

CONGRATULATING KORINNA BROWN ON BEING NAMED A TOP HONOREE BY THE 2015 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD PROGRAM

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Ms. Korinna Brown of Bunker Hill has just been named one of the top honorees in Indiana by the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor bestowed upon the most impressive student volunteers in every state, including the District of Columbia.

Ms. Brown is being recognized for her passion of volunteer service that began with her diagnosis of primary immune deficiency at age six. Since that time, she has raised \$150,000 through organizing Relay for Life teams and creating the iroK Foundation in 2009 to help support children diagnosed with cancer and blood diseases.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and recognize the kind of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Young volunteers like Ms. Brown are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995. It is used to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critical and highly valued, and inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 20 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Brown should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Ms. Brown for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and continue to hold tremendous promise for our future.

HONORING BRYAN BILL

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life, legacy and love of Bryan Bill, a man who touched everyone he met throughout his life.

Bryan was born and raised in San Rafael, California and loved his time in the beautiful Golden state. It was there, from a very young age, that Bryan developed an intense curiosity, explosive creativity and strong artistic inclination. His mother Cheryl vividly recalls: "From the time he was a little boy he could draw beautifully, he became more inventive—there was never a time when he wasn't sketching." It was clear that Bryan was a talented, exceptional individual.

Still, like any child, Bryan had his obstacles. Parents, Cheryl and Bill, were told that their 7 year old son had behavioral problems, and like any loving parents they sought to remedy the situation. Bryan began regularly seeing a child psychologist. It wasn't until an obscure car pulled up along their house and dropped off their son, that Bill and Cheryl began to really worry—Bryan was 12 years old and drunk.

Bryan would go on to achieve so much during his life. As a graphic designer he was always developing innovative ways to reach an audience and craft a new project, but his specialty was cartooning—he just had a knack for it. I remember my conversations with him: he had this comedic humor; he was charming, daring and a witty conversationalist. If you talked to anyone who met Bryan they would tell you he had an incredible zest for life and his exuberant joy could light up any room.

And yet, Bryan was chronically depressed, repeatedly abused hard drugs, and had dependency issues with alcohol. On February 24, 2012, three years from this very day, Bryan took his life.

It tells us something that someone so talented, so inspired, and so beautiful can be taken from us so unexpectedly. Mental health is something we all deal with; it doesn't know race, it doesn't know socioeconomic status, whether you are tall or short, big or small, it affects everybody. Let's improve behavioral health services, break down the stigma surrounding suicide and encourage meaningful dialogue on mental health issues. It means saving lives like my cousin Bryan's.

Mr. Speaker, I join family, friends and all those who have felt Bryan's warm embrace in celebrating the wonderful life he lived and knowing that he is at peace. We will continue fighting to give our loved ones the strength they need to carry on.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 90th birthday of my friend and colleague, former Congressman Louis Stokes.

Louis Stokes rose from local housing projects in Cleveland, Ohio to serve 30 years in the U.S. House, first elected in 1968. Reluctant to enter the political arena, Stokes was persuaded to run for office by his younger brother, Carl B. Stokes, the first Black mayor of a major American city, elected in 1967. Prior to serving in Congress Louis served for

decades as a civil rights lawyer. Louis Stokes was the first black to represent the State of Ohio in Congress and was a founding Member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Throughout his tenure in the House, Stokes chaired several congressional committees and was the first African American to win a seat on the House Appropriations Committee.

During his long tenure in Congress, Louis Stokes headed and participated in several major House investigations. In March 1977 he was appointed to lead the Select Committee on Assassinations, formed to conduct an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Stokes also served as chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, becoming the first Black Member of Congress to head this committee.

Stokes was the dean of the Ohio Congressional Delegation. His work in the area of health led to his appointment as a member of the Pepper Commission on Comprehensive Health Care, and he was the founder and chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain Trust. In 1991 Stokes chaired the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. When Louis Stokes retired in 1998, he became the first African American in the history of the U.S. Congress to have completed 30 years in office.

Following his service in Congress, he became senior counsel at Squire, Sanders, and Dempsey L.L.P., a global law firm, and Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. Stokes also served as vice chairman of the PEW Environmental Health Commission at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and was appointed by former Health and Human Services Secretary, Donna E. Shalala, as chairman of the Advisory Committee on Minority Health.

Mr. Speaker, I join with his wife Jay, children, Shelley, Angela, Louis and Lori, grandchildren, family and friends in wishing Congressman Louis Stokes a very happy and blessed 90th birthday. You have been a trailblazer for so many. May you have many, many more.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN GREGG MCMASTER, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, a Service of Worship was conducted on Sunday, February 22, 2015, at the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina, in Remembrance of and Thanksgiving for the Life of John Gregg McMaster, Jr.

Participating in the service were The Rev. Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas, Senior Minister, The Rev. Dr. John R. deWitt, Mr. Ronald E. Miller, Organist, and Mr. Christian Markle, Bagpiper. Honorary Pallbearers were The Elders and Deacons of the First Presbyterian Church. The following obituary was published in the Service program:

John Gregg McMaster, