

JESSIE MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessie Martinez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jessie Martinez is a student at Jefferson Jr/Sr. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessie Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jessie Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2019

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Outpatient Mental Health Care Act of 2019.

Medicare Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHPs) provide a structured and clinically intensive alternative to hospitalization for patients who otherwise might require sustained inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. PHP psychiatric patients typically receive four to six hours of treatment per day, five to six days a week in hospital-based settings and community mental health centers. However, the severity of a patient's illness often prevents that individual from obtaining or seeking transportation to a PHP facility, or from accessing high quality food. Additionally, some psychiatric medications that are prescribed to the patient cannot be safely administered without food.

Currently, Medicare does not cover the costs of nutritional planning, meals or transportation for patients who receive psychiatric treatment in PHP programs. Therefore, PHP facilities are responsible for the cost of providing food and transportation. This exacerbates financial burdens that many PHPs and countless other community organizations are experiencing in these difficult economic times.

Medicare also does not provide for vocational counseling. However, this counseling provides a direction for patients that they might not find on their own. Therefore, vocational counseling is vital for individuals while they work through their treatment allowing them to set employment goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

Madam Speaker, my bill will require Medicare to reimburse PHPs for providing transpor-

tation, food, nutritional services and vocational counseling. The bill also establishes a Behavioral Health Advisory Committee in which a diverse group of behavioral health stakeholders would examine and provide recommendations on how to address the persisting challenges of access, stigma, quality and operability in the mental health delivery system.

PHPs are a cost effective alternative that can prevent mentally ill individuals from facing expensive inpatient care, incarceration, or institutionalization. The growing role of mental health PHPs in our health care system requires that we amend the law to assist PHPs in delivering the services, care and support to those who are living with severe and chronic mental illness.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

HONORING GARY ROGERS, THE 2019 FAYETTEVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Gary Rogers for receiving the 2019 Ambassador of the Year award from the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

Gary is a Senior Marketing Consultant with the Beasley Media Group that represents many of our local radio stations. He has an esteemed passion for radio and an unmatched drive that makes him a sound resource for our community.

This prestigious honor is not the first for Gary. He was included in the Fayetteville 40 Under 40 Class of 2018, Ambassador of the Year in 2016, and was the recipient of the Chairman's Award in 2017. He continues to serve his community by investing and volunteering with non-profit organizations such as the Media Team and Children's Ministry at Breezewood Church.

While he is dedicated to his career and service in the community, it is clear his real passion is his marriage to his wife and being a father to his three year old, Charlie. In his efforts to set a wonderful example for his son, he serves as an ambassador with the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce and has been for the last four years.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Gary Rogers on receiving the 2019 Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year award.

JEMIMA NGOMA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jemima Ngoma for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jemima Ngoma is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jemima Ngoma is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jemima Ngoma for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING KRISTINE PETERSEN IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Kristine Petersen, whose long-term service in law enforcement has had a significant impact on Southern Florida.

Over thirty years ago, Kristine, a single parent, moved to Hendry County and worked as a waitress and secretary. In 1986, she began her career in law enforcement as a dispatcher with the Hendry County Sheriff's Department. After successfully completing the Southwest Florida Criminal Justice Academy, Kristine was appointed as a Sheriff's Deputy for Hendry County, making her the second female to do so. Through this role, Kristine helped build Hendry County's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program, an important initiative that teaches middle schoolers the danger of substance abuse. During this time, she dedicated her evenings to working as an instructor with the Criminal Justice Academy for the Lee County School Board. Her passion for community service is of the highest caliber, and her selfless character is truly demonstrated in her work for public safety.

In 1998, Kristine began working as a detective for the City of Clewiston's Police Department. In 2003, she became the Assistant Police Chief where she served in this role until 2012. Her honorable work ethic and determination has extended beyond law enforcement. Kristine was appointed to Clewiston's City Commission where she won consecutive four year terms in 2014 and 2018. She also served as Vice Mayor from December of 2014 to December of 2016. Currently, Kristine is employed by the Hendry County School Board to serve as Clewiston High School's Public Safety Academy Teacher. In addition to this role, Kristine also participates in the City of Clewiston's Chamber of Commerce Board.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to know Ms. Petersen and it is a privilege to acknowledge the dedicated work she has done for Hendry County. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 104, and YEA on Roll Call No. 105.

