

FELIX DIAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

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

Felix Diaz is a 7th grader at Jefferson Senior/Junior High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Felix Diaz 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 Felix Diaz 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN AUTOIMMUNE RELATED DISEASES ASSOCIATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association on their 25th anniversary on the occasion of their annual Derby Luncheon and Auction.

Founded in 1991, the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA) was established with the mission of alleviating the suffering and impact of autoimmune diseases with the goal of eradicating autoimmune diseases throughout the U.S. and the world. AARDA's purpose is to initiate, foster, and facilitate collaboration among researchers, educators, advocates, and patient services in the autoimmune disease field while ensuring the highest level of effectiveness, ethics, and efficiency. We are proud to have such a distinguished national organization headquartered in the State of Michigan.

Autoimmune diseases affect upwards of 50 million Americans and are the second leading cause of chronic illness in the U.S. An autoimmune disease develops when the immune system, which defends the body against disease, decides the healthy cells are foreign. As a result, the immune system attacks healthy cells. Depending on the type, an autoimmune disease can affect one or many different types of body tissue. It can also cause abnormal organ growth and changes in organ function.

Many autoimmune diseases are well known including Juvenile and Type 1 Diabetes, Psoriasis, Crohn's, Fibromyalgia, Narcolepsy, and Multiple Sclerosis. Many other autoimmune diseases are lesser known, but all are difficult, frustrating, and challenging for the individual suffering with the disease.

AARDA has been a tireless advocate for those impacted by autoimmune diseases,

which impacts not only the patient, but their family, workplace and communities. Their work has not only resulted in critical research, drug treatments, and answers but has also been a critical support to those who have been diagnosed. They are responsible for remarkable accomplishments.

AARDA initiated the founding of the Center for Autoimmune Disease Research at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center, providing a major grant to facilitate start-up and continued support of the Center's research program. AARDA's advocacy was also responsible for the establishment of the Centers for Excellence in autoimmune diseases at NIH. As the Association has grown, they have increasingly funded peer reviewed research. AARDA also focuses considerable energy on educating physicians, patients, and the public. It is through these educational efforts that the field has continued to refine its focus on autoimmune diseases and their impacts, so that ultimately scientists are able to find treatments and cures.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association on their 25th Anniversary and wish them many more years of success in researching some of the most difficult diseases we face and in the support they have given so many.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE COPELAND'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I write in recognition of Detective Mike Copeland, a financial crimes investigator from Chatham County, North Carolina.

For the past thirteen years he has served and protected the people by investigating crimes ranging from robbery and larceny to assault and homicide.

Recently, Detective Copeland managed to recover \$10,000 extorted from a victim. This noble effort marks just one example of how Detective Copeland continues to protect the ill-fated targets of malicious scammers.

I would like to thank Detective Copeland for his outstanding service and his work to protect those who become victims of financial fraud.

RECOGNIZING CARLA SANTORNO FOR HER WOMEN IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD BY THE NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Carla Santorno, the Superintendent of Tacoma Public Schools. Earlier this spring, Ms. Santorno was awarded the Women in School Leadership award by the National Superintendents Association for the passion, dedication, and innovation she brings to the lives of students.

The Women in School Leadership award seeks to recognize women educational administrators who excel in their leadership for learning, communication, professionalism, and community involvement. Ms. Santorno has gone above and beyond in these areas to help Tacoma School District students to succeed in life after school.

Tacoma Public Schools serves more than 30,000 students from kindergarten through grade 12, and employs more than 5,000 individuals. Under Ms. Santorno's leadership, Tacoma Public Schools has been recognized by the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction as one of the state's most innovative districts and has seen important improvements throughout the system across many different areas. Graduation rates have steadily increased in Tacoma high schools, decreasing the achievement gap. The district has developed a legislative agenda and has led the promotion of the Whole Child Initiative, which seeks to systematically focus on students' social, emotional, and academic needs. As a part of this effort, Ms. Santorno has initiated meaningful relationships with over 40 community organizations and has dramatically increased parental involvement. Additionally, Ms. Santorno has increased efforts to provide transparent achievement results, develop a data-driven system to recognize each student's needs, and align the budget process with the school board's strategic accountability system. All of these innovative efforts have bettered the lives of Tacoma students and the community as a whole.

Carla Santorno has committed her life to public education. She spent most of her career as a teacher, principal, administrator, and area superintendent in the Denver Public Schools before moving to Seattle to serve as chief academic officer for Seattle Public Schools. Ms. Santorno has been with Tacoma Public Schools since 2009, and has served as superintendent since 2012. The progress that has been achieved in just a few years at Tacoma Public Schools is truly remarkable and I look forward to her continued work to improve the lives of Tacoma's young people.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Carla Santorno for her inspiring work and incredible enthusiasm. Her unrelenting dedication to the Tacoma community serves as an example of the tremendous impact one person can have.

DANIEL PERGOLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

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

Daniel Pergola is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Pergola 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 Daniel Pergola 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.

