

HONORING NATIONAL CRIME
VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and to thank Mike Nerheim and the Lake County State's Attorney's Office for organizing the event. This year's theme of engaging communities and empowering victims emphasizes the role that communities can and should play to support victims of crime during their recovery.

Engaging communities to recognize the impact of victimization enables us to help more victims by providing a safe environment where they are supported and empowered. By working with local community leaders like victim counselor Debbie Vanderwall, State's Attorney's citizen advisor Pastor John Caples and education advocate Jonathan Meier, we can leverage our resources to better understand the needs of victims.

We are fortunate that Lake County is such a strong community, eager to offer help to those who need it. I am honored to work with State's Attorney Mike Nerheim to help raise awareness for this important cause and facilitate new partnerships to elevate victims' rights.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF TOM
RAY RAPER

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Tom Ray Raper, an innovative entrepreneur, generous philanthropist and devoted family man from the Sixth District of Indiana.

Tom embodied what it meant to live the American Dream. He took a \$2,000 investment in 1964 to open a small used car dealership and eventually turned it into one of the largest RV dealerships in America. He owned and operated Tom Raper RVs for 38 more years before selling his dealership empire to David Bane's Camping World Company in 2002.

Not only was Tom a monumental success in the RV business, but he was also known for his huge heart and charitable spirit. After selling his company, Mr. Raper used his time and money to give back to the Richmond community. In 2009, Indiana University East renamed Middlefork Hall to Tom Raper Hall after he bequeathed \$2.17 million to the university. Tom donated more than \$1 million to Wayne County to build a 5,000-seat exhibition building and to make other improvements to the Wayne County Fairgrounds. He also gave \$250,000 to the city to transform the gymnasium at the Civil Hall into a modern performing arts center.

Most recently, Tom, established a \$50,000 endowed scholarship fund at Ivy Tech Community College in Richmond as a means to provide more students with the opportunity to get a college education. It is for selfless contributions like these that the city of Richmond

renamed Williamsburg Pike to Williamsburg Pike/Tom Raper Way.

I have had the pleasure to meet with Tom several times throughout my life. He was an icon in Richmond and a philanthropic inspiration for any man or woman looking to give back to their community. I will always be grateful for the contributions he has made to improve the great city of Richmond, Indiana.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Tom Raper. My thoughts and prayers go out to Tom's family and his wife of 46 years, Suzanne. May God comfort those he left behind with His peace and strength.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF JOB CORPS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Job Corps program as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

For fifty years, Job Corps has served America's most at-risk and vulnerable youths by providing an opportunity to finish their education while obtaining career training and the skills necessary to become productive members of society. It is Job Corps' unique model, partnering the federal government with private industry that has made the program so successful for so many years. Each year Job Corps serves over 50,000 at-risk youth at 125 residential campuses located across the country, and over eighty percent of Job Corps graduates find employment, enlist in the military, or enroll in higher education classes.

I am honored to represent two of these outstanding centers: the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center in Morganfield and the Muhlenberg Job Corps Center in Greenville. These centers are true assets to their communities. I have visited these centers in person, and I have met with educators, staff, and students. It is the students who are the true testament to the success of this program, and I am moved each time I visit with them and hear just how much Job Corps has changed their lives.

I cofounded the Friends of Job Corps Congressional Caucus in 2006 because I believe in this program. I congratulate Job Corps on its fifty years of success, and I hope it will continue to enrich the lives of many more young people in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING POWERTALK 21

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Alcohol Awareness Day and the Mothers Against Drunk Driving's (MADD) initiative to have open discussions with children about alcohol. PowerTalk 21 is a program that gives families an opportunity to come together to discuss the dangers of underage drinking.

The Southeast Florida chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving has been proactive in

their efforts to educate the community about the dangers of underage drinking. This year they have offered more ways than ever before to share personal experiences about alcohol abuse and the consequences of driving under the influence.

Every day from April 1 to April 21, MADD volunteers published blog posts about their personal tragedies caused by individuals driving under the influence. By sharing their stories, these brave volunteers have given a face to the daunting statistics of lives lost to drunk driving.

The Southeast Florida Chapter of MADD has a long history of championing efforts to raise awareness of underage drinking in our community. They also facilitate the DUI Victim Impact Panel Program, an awareness program for offenders convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. This program shows offenders the trauma, emotional suffering, and financial loss that is commonly experienced by innocent victims and their family members resulting from a DUI-related accident.

I am honored to recognize the PowerTalk 21 program, and I hope that this initiative can help inspire our community to come together to make safer decisions for all of us in South Florida and around the United States.

IN SUPPORT OF THE "START BY
BELIEVING" CAMPAIGN

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, according to the Arizona Department of Public Safety, there were 1,725 reports of rape or attempted rape in 2012, which is five sexual assaults per day. And in 2014, the U.S. Department of Justice gave an alarming estimate that as many as 1 in 3 Native American women would be sexually assaulted in their lifetime, a rate 2.5 times higher than for any other group.

Unfortunately, only 40 percent of sexual assaults are reported, and if the victim is in college that number is cut in half, according to the Justice Department. Research and information from Pennsylvania State University and a 2010 U.S. Senate subcommittee hearing found that the top reason sexual assault victims do not report the crime is their fear of not being believed and being blamed for the attack.

To address this issue, End Violence Against Women International has developed a program titled "Start By Believing," a message that confronts the reality that many victims do not get the support they need when they report the crime. Local governments, private businesses, universities and colleges across the country are participating in the Start By Believing campaign.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I encourage people everywhere to share this simple message of support for survivors of sexual assault.