

SISTER MARY JO MIKE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Mary Jo Mike, named 2015 Principal of the Year by the National Catholic Educational Association.

Sr. Mary Jo, of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, has devoted more than 40 years to Catholic education and has led Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral Parish elementary school for the past 23 years, the longest serving principal in the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi.

Sister Mary Jo soars beyond the call of duty, deeply involving herself in the life and ministry of her parish, school, local community, and the culture of the Gulf Coast, and encourages others to do the same. From their daily arrival to their departure, Sr. Mary Jo is dynamically present in the lives of her students' school setting. She inspires teachers to identify and nurture each student's strengths and to discover ways to help them overcome their challenges. Her ministry and leadership encompasses the healthy development of the whole student—mind, body, and soul.

True to her calling, Sister Mary Jo seeks and claims opportunities to improve life for those around her. Under her leadership, Nativity BVM now offers a broad range of programs for students of any ability, even including a Robotics team and a Lego® club. Clearly loved and highly respected by all, Sr. Mary Jo runs a tight ship in an environment of love, prayerfulness, justice, and peace. She is an example of always doing one's best and exceeding expectations in herself, her faculty, her students, and her community, believing that when children see their teachers and leaders doing their best, they, in turn, are inspired to do their best, too.

I proudly congratulate Sister Mary Jo Mike as the 2015 NCEA Principal of the Year.

IN HONOR OF PETE PASQUALE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a health care leader from Connecticut, Pete Pasquale, who will be retiring in July after 42 years with McKesson Corporation.

During his tenure with McKesson, the world's largest healthcare services company, Pete has capably led the many teams he developed in a career spanning roles from District Sales Manager in Albany, New York to Senior Vice President for the Northeast Region in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, with overall responsibility for McKesson's pharmaceutical sales and distribution activity in the Northeast market. McKesson's involvement in nearly every health care sector provided Pete with a unique understanding of health care policy and a platform to inform policymakers. I had the opportunity to visit McKesson's Rocky Hill offices last summer, where I was impressed by the incredible efficiency of McKesson's op-

erations and the high morale of employees there who benefited from Pete's leadership.

When Pete began his career with McKesson as a Sales Trainee in 1973, many pharmaceutical products were shipped to pharmacies directly by the manufacturers, and Pete and his wife Deb spent every Sunday afternoon calling customers to take their orders. Pete would then bundle the orders by hand and personally drop off the shipments at the post office for Monday deliveries. Pharmaceutical deliveries may have evolved since then, but Pete's values of focusing each day on customers and patients have inspired his friends and coworkers throughout his career.

Pete and his wife Deb raised three kids—Timmy, Gina and Cara, together every step of the way. And, not surprisingly, Pete has saved his best role for last—that of Pop. He is the proud grandfather to Stella, Pete, Gaetana, and Leo, who always bring a smile to his face.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Pete Pasquale for his outstanding career in health care, and I personally want to thank Pete for his 42 years of dedication, leadership and commitment to patients, our community and our country. I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING EILEEN PACKER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE HEALTH ASSESSMENT RESOURCE CENTER

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Eileen Packer on her retirement after 9 years of service as the founding Chief Executive Officer of the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC).

During her tenure, Ms. Packer was instrumental in founding HARC and seeking the organization's nonprofit designation. She designed the organization's triennial needs assessment and was critical to building strong support for the organization across the community.

As a physician and a native of the Coachella Valley, I commend Ms. Packer's work to assess the health and wellness of Coachella Valley residents and improve access to critical health care services. To date, the data from these surveys has helped generate over \$7.1 million in funds for much-needed programs and services to improve the wellbeing of residents in our community.

As a Registered Dietitian and Certified Association Executive, Ms. Packer worked in the Los Angeles area as Director of Food and Nutrition Services at Tarzana Regional Medical Center. After 11 years there, she led as CEO of the 7,000-member California Dietetic Association located in Los Angeles.

As a volunteer, Ms. Packer currently serves on the Riverside County Office on Aging Advisory Council and is a member of the Gilda's Club Medical Resource Council. Previously, she served as President of the Southern California Society of Association Executives.

