

THANKING MELISSA LEAYM-FERNANDEZ FOR HER CHARITY AND SERVICE

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Leaym-Fernandez for the support she has offered to the city of Flint and its students during the Flint Water Crisis.

Ms. Leaym-Fernandez is a professional artist and visual arts teacher in Flint Community Schools. Flint schools have an art budget of less than one dollar per student annually, but Ms. Leaym-Fernandez makes it her mission to combat this by providing opportunities and resources for Flint students to express themselves artistically. She has worked tirelessly to find funding opportunities to empower both her visual arts program and the students within it since she took the lead two years ago.

Ms. Leaym-Fernandez emphasizes the importance of artistic expression by focusing her efforts on the population of disenfranchised students in her district who need her help the most, especially those students who attend an alternative education institution. Fostering success in students who vary from being teen parents, on probation, or have learning or discipline difficulties is a commendable mission. Especially in light of the ongoing water crisis. By striving to give students the resources they need to express themselves creatively and artistically, Ms. Leaym-Fernandez sets an admirable example for teachers and community members alike.

It is my honor to represent such active and charitable members of our community, and Melissa Leaym-Fernandez is a shining example. The type of direct and individual care that Ms. Leaym-Fernandez has shown is exactly what the students of Flint need.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by Ms. Leaym-Fernandez and thank her for the service she has provided to the students and city of Flint.

THANKING HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS FOR THEIR CHARITY AND SERVICE

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the students of Holt Public Schools for the support they have offered to the city of Flint and its residents during the Flint Water Crisis.

Seven students from Washington Woods Middle School and Dimondale Elementary have embarked on a campaign to donate a truckload of drinking water to Flint residents. The students quickly accomplished their fundraising mission by selling rubber ducks at local community events, and cooperation with Meijer stores and UFCW Local 951 assisted in their donation effort. The student group is continuing their successful community service campaign and plans on raising funds for the delivery of another truckload of water.

To date, over \$4,500 has been raised by the group's Truck of Water for Flint GoFundMe fundraiser. This has allowed a truckload of over 36,000 water bottles to be delivered to Flint residents, and the second load of drinking water is forthcoming. The type of direct care that these students have shown is exactly what the residents of Flint need. It is my honor to represent such active and charitable members of our community, and this group of young students is a shining example.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by these Holt Public Schools students, and I thank them for the service they have provided to the city of Flint.

CONGRATULATING KILLOTTA TARTT-WALL ON BEING NAMED NATIONAL HEAD START TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in

recognizing Ms. Killotta Tartt-Wall for her unwavering commitment to equal educational opportunities and student success.

Ms. Tartt-Wall has worked in the educational field for 12 years. She has worked as an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher for five years and has worked for the Head Start program for seven years. For two summers she also taught the Tot Lot summer Preschool Program. All of her teaching has been done in the Flint area with Flint families and children.

Ms. Tartt-Wall is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young children and their families. She believes that one of the pathways out of poverty is having a good educational foundation that focuses on partnering with families to help ensure the success of the children she works with.

Head Start is the national commitment to give every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, an opportunity to succeed in school and in life. When Head Start was first launched in 1965, the idea of providing comprehensive health, nutrition, and education services to children in poverty was revolutionary. The Head Start Model, developed over the decades has been built on evidence-based practices and is constantly adapting—using the best available science and teaching techniques to meet the needs of local communities.

This year, Ms. Tartt-Wall was nominated for the National Head Start Teacher of the Year by her peers. She has a reputation of having endless enthusiasm and a passion for working with at-risk families and children. Ms. Tartt-Wall is an outstanding example of what one person can do to bring hope and success to the children and families affected by the Flint Water Crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ms. Killotta Tartt-Wall for her dedication to the families of Flint and commitment to educational success.