

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE
JUDGE DONNA CONGENI FITZ-
SIMMONS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Honorable Judge Donna Congeni Fitzsimmons, who is the recipient of Recovery Resources' Community Challenge 2012 Exemplar Award.

Recovery Resources is a community-based nonprofit organization with a mission of helping people triumph over mental illness, alcoholism, drug and other addictions. The Exemplar Award, established in 2006, celebrates members of the local community who have demonstrated a long and distinguished record of exemplary service and support for Recovery Resources' Community Challenge program.

Judge Fitzsimmons graduated with a bachelor's degree from Boston College and earned her law degree from George Washington University in 1976. She began her career in public service in 1977 as an Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor. In 1980, she became the first woman to be appointed as Special Attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice, Organized Crime Strike Force in Cleveland. During her tenure as Special Attorney, Judge Fitzsimmons served as the lead prosecutor in the U.S. v. Lonardo, Gallo, et al case, in which she successfully convicted the former Cleveland Mafia boss, Angelo Lonardo in 1983. In 1984, she was appointed Deputy Counsel to President Reagan's commission on Organized Crime in Washington, DC and served in this position until 1985 when she entered private practice at the law firm of Atter & Hadden.

On January 1, 1994, Judge Fitzsimmons assumed the role of Judge of the Rocky River Municipal Court and has been serving on the bench since. In 1997, she was appointed Chair of the Cuyahoga County Violence Against Women Act Committee and as the Municipal Court representative to the Cuyahoga County Criminal Justice Supervisory Services Board. As her career continued, Judge Fitzsimmons would be appointed to the Ohio Supreme Court's Court Security Committee, Criminal Procedure Committee and Jury Service Committee.

In addition to her career, Judge Fitzsimmons is an active member of the Northeast Ohio community. She has served on Fairview Hospital's Community Advisory Board, as a trustee for Community Challenge, charter member of the Fairview High School Alumni Hall of Fame and an honorary chair for the Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence's Annual Break the Silence Luncheon. She also established the Stalking Victim Support Group and was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Throughout her career, Judge Fitzsimmons has been recognized numerous times. She has been named Cleveland's Italian Heritage Committee Public Service Honoree 2011, "Gem of Cleveland" by the Junior League of Cleveland, and has received the Columbian Award from the Federation of Italian-American Societies of Northern Ohio. She has also been recognized by the Women's Center of Greater Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Recovery Resources' Com-

munity Challenge 2012 Exemplar Award winner, the Honorable Judge Donna Congeni Fitzsimmons.

RECOGNIZING MIKE FLYNN, RE-
CIPIENT OF THE WASHING-
TONIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mike Flynn on being honored with the Washingtonian of the Year award from the Association of Washington Generals. This annual award is given to a citizen of Washington State for outstanding community service.

Mr. Flynn worked for 24 years as the editor and publisher of the Puget Sound Business Journal. In that position, he was widely recognized throughout the region's business community. He led the newspaper with a vision of not only reporting on the business sector, but using the print medium to foster valuable relationships throughout the community.

In 2006, Mr. Flynn retired from the Puget Sound Business Journal and turned his focus to community and non-profit causes. In that time, he has served on the boards of various community organizations. He continues to be dedicated to building relationships, helping start-up entrepreneurs, and expanding opportunities in rural areas.

Each year, the Association of Washington Generals awards the Washingtonian of the Year award to someone who has shown special dedication to serving Washington State. The Association is proud of the unique characteristics of Washington State—ranging from our State's outstanding physical beauty to the people who strive to make Washington a better place to call home. The Washingtonian of the Year embodies the Association's devotion to improving our State's communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Mike Flynn. His dedication to serving our community is an inspiration to others.

CONGRATULATING ANNETTE
STASSI

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Annette Stassi for being selected Queen Evangeline of the International Acadian Festival in Iberville Parish. Annette is a 17-year-old senior at St. John High School in Plaquemine, La.

The International Acadian Festival is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council #970 of Plaquemine, which is the third oldest Council in Louisiana.

It is always outstanding to see the diligence with which the young students of Louisiana work to give back and better their communities. I have the highest confidence that Annette will succeed in whatever endeavors she pursues.

I ask my colleagues to join me in passing good wishes to Annette Stassi, her family, and the entire International Acadian Festival. Annette is truly deserving of this recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 585, I was unavoidably detained and could not be present for last night's rollcall vote on H.R. 5044, the Andrew P. Carpenter Tax Act. I am a cosponsor and strong supporter of this legislation, which would provide tax relief from any amounts of private educational loans forgiven for service members who lost their lives in the line of duty since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in October of 2001. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN SUPPORT OF WORKERS AND
THE SERVICES THEY PROVIDE
TO MEDICARE PATIENTS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend America's home healthcare workers who provide services to millions of patients, including many Medicare beneficiaries, who are homebound and require skilled care. These skilled and dedicated workers are among the unsung heroes in the effort to contain the cost of healthcare without sacrificing the quality of service provided to patients. Today, there are more than 40 million seniors in the United States, 12 percent of the population. In 20 years, that number will increase to 70 million, or 20 percent of the population. More than 27 million of these individuals are over age 70, and more than 1 million are over the age of 80. Further, more than 43 million people in the United States, 19 percent of the population, provide care for an elderly family member or friend.

Mr. Speaker, many healthcare treatments that were once offered only in a hospital or a physician's office can now be safely, effectively, and efficiently provided in patients' homes by skilled clinicians. Home healthcare is generally less expensive, more convenient, and as effective as care provided in a hospital or skilled nursing facility. Home healthcare can serve as an intermediate level of care for patients who have difficulty accessing outpatient care or who need intensive assistance with an acute or chronic health problem.

Skilled home healthcare services funded under Medicare Part A and B are safe, effective, affordable, clinically advanced, and patient preferred.

A case study conducted by the Veterans' Administration (VA) illustrates the benefits of home healthcare. The VA has provided comprehensive primary care services to veterans in their homes since 1972 in an effort to keep patients in their homes and reduce inpatient hospital days. The program was specifically