Mr. Speaker, Eileen's dedication to public service and health education is a true testa-

ment to her great work ethic and leadership. On behalf of all those who have benefited from HARC, the medical community and the residents of California's 36th Congressional District, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks and congratulate Eileen for her exceptional commitment. I wish her well in her well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING LONG LIFE SOCIAL ACTIVIST MARIAN LUPU

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor my dear friend Marian Lupu; a visionary and warrior in the fight for fairness and social justice. Marian has never ignored the plight and needs of others. We celebrate her 90th birthday and relish in her work. I want to submit a profile of Ms. Marian Lupu that appeared in the Arizona Jewish Post, written by Shelia Wilensky; this, better than I, describes a life worth honor.

Marian Lupu, now 89, founded the Pima Council on Aging in 1965. She didn't retire as executive director until 2006, when she was 82. "If you love what you're doing, why not?" Lupu asked the AJP. A pioneer in her field, Lupu took one of the first courses ever taught on aging when she was a graduate student at the University of Chicago. "I soon decided," she says, "that all the research in the world wasn't going to help the aging population unless it provided services and advocacy."

In her elder years, Lupu practices what she preached. "The biggest thing I've learned is to use the supports I have," she says. "I take all the support I can get, use a walker or a cane, without having the resistance of many older people who drive and get into accidents or who fall down because they want to be independent."

Lupu started her career as a student working at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and later supervised the first study on aging Spanish-American War veterans. Her 1948 marriage to Charles Lupu, Ph.D., eventually brought the couple to Tucson in 1965, when he landed a job at the Tucson Medical Center. She started the Tucson Council on Aging as a volunteer. The agency later became the Pima Council on Aging.

"I recognized there were no services for the aging population here, whether they were Jewish or not. I learned a great deal," says Lupu, from Betty Brook, who was instrumental, with her husband, in helping to build Tucson's Jewish community, including Jewish Family & Children's Services and Dr. Ted Koff, the first director of Handmaker Jewish Services for the Aging.

"Family counseling is very much a concern to the Jewish community," says Lupu, who grew up in "a very Orthodox family, and in a very kosher environment in Elmwood Park, Ill, a suburb of Chicago. Our Shabbos goy was our next-door neighbor. It was a very Italian neighborhood. In order to have services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we brought in a rabbinical student and rented a storefront."

Back in 1929, she recalls, "there was no telephone in the shul so a messenger would come get the Jewish doctor for an emergency. We had to wait till he returned for a minyan."

Years later, says Lupu, as an adult living in Tucson with her husband and three children, “our family always went to Seders at Handmaker when Ted Koff was the director. We watched as more and more synagogues came to Tucson. I remember when the Jewish Community Center [came about] through the great skills of Ben Brook. When we first came here there was discrimination against Jews. There was only one country club and Jews weren’t allowed.”

That’s changed, notes Lupu. “Mayor Jonathan Rothschild is so involved with the Jewish community and is now our mayor. There’s much more acceptance now of a Jewish mayor than when George Miller was mayor” during the 1990s.

Still, “we discriminate against current immigrants,” she says. “My own mother came from England through Canada and when she married an American citizen, at that time she didn’t automatically become an American citizen,” which happened later. “How do we know how legal our ancestors were?”

“It concerns me that [discrimination toward immigrants] could lead to discrimination against Jews. I also fear that discrimination could resurface in Tucson as it has in Europe over the conflict in Israel and the [negative] media coverage.”

Lupu, whose husband died in 2002, still lives in the same home where they raised their family. “I love Tucson,” says Lupu. In the city’s future, “I would like to see more concern for others through increased assistance at all human levels and less segregation of different populations.”

Since her 2006 retirement, Lupu has become president of the board of Dancing in the Streets, Arizona, which is a diverse performing arts organization, primarily for at-risk youth. The dance school, based in South Tucson, is run by Lupu’s daughter, Soleste Lupu, and her husband, Joseph Rodgers, both of whom are professional dancers.

Seventy-five percent of the dance school’s participants are on partial or full scholarships due to poverty in the region. Lupu attributes the poverty to both “our prejudice and the lack of jobs.”

“I thought I saw poverty in the ‘60s and ‘70s when I was involved in bringing the needs of the elderly to the community,” she says. “But you very rarely heard of the homeless elderly. For kids today it’s different. I’ve never seen poverty among children the way you see it now.”

As a lifelong social activist, it seems natural for Lupu to be taking on the plight of children. “Staying involved with what excites me challenges me to give meaning to my life beyond my own existence,” she says. “That’s why I’m so happy to be working with children.”

