

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF STOCKTON

**HON. JERRY McNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Kiwanis Club of Stockton on the occasion of its 90th anniversary.

The Kiwanis Club of Stockton was first chartered in 1922. It is a part of Kiwanis International, a global organization that is represented around the world. Kiwanis International works to make a difference in children's lives by providing grants to local Kiwanis clubs that benefit community projects, scholarships to high school students, and youth leadership programs.

In my district, the Kiwanis Club of Stockton works tirelessly to support the youth of the Stockton area. One of the chief ways the Kiwanis Club assists students is through its High School Scholarship Program. Each year, the club awards accomplished high school seniors with funds to help support their college educations. The Kiwanis Club promotes the well-being of children in the community by donating "wish list" items to the St. Mary's Service Center in Stockton and by hosting an annual clean up day of Pixie Woods, a local children's park in Stockton.

I commend the Kiwanis Club of Stockton for its outstanding service and I have no doubt that its efforts have made, and will continue to make, a positive impact on the lives of many children and families throughout our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Kiwanis Club of Stockton on the occasion of its 90th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MS. SNIGDHA NANDIPATI

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. Bilbray. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Snigdha Nandipati, the 2012 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion from Rancho Penasquitos, a community from my district in San Diego, California.

The winning word, *guetapens*, means to ambush, snare or trap. While not many people know what this word means, even less know how to spell it. Ms. Nandipati did. The eighth-grader from Francis Parker Middle School, armed with her lucky key chain, defeated 277 of the country's best spelling bee competitors in a three-day competition to win the coveted title.

As with all things, the achievement does not tell the entire story. In preparation for this competition, Ms. Nandipati studied six hours a day on a computer program created by her father, designed to generate random words for her to spell. If that was not enough, she showed initiative by founding her school's own spelling bee club so students could hone their competition skills and challenge each other.

Consider this: as this statement is typed on Microsoft Word, spell check displays its signa-

ture hashed-red line below the winning word indicating that it is either incorrectly spelled or the computer does not recognize the word; concluding that even Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, does not recognize or know how to spell the word *Ms. Nandipati* prevailed with.

I hope my colleagues will join me along with many proud San Diegans in recognizing the fine achievement of Ms. Nandipati. Without question, her hard work, initiative and success are worthy of recognition by the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE 2012 GRADUATES OF CHARLES DREW UNIVERSITY

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Ms. Richardson. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 2012 graduates of Charles Drew University in Los Angeles. This unique school is a true national treasure. Formally established in 1966 as a postgraduate medical school, CDU is a private, non-profit, minority-serving medical and health science institution. But it is much more than that; it is one of only four historically black graduate institutions in this country, and the only one located west of the Mississippi.

The men and women who graduate from this institution go on to have remarkable careers. Since 1971, when the first student matriculated, CDU has graduated over 550 physicians, 1,200 physician assistants, 2,800 physician specialists and numerous other healthcare professionals from diverse backgrounds, most of whom dedicated their careers working in underserved communities.

In Los Angeles County nearly one in every three minority doctors were trained at CDU, and graduates of the College of Medicine are two to three times more likely to practice in diverse and medically underserved communities than physicians trained in other medical schools. The school is simply indispensable to the minority communities in LA County.

African Americans, who account for only 13 percent of the U.S. population, account for more than 50 percent of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses. African Americans die from diabetes at twice the rate of white Americans, and die from cancer at a rate 25.4% higher than white Americans.

Mr. Speaker, these statistics are grim, and there are many more shocking health disparities that exist between racial groups in our country. This is why health research institutions, like CDU, that are focused on eradicating these disparities are of vital importance.

With so many patients to serve, it is critical that we have enough trained health care professionals to adequately serve all communities, especially those that are economically disadvantaged like the area surrounding CDU. The graduates that emerge from this institution are fundamental in fulfilling that role.

As the Member of Congress for the 37th District of California in which the Charles Drew University is located, I am personally familiar with CDU's accomplished record of service. Each member of the graduating class has chosen a career path that will not only be exciting and rewarding, but will make a true difference in the lives of so many people.

Mr. Speaker, today I honor this exceptional University, and the 2012 graduates who will be moving on to provide health care with excellence and compassion. I know that it will be men and women like them that will transform the health of underserved communities.

CONGRATULATING TERESA A. RODGES AS THE 2012 WOMAN OF THE YEAR FOR THE LAMBDA RHO ZETA CHAPTER OF THE ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. Peters. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary member of our community, Mrs. Teresa A. Rodges, for her abundant service to the community and her outstanding achievements as recognized by the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.'s 29th Finer Womanhood Luncheon.

Mrs. Rodges dedicates both her free time and professional career to community service. She has held top-level executive positions at organizations that work to make a difference in the community, including Matrix Human Services in Detroit, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, and her current position as Executive Director of the McLaren Oakland Riley Foundation.

As an outstanding member of her community, Mrs. Rodges saw a need to help those experiencing economic misfortune and unemployment in Pontiac and the surrounding area. Realizing fewer women could afford health insurance, Mrs. Rodges created the Sister & Sister Free Mammogram Program in 2007. She worked relentlessly to raise funds in order to ensure adequate care for economically disadvantaged women. The Sister & Sister program has provided over 3,000 free mammogram screenings, detected breast cancer in several women, and provided follow-up treatment to women in need. With the leadership of Mrs. Rodges, funds were raised to purchase a digital mammography system. This program and Mrs. Rodges have received recognition and support from elected officials statewide.

Mrs. Rodges has also dedicated her time to helping the Pontiac school system. As a member of the Pontiac Promise Zone Authority Board, she was instrumental in raising \$750,000 in funding for scholarships to Pontiac students. She also created the Riley Scholars program to recruit mentors, hire managers, and tutors to ensure that every student in the Pontiac School District has access to postsecondary education.

An astonishing number of boards and committees for local non-profits have been the beneficiaries of Mrs. Rodges' commitment to helping others. Some of the boards and committees she has served on include: the Women's Survival Center, Oakland University School of Nursing Board of Visitors, Baker College Business Advisory Committee, and the United Way Executive Committee. Mrs. Rodges' service to these and other local organizations shows her dedication to the community and over the years they have recognized her with many awards for her leadership and service.