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of March we will be acknowledging women in history who have taken courageous steps and made significant impacts in their communities. The Links, Incorporated, have taken up the call for more than six decades, and through their efforts have transformed the lives of individuals and communities throughout the world.