In closing, I just want to thank Marian for her kindness, friendship, and guidance she has graciously given me. I remain humbled and privileged to know and call Marian Lupu my friend and ally.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 FINALISTS
SELECTED IN THE 24TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF
TEXAS ART COMPETITION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the following 30 high school students from the 24th Congressional District of Texas who were selected as final-

ists from the 250 district entries in the Congressional Art Competition:

Erin Branscum, “Curly Hair”;
Tea Brooks, “Fawn”;
Eunice Choe, “Change is Calling”;
Julie Choi, “Monotonous Preparation”;
Hannah Christensen, “Selfie”;
Taylor Coughlin, “Fish”;
Kathryn Deatherage, “Two Lions”;
Amie Deng, “Fire”;
Paloma Diaz, “Dallas”;
Avani Gallo, “Man Horror”;
Madeline Huang, “Nighttime Adventures”;
Diane Huynh, “Humility”;
Zhixin Jiang, “Driving the Herd”;
Haley Justitz, “Sad Boy”;
Jacob Kim, “Frozen Grass”;
Allison Li, “A Spring Afternoon”;
Nicole Martin, “Aluminum”;
Elissa McCracken, “Rings of Life”;
Duc Tran Nguyen, “Vitalygo”;
Jeongho Park, “Horse and Rider”;
JC Patino, “Adam”;
Sydney Peel, “See No Poverty”;
Brittney Phan, “Diversion”;
Hayley Rothballer, “Wisdom”;
Nicole Schifferdecker, “Bluebonnets”;
Kate Sheedy, “Ireland”;
Anna Sim, “Japan in Texas”;
Kaitlin Westbrook, “Street Side”;
MacGregor Williams, “Tuskegee Airmen”;
Arden Wolski, “Texas Impressionism.”

The art competition was represented by a variety of high schools in the 24th District, and I am honored at this time to acknowledge the participating schools and the students’ art teachers:

Summer Neimann and Eric Horn, Carroll Senior High School;
Holly Hendrix, Carrollton Christian Academy;
Tamera Westervelt, Coppell High School;
Sarah Royce, Colleyville Heritage High School;
Bob Thomas, Creekview High School;
Jeff Nisbet, Grapevine High School;
Melissa James, Newman Smith High School;
Brenda Robson, Prestonwood Christian Academy;
Caroline Kinlaw, Ranchview High School;
Steve Ko, Steve Ko Art Studio;
Carolyn Allen, Trinity High School;
Sharice Williams, Uplift North Hills Preparatory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these exceptional high school artists on becoming finalists in the 24th Congressional District of Texas Art Competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 13; Tuesday, April 14; Wednesday, April 15; and Thursday, April 16, 2015, I was out on medical leave while recovering from surgery and unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 145 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1249),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 146 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1265),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 147 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1480),

“No” on roll call vote No. 148 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 189),

“No” on roll call vote No. 149 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 189),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 150 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 650, with instructions),

“No” on roll call vote No. 151 (on passage of H.R. 650),

“No” on roll call vote No. 152 (on passage of H.R. 685),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 153 (on the motion to instruct conferees on S. Con. Res. 11),

“No” on roll call vote No. 154 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 200),

“No” on roll call vote No. 155 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 200),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 156 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1562),

“No” on roll call vote No. 157 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1563, as amended),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 158 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 622, with instructions),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 159 (on passage of H.R. 622),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 160 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 1105, with instructions), and

“No” on roll call vote No. 161 (on passage of H.R. 1105).

24TH ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE
CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 24th annual DC Black Pride celebration Washington, D.C. on May 22–25, 2015.

DC Black Pride 2015 is a multi-day festival featuring a reception, films, a poetry slam, a church service, educational workshops, community town hall meetings, a basketball tournament, awards ceremony, and a health and wellness expo, among other events. We in the District of Columbia are pleased and proud that the DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world’s pre-eminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the nation’s capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

As the very first Black Pride festival, DC Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. (IFBP)) and the “Black Pride Movement,” which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents. The Center For Black Equity, the celebration’s organizing body, chose “DC Black Pride 2015: 25! Inspiring a Movement, The Mission Continues” as the theme for this year’s celebration. This theme reflects the 25