ANTONIO PORTILLO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Antonio Portillo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Antonio Portillo is a student at Jefferson Jr/Sr. and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Antonio Portillo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Antonio Portillo for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING ON-AFTER BAR AND GRUB FOR RECEIVING THE 2019 FAYETTEVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate On-After Bar and Grub for receiving the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award.

On-After Bar and Grub has established itself as a staple in the community and does more than just serve a great meal. They have proven to be a reliable leader in the community and continue to go above and beyond to support the community where ever it is needed.

Joseph Dewberry, or known around the bar as Bear, has been a driving force in adding meaning to their slogan "Our day begins, when your shift ends." Over the past few years they have hosted events like the Autism Awareness cook off, Hurricane Florence Relief, Every Child Deserves a Christmas, and Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevent Day. In addition to hosting events they emphasize the importance of recognizing the service our local law enforcement, emergency services, and military provide. The entire community is grateful for On-After Bar and Grub, myself included.

Bear and all the staff at On-After Bar and Grub are deserving of this award and I wish them success as they continue to provide excellent service to our community. I personally look forward to my next visit while I'm traveling across the district!

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Joseph Dewberry and On-After Bar and Grub Restaurant on receiving the 2019 Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award.

ADRENA ROCHA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adrena Rocha for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Adrena Rocha is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adrena Rocha is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Adrena Rocha for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

VETERANS-SPECIFIC EDUCATION FOR TOMORROW'S HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN C. WATKINS, JR.

OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1271, the Vet HP Act.

The Vet HP Act would be a significant advancement for two critical issues burdening Eastern Kansans.

My district, being both rural and home to tens of thousands of veterans, is a medically underserved district. With both VA and rural hospitals lacking a steady pipeline of health professionals, access to quality health care is not guaranteed for many of these folks back home.

Secondly, aspiring health professionals from underserved areas are not afforded the same opportunities for clinical observation hours as medical school applicants in major cities, putting them at a disadvantage during the admissions process.

The Vet HP Act would provide an opportunity for health students to gain clinical observation hours at VA hospitals, prioritizing students in health professional shortage areas, first-generation college students, students referred by minority-serving institutions and veterans, and, importantly, students who wish to

train and stay in health professions experiencing staff shortages.

This is a true two-birds-one-stone approach. Across the country we have aspiring health professionals who lack opportunity, and we have VA and rural hospitals desperately in need of a health professional pipeline. The Vet HP Act is a massive step forward for both issues.

I urge passage of this common-sense, bipartisan bill.

RECOGNIZING ANA MARIA RODRIGUEZ IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Ana Maria Rodriguez, who has faithfully served the City of Doral and the wider Miami region for many years.

Born and raised in South Florida to Cuban exiles, Ana Maria has been heavily involved in the Southern Florida community since graduating from Florida International University in 1999 with a Bachelor's degree in communications. In 2009, she furthered her education by gaining her Master's degree in leadership from the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business at Nova Southeastern University. Ana Maria worked for a number of years in public relations and the governmental affairs sector, where she presently serves as the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Miami Association of REALTORS.

Ana Maria's dedication to supporting Southern Florida's community is further demonstrated in her position as an elected official. Elected in 2018, Ana Maria currently serves as a Florida House State Representative for the 105th District. Prior to this impressive achievement, she served as Vice Mayor for the City of Doral and previously on the City Council. Ana Maria executed these roles in a professional and honest manner at all times, proving to be a true asset to the City of Doral.

Her passion for community work goes beyond elected service. In 2007, Ana Maria launched the Southeast Region for Connect Florida, a leadership development program, and in 2009 served as Statewide Chair. For over a decade, she has been a dedicated and active member of the Doral Business Council and also served as Vice Chair for the City of Doral's Parks & Police 4 Kids Advisory Board.

It would be remiss to honor Ana Maria without touching on the number of awards she has received for her ongoing commitment to her community. In 2011, she was selected as Humanitarian of the Year by the March of Dimes and in 2015 she received Advocate of the Year by the Miami Association of REALTORS. In 2017, Ana Maria was presented the Public Service Award by the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and most recently, in 2018, the Salute to Miami's Leaders Government Award by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. These accolades are a just a small testament to Ana Maria's determined and selfless character. It is truly a privilege to know that she will continue to make a significant difference in the community she serves and the people that she touches.