

RECOGNIZING LAURA MONTEVERDI  
FOR HER WORK TO COMBAT THE  
OPIOID EPIDEMIC

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2020*

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Laura Monteverdi for her work to combat the opioid epidemic in Arkansas.

Laura was recently awarded the National Newsmaker Award by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) for her outstanding focus on the opioid crisis in Arkansas.

The National Newsmaker Award is given to a journalist in TV, print or radio, who uses their platform to inform the public on substance use and misuse.

THV11, the CBS affiliate in Little Rock where Laura is an anchor, was awarded an Emmy in October for their work on Saving a Generation: The New Face of Drug Addiction.

Laura led the project, which takes a look at the drug addiction crisis in Arkansas. She now travels the state sharing her personal story with youth organizations, local churches and schools.

The opioid crisis is plaguing our Nation and hurting too many of our families, and I am proud to recognize Laura's passion and lasting commitment to tackling this devastating epidemic throughout Arkansas and the country.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MAYOR  
SUSAN HAMMER

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2020*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of an extraordinary leader, former Mayor Susan Hammer of San Jose, California. She was a woman ahead of her time, one who championed diversity, the arts and the need for paying workers a living wage.

Susan Hammer was born on December 2, 1938, in Altadena, California. She grew up in nearby Monrovia and graduated from UC Berkeley, where she met her husband Phil. She died on March 7, 2020 at her home in Willow Glen, San Jose, with her family by her side.

After working on John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign, and at the newly formed Peace Corps, Susan and Phil returned to his hometown of San Jose. She worked on several campaigns and served on the San Jose City Council from 1983 until she was elected Mayor in 1991. She served as the 62nd mayor of San Jose from 1991 to 1999, working for diversity among city commissions, created the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and began a partnership between the City and San Jose State University to build the Martin Luther King Library in downtown San Jose. She introduced policies that required the replacement of low-income housing destroyed by redevelopment and required city contractors to pay their workers living wages. She pushed for the construction of the Mexican Heritage

Plaza and earned the renaming of the San Jose Repertory building, the Hammer Theater.

Susan Hammer served on the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission and was a founding member and President of the San Jose Museum of Art. She was appointed to the Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations by President Clinton, the first woman and the first elected official to serve on the Committee. Governor Gray Davis named her to the California State Board of Education.

Mayor Hammer's son Matt said his mother . . . "was our model of living a life of compassion and devotion to the community." The San Jose Mercury (March 10, 2020) in an editorial praising her, quoted her farewell address in which she said she hoped to be thought of as a mayor "who built community by championing the potential of people; who fostered social action; and who changed the face of the city by nurturing its spirit." "Mission accomplished" is the Mercury's evaluation of her work, and I wholeheartedly agree.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and work of Susan Hammer, a great and good woman who set the 'gold standard' in public service. We express our most sincere condolences to her husband, their three children, and all who had the privilege to know her. We are a better community and a stronger country because of Susan Hammer. I was blessed to know her and she will always be a source of inspiration to me.

RECOGNIZING DR. SARASWATHY  
BATTAR FOR HER WORK AT  
CAVHS

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2020*

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Saraswathy (Sara) Battar for her groundbreaking work at the Central Arkansas Veterans Health Care System (CAVHS).

Dr. Battar developed a mnemonic guide, called VIONE, to help deprescribe unneeded medications. VIONE stands for Vital, Important, Optional, Not indicated, and Every medication has a specific indication for use.

Launched in 2016, VIONE is an electronic tool that uses five filters to assess medications and has benefitted more than 77,000 veterans at 24 VA facilities.

To date, over 168,000 prescription orders have been discontinued, achieving more than \$5.8 million in cost avoidance while ensuring veterans are only taking the medications they need.

Dr. Battar is a champion for the veterans community throughout Arkansas and the country, and I am proud to recognize her commitment to better serve our Nation's heroes.

LEADERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2020*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful during this National

Emergency to face the coronavirus pandemic many dedicated and extraordinary leaders have come forward to protect American families.

The White House briefings have been informative and encouraging with President Donald Trump, Vice President MIKE PENCE, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Alex Azar, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx, Acting Deputy Department of Homeland Security Secretary Ken Cuccinelli, Head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Dr. Robert Redfield, and Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Seema Verma.

I appreciate hosting townhalls by telephone with professional participants Dr. Jonathan Knoche of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Jeremy Wheeler Congressional Relations Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs Southeast Region, District Director Gregg White from the South Carolina Small Business Administration SBA Counselor Savannah Wilburn, Jamie Suber, the Interim Chief Administration Officer of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Dr. Steve Shelton of Emergency Management for the Prisma Health-Midlands, Dr. L. Brannon Traxler of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and Dr. John Gnann of the Medical University of South Carolina and with Deputy Director Chuck Bundy of the S.C. Department of Commerce.

In the District, Governor Henry McMaster has been a defender of the families of South Carolina with Adjutant General Van McCarty, Emergency Preparedness Director Kim Stenson, School Superintendent Molly Spearman, Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers, and Attorney General Alan Wilson. Local officials have been effective in combating this virus with Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin, Lexington Mayor Steve MacDougall, Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon along with local law enforcement and all first responders with Sheriffs Leon Lott of Richland, Jay Koon of Lexington, Michael Hunt of Aiken, Ed Carrol of Barnwell, and Leroy Ravenell of Orangeburg.

The Second Congressional District Staff I have faith in, and they have fulfilled their duties on behalf of citizens. Chief of Staff Jonathan Day has ably led the Washington staff of Oren Adaki, Drew Kennedy, Leah Grace Denny, Emily Saleeby, Stephanie Pendarvis Jeremy Tillman, McLaurine Pinover, Joshua Grant, Daniel Ramirez, and Omar Hossino. District Director Alex Morris has always been available to the public for constituent service along with Laura Batey, Millie Powell, Hal Wade, Jeffrey Crosby, Byron Thomas, Sam Orr, Butch Wallace. Aiken and Barnwell Deputy Director Marth Ruthven along with Garrett Dragano with Evan Caldwell work tirelessly in promoting families.

Our office has been assisted by private sector leaders capably stepping up to face the invisible threat. Beginning with our medical and hospital professionals. All members of the community are courageous in standing up with churches and religious leaders, pharmacies, food stores, trucking with leaders Bill and Tobin Cassels, restaurants for being innovative with drive up service as developed by