

IN TRIBUTE TO EDMOND CLARK
ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE
CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL
OF FAME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Marine who has long known that fighting for the men and women with whom you served does not stop after no longer wearing the uniform. Edmond Clark, of Madison, Connecticut, is being inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame this week for his tireless advocacy and representation of veterans in the courtroom.

A Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, Edmond applied lessons learned from his service in the classroom. He returned to school and earned a law degree to assist his local veterans community. Often working pro bono, Ed represented numerous veterans to assist them with legal and personal challenges. He advocated for veterans in numerous scenarios: collecting money they were due for their service, challenging unfair home and apartment evictions, and facilitating entry into mental health and substance abuse programs, amongst many other issues.

Ed's record of community service is also notable. He is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Charter Oak State College Foundation, an organization that identifies scholarship funding for students with gaps in their tuition assistance. Ed also served as the President of the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials which facilitates communication between school administrators to share their ideas. An active supporter of eastern Connecticut's youth community, Ed serves as the Executive Director of the Tri-Town Giants Football Club, head coach for a middle school girl's interscholastic basketball club, and mentors middle school mock trial and debate teams.

This commitment to service of all levels of our community makes Edmond Clark a fitting addition to the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Ed Clark, who is more than deserving of this honor as a veteran who has found so many ways to serve.

HONORING JOANNE SAMUEL
GOLDBLUM ON HER 50TH BIRTH-
DAY FOR HER OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family and friends in celebration of my dear friend, Joanne Samuel Goldblum, as she celebrates her 50th Birthday! As she marks this auspicious occasion, I wanted to take a moment to laud her many accomplishments and invaluable contributions to our community.

A social worker by training, Joanne spent much of her career working with impoverished families. It was during this time that she began to notice that many of the families she was

working with simply went without basic toiletries like diapers and toilet paper. When one of her clients told her that these things were not covered by food stamps or any other assistance program, Joanne decided to take action. Founder and Executive Director of the National Diaper Bank Network, a national non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that every child in the United States has an adequate supply of diapers to remain clean, dry and healthy, Joanne is a pioneer in the ongoing struggle against poverty.

True to Joanne's vision, the organization's mission is to raise awareness of diaper need and to build the capacity of diaper banks throughout the country by creating a national network of community partners. In 2013 alone, the organization distributed more than 15 million free diapers to needy families across the country through their network of local diaper banks. With 5.8 million babies in the United States three years or younger living in poor or low-income families, disposable diapers costing up to \$100 per month per baby, and most childcare centers, even free and subsidized facilities requiring parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers, the need is staggering. The New Haven Register's "Person of the Year" in 2007, as well as recognized by ABC News as their "Person of the Week" and People magazine as one of the publication's "Heroes Among Us" Joanne's passion and advocacy is ensuring that these issues are at the forefront of policy debate.

In addition to her professional contributions, Joanne's philanthropic efforts also touch countless lives. She is a champion for a variety of programs including emergency housing and education. Joanne serves on the Early Childhood Council, which brings together community members that are focused on school readiness for young children and their families. She is on the guide team for the MOMS Project at Yale, which develops public health approaches to ensuring that pregnant and parenting women achieve high standards of emotional health and well-being throughout their lives. Her participation informed her interest in basic needs/safety net funding after a study done by the project found that the greatest stressor for the female participants was a lack of basic needs. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Foote School and the Edith B. Jackson Child Care Program at Yale.

A dedicated and unwavering advocate, Joanne's lifetime of contributions have enriched the lives of others and made our community a better place to live and grow. She continues to make a difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Put simply, she is a reflection of all that we hope community leaders will be. In recognition of all of her good work, I am proud to stand today and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Joanne Samuel Goldblum. Joanne—Happy Birthday! My very best wishes to you, your husband, David, and your children, Mollie, Jesse, and Sherman, for many more years of health, happiness and success.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL PRIMER PASO LTD.

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor El Primer Paso Ltd., located in the Town of Dover, County of Morris, New Jersey as it celebrates its 45th Anniversary.

El Primer Paso's mission is to provide and serve the community with culturally responsive resources for families and children. High-quality and inclusive early childhood programs are provided to children in order to foster literacy and dual language learning. Education programs for parents and other community members are also provided to increase literacy and dual language proficiency.

A group of volunteers founded El Primer Paso in the year of 1969 with the objective of preparing local Hispanic children for American public school systems through preschool programs that were both bilingual and multicultural in nature. In 1976, El Primer Paso received a CETA Grant which allowed the program to become formalized with salaried workers and sessions. Since the formalization of El Primer Paso, an "English-as-a-Second-Language" program, a program for three-year-olds and a Family Childcare Program have been introduced in addition to the curriculums and sessions that the program also supports. El Primer Paso's efforts were awarded in 2009 as the program became one of the first in the nation to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

El Primer Paso's preschool program offers families a very affordable and beneficial preschool education for their children. Classes are taught in a bilingual format to children between the ages of three and five and are meant to foster language skills and build upon vocabulary for children in both English and Spanish. El Primer Paso follows the NJ Department of Education early childhood curriculum model, Creative Curriculum, which is a program that fosters positive social-emotional relationships, constructive play to support learning, and teacher-family partnerships inside and outside of the classrooms. The preschool program is offered on a full day and half day basis for children.

El Primer Paso also offers an "English-as-a-Second-Language" program which focuses on educating adults of all levels of English proficiency on appropriate English dialogue in the workplace and in social situations. This program enhances the individual's proficiency in English and builds upon their active English vocabulary. This program also examines cultural issues and empowers minorities to pursue their versions of the American dream. The Family Child Care program offered by El Primer Paso provides families connections to child care providers for low to mid-level income families.

El Primer Paso's core values of integrity, respect, early literacy and family involvement in education, acceptance of differences and community partnerships are truly admirable in today's increasingly globalized and cosmopolitan world. Such programs allow children from low income minority families to thrive in American public school systems and allow minority