

Catholic School in downtown Miami. Throughout the years, Lourdes has taught at multiple schools and has earned many awards and deserved recognition.

As a former Florida certified teacher, I recognize Lourdes' dedication, and I thank her for all that she has done for the students in south Florida throughout her impressive career.

Congratulations to Lourdes.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA WILLIAMS AND JOSHUA'S HEART FOUNDATION'S DECADE OF SERVICE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize teen philanthropist Joshua Williams of south Florida and the foundation that wears his heart on its sleeve—Joshua's Heart Foundation.

In 10 years of service to underserved communities in south Florida, Jamaica, Africa, and India, Joshua's Heart Foundation has activated over 7,000 youths to collect and distribute food and personal items that have helped 600,000 families in need. With the help of his supportive mom, Claudia, Joshua began laying the foundation for Joshua's Heart's success when he was only 4½ years of age.

New JHF chapters are springing up all over the country, and I encourage everyone to check out the amazing work that Joshua's Heart Foundation is doing every day and to get involved in a charity or with a volunteer organization that represents your own vision for the world in which you would like to live.

Congratulations to Joshua's Heart Foundation for a decade of service.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the air traffic control at Miami International Airport, which is an area that I am so proud to represent.

This upcoming Thursday, May 19, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Miami-Dade Aviation Department will celebrate this accomplishment and honor the men and women who keep our skies and our airports safe.

Working around the clock, the air traffic controllers direct aircraft and minimize potential troubles in the sky, like the ones that come from severe weather patterns. I am very proud to know so many of these diligent workers—individuals like Mitch Herrick, Jim Marinitti, Bill Kisseadoo, and many others—who, in their professionalism, keep order in the airspace and protect our public.

Mr. Speaker, rerouting aircraft to avoid congestion and minimize delays is not an easy task, especially at one of our Nation's busiest airports; but it is because of the controllers' dedication and commitment that we can feel safe in arriving at our destinations.

Congratulations to my friends—all of the air traffic controllers at Miami International Airport.

PORTER RANCH GAS LEAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report to this Congress on the Porter Ranch gas leak, the largest methane leak in the history of our country.

It began last October 23, and it lasted for, roughly, 5 months. The amount of natural gas that escaped is measured in billions of cubic feet. Some 8,000 families were evacuated for months. Our family, because we live just about as close as anyone to the leaking well, chose not to evacuate but, rather, to rely on filtration systems and the fact that we spend much of our time in Washington.

So how should Congress respond?

We must say never again—not again in Porter Ranch, not again anywhere in this country—but it could happen again because this natural gas storage facility was the fifth largest in the country. That means there are four other areas that could have an even larger natural gas leak. There are no Federal regulations for the safe storage of natural gas, and State regulations are so minimal that they are incredibly minimal even in famously green California.

Currently, PHMSA, an agency of the Department of Transportation, acknowledges that it has the authority to write Federal regulations. They have decided to do so, and my hope is that they will have them this fall. This arises, in large part, because I had a chance to discuss this with the President of the United States back in January in front of about 80 or 100 of our colleagues, and he made a commitment that his administration would work to make sure this never happens again. Not only is PHMSA working on the regulations, but the OMB has assured me that they will act promptly on approving those regulations once they are finalized.

We in Congress are working on legislation that is designed to prod PHMSA into acting quickly, but it is important that we not pass legislation that actually narrows the existing statutory power or gives sentences in statutory provisions that could be used by the oil and gas industry to invalidate tough regulations.

That is why it is critical, for example, that any statute we pass, as the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's product provides, states explicitly that we are not preempting higher, tougher State regulations and that the action taken in Congress will not make people less safe than their States would have them be.

Two issues confront SoCalGas, which is the utility that is responsible for this leak.

The first is that they are going to try to get consumers to pay for the cost of their negligence, using the phrase that they should pass through to consumers the "reasonable cost" of dealing with this disaster; so the consumers around Los Angeles should pay for the cost of providing relocation assistance to 8,000

families, many of whom have been out of their homes for 5 months and longer; the "reasonable costs" of plugging the leak should be passed through to consumers. The reasonable costs of repairing unreasonable negligence is never an ordinary and necessary expense to be passed through to consumers.

This leak resulted from SoCalGas' negligence. There was a subsurface safety valve on the well in question that was installed in the 1950s, that was removed by SoCalGas in the 1970s, and was never replaced. This well they used to inject and remove natural gas, not through the piping that was intended or the tubing that was intended for that purpose, but through the casing that was never intended for that purpose; and the pressure, which is the amount of gas crammed into the field, seems to be inconsistent with the age of the wells—some going back 60-years plus—that were being used to inject and withdraw the natural gas. The costs of this event must not be passed through to the consumers of Los Angeles.

Second, realizing they may have to bear the costs themselves, SoCalGas has decided to shortchange the residents who have evacuated. They have decided they don't want to pay for the required cleaning protocol that is necessary to make homes safe. That is in their release of just a couple of days ago. That is outrageous. The cleaning is necessary to make the homes safe. LA County Public Health says so, and SoCalGas should pay that cost, too.

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, each spring, a nationwide high school visual arts competition is sponsored by the Congressional Institute and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Since the art competition was created in 1982, over 650,000 entries have been submitted.

The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent of our Nation's bright and talented youth. The winner of this prestigious award in each congressional district will have his or her artwork hung on display for 1 year in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol.

I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young woman from the Second Congressional District in West Virginia—Kayla Barbazette from Capital High School in Charleston. Ms. Barbazette is the winner of the 2016 Second Congressional District of West Virginia's Congressional Art Competition.

Congratulations, Kayla.

Her entry, "Human Water Basin," was chosen from dozens of outstanding entries this year.