CONGRATULATING HARRY
FRIEDMAN

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Harry Friedman from Key Largo, Florida for earning the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Boy Scouts which takes years of dedicated effort. Community service and leadership are the most important tenets of being a Boy Scout and Harry has proven to possess both.

Harry's service project involved constructing a community garden located at the Keys Jewish Community Center in Tavernier, FL. Harry then arranged for the harvested vegetables to be donated to the Burton Memorial Church for their Food Bank Program. This program has assisted in feeding the homeless by adding locally grown, fresh vegetables to their diet on a regular basis.

Many of my district's constituents have already been positively affected by Harry's contributions to our community. We are all grateful for his dedication to service and know he will go on to accomplish great things.

On behalf of the Twenty-Sixth Congressional District of Florida, congratulations again on becoming an Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE LIFE
AND LEGACY OF MR. HENRY
WILSON

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I met and got to know Henry Wilson in January of 1969 when I took a job as the Executive Director of Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission where Mr. Henry Wilson was a member of the Board of Directors.

Henry worked for Western Electric at its Hawthorne Plant; which at its height, employed 45,000 people in its operations. Henry came off the assembly line and ultimately became the Director of Community Relations. Western Electric was incorporated in New York in 1915 and became the telephone monopoly until 1984 when it split and became AT&T Technologies. Henry as a pioneer in corporate community relations used his position at Western Electric to assist local community charitable, not-for-profit and faith institutions in fund-raising, planning and program development activities.

Mr. Wilson was a great advocate for education and youth programs such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and YMCA activities.

He loved Chicago, he loved the Englewood community where he lived and especially the North Lawndale Community where much of his work was centered.

CELEBRATING WILLIE BROWNING

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Willie Browning's service to central Texas. On May 12, she will retire from over 20 years of work in the veteran community as a volunteer Veterans Service Officer in Harker Heights. Her commitment to putting our troops and veterans first reflects the very best of the generous spirit of the Lone Star State.

Willie knows that the interests of our brave men and women who have served in uniform must remain a top priority for the United States government. A veteran herself, she has truly exemplified what it means to give back to her community. Along with her military service and commitment to ensuring veterans get what they earned, Willie's involvement in multiple civic organizations and her work as a published author are just a few reasons she is admired and respected by many.

Following the death of her husband, SGM William Edwards Evans, Willie didn't waste any time combining her talent and passion to proactively overcome the challenges both in her life and in the lives of others. She worked as a selfless and effective daily volunteer, helping to process over 140,000 claims from veterans and their families. Over the years, she became a trusted ally and resource for veterans in central Texas. There is no doubt that Willie's perseverance and formidable skills helped many who otherwise may not have received benefits.

Willie Browning's positive impact in her community deserves the utmost praise and recognition. With the love and support of her three daughters, three sons in law, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Willie has played a huge role in directly helping to improve the lives of so many veterans. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish her the best in both her much deserved retirement and all her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH
PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF
REVEREND AARON N. GIBSON,
SR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Aaron N. Gibson, Sr. on his 20th Pastoral Anniversary. As the pastor of Second Baptist Church, Rev. Gibson continues to provide outstanding spiritual leadership to the Long Branch community.

Installed as pastor of Second Baptist Church in Long Branch, New Jersey on May 19, 1996, Rev. Gibson brought with him a wealth of experience that has helped him lead his congregation and oversee an extensive expansion of the church. Prior to his call to serve the Second Baptist Church, Rev. Gibson served as an Associate Minister of the Fulton Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland, Assistant Pastor of the Gospel Service in Vogelweh, Germany and Director of Parish Development

for the Chaplaincy during his service to the U.S. Army Chaplain Board. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Rev. Gibson served in the Chaplain Corps for 27 years, reaching the rank of Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School and the Commandant of the Non-Commissioned Officers' Academy.

In addition to his service to Second Baptist Church, Rev. Gibson is an active member of the community. He is a co-founder of the Urban Ministerium of Long Branch and served as its first President, a position he held for over 10 years. Rev. Gibson is also a member of the Permanent Council of the Seacoast Missionary Baptist Association of Central Jersey and previously served as its Second Vice-Moderator and Acting Moderator. He is also a member of the NAACP and has been recognized for his many contributions to the community, ministry and country, achieving both the Legion of Merit military award and the Whitney M. Young Service Award, among countless others.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 20th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Aaron Gibson, Sr. His leadership, service and dedication to the church and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

ADAM SEAMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

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

Adam Seaman is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adam Seaman 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 Adam Seaman 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.

COMMEMORATING THE WASHINGTON
PREMIERE OF WALK
WITH ME: THE TRIALS OF
DAMON J. KEITH

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Judge Damon J. Keith's outstanding career and service to the United States as we celebrate the Washington premiere of the documentary *Walk With Me: The Trials of Damon J. Keith*. Judge Keith has a long and distinguished record and this documentary honors