

LSC-funded legal aid programs make a crucial difference to millions of Americans by assisting with the most basic civil legal needs, such as addressing matters involving safety, subsistence, and family stability. These low-income Americans are women seeking protection from abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, seniors defending against consumer scams, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits.

It is LSC-funded attorneys who help parents obtain and keep custody of their children, assist parents in enforcing child support payments and help women who are victims of domestic violence. In fact, three out of four legal aid clients are women, and legal aid programs identify domestic violence as one of their top priorities.

Given the vital role played by LSC-funded attorneys, we need to do better than turn away more than 50 percent of eligible clients who seek assistance because of lack of LSC program resources. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater. On this anniversary, I salute the Legal Services Corporation and LSC-funded attorneys for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel. Every day that a legal aid attorney protects the safety, security and health of our most vulnerable citizens, they bring this nation closer to living up to its commitment to equal justice for all.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF THOMASBORO

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Village of Thomasboro upon the 150th anniversary of the village. The village celebrated this special anniversary on the weekend of June 13th and 14th, 2014, with live music, games, a Raminator demonstration, and a 5k run.

The Village of Thomasboro was founded in 1864 and named after John Thomas, who owned a considerable amount of land in the area. The Village boasts a number of entertainment opportunities including a tradition of street dances, a mobile comedy club, and the Thomasboro Fire Museum.

The village is now home to 1,200 residents, and remembers its past fondly. This past includes Olympian Mark Arie, a former resident and trapshooter who won two gold medals in the 1920 Olympics, and a visit from President Gerald Ford during the country's bicentennial celebration in 1976.

I extend my congratulations to the Village of Thomasboro upon this special occasion. It is my prayer that the Lord blesses them with many more years of extending hospitality.

HONORING MARIJAN OREŠNIK

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak as Co-Chair of the Congressional Croatian Caucus, and I know I speak for the entire Caucus in recognition of the outstanding service of Dr. Marijan Orešnik, Consul for the Consulate of the Republic of Croatia.

Marijan is truly devoted to bridging the gap between cultures and illuminating the commonalities that all of us share as human beings.

He was born and raised in Zagreb, Croatia, where he quickly discovered that he had an interest in foreign cultures and a calling to acquire fluency in other ways of life. After receiving an undergraduate degree in American and Spanish literature at the University of Zagreb, he was compelled to continue his education in the United States. In 1979 he received a Master's degree in American Literature from the University of Washington.

Following completion of graduate studies, he returned to Croatia to work in the field of linguistics and to teach English. He enjoyed enriching Croatian culture by exposing his people to foreign cultures, and he was able to do this in an even greater capacity when he became the head of the International Unit of Croatian Television from 1990 to 1995. It was during this period that Croatia established itself as an independent nation, and the new Croatian Government took notice of Marijan's skill and commitment during this pivotal time. The government reached out to him and asked him to serve his country in a new post at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He accepted the call of duty and became a Political Counselor, specializing in culture and media, first in Indonesia, then in Canada. Finally in 2010, he was promoted to Minister Counselor and posted in Los Angeles.

The Croatian Community in Los Angeles is the third largest in the United States, and Marijan was warmly welcomed there. He has been a tremendous asset these past four years. I have come to know him as a modest and thoughtful man whose every action on duty demonstrates his goal of improving the lives of the Croatian people both here and abroad. It is very inspiring to know someone like him who believes that our differences should not divide us, and that cultural exchange strengthens us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members of the House join me in congratulating the service of Dr. Marijan Orešnik.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TED MAINES

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Ted Maines. Born and raised in the New York City metropolitan area, Ted started doing volunteer work as a teenager in high school.

He was taught at an early age that "giving back" was not only expected of everyone who was capable, but that over time it would also serve to define his character and give his life meaning.

Upon moving to Central Florida in 1986, Ted realized that he was at the point in his life where he had the means and the time to make a difference in his community. Ted became a board member at AIDS Resource Alliance/Serenity House, an organization providing assistance to HIV positive adults, children, and their families. After the LGBT March on Washington in 1993, Ted joined, and quickly became an officer of both the Orange County Rainbow Democratic Club, and Central Floridians United Against Discrimination, helping to advance the issue of LGBT Equality. Ted and his partner, Jeff Miller, also began fundraising for local, statewide, and national Democratic candidates, which they continue to do today.

Ted has served on several City Boards, most notably serving five years on the City of Orlando's Historic Preservation Board, including two years as Chair. For the past four years he has also served on the Orange County Library System's Board of Trustees, of which he is currently President.

In addition to political fund raising, Ted served as Chair of Hope & Help's Headdress Ball in 2005 and 2006, and is an honorary Co-Chair again this year. Ted and his now husband, Jeff, have been Chairs of the Holocaust Memorial Center of Central Florida's Dinner of Tribute in 2012 and 2013, and Chaired the Orlando Ballet's 40th Anniversary Gala, 'Expose!', in 2014. The Gala was so successful that it has become an annual event that Ted and Jeff will co-chair again in 2015. Ted and Jeff are also Co-Chairs of the Grand Opening Gala for the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Ted is proud to currently serve on Nemours Children's Hospital Council, on the Board of the Orlando Ballet, as President of the Orange County Library System's Board of Trustees, and his Homeowners Association Board of Trustees. Ted and Jeff are supporters of the Holocaust Center's UpStander Anti-Bullying program, which was founded by Jeff. They are members of The Orlando Museum of Art's Acquisition Trust, University of Central Florida's Flying Horse Press, Hope & Help's Circle of Life, Equality Florida, and Human Rights Campaign's Federal Club.

Marrying Jeff, his partner of 31 years, last August in New York City fulfilled a lifelong dream. Ted and Jeff are both strongly committed to realizing the goal of achieving Marriage Equality in all 50 states, including their home state, Florida.

Ted and Jeff have been extremely proud and grateful to have had their contributions and achievements acknowledged in their local community. They were named to Orlando Magazine's "50 Most Powerful" list for the past five years, and in 2012 they were named Orlando's "Most Powerful Couple", quite an achievement for a same-sex couple and truly a sign of progress for the LGBT community.

I am happy to honor Ted Maines, during LGBT Pride Month, for his work on behalf of HIV/AIDS patients, the LGBT community, and the arts in Central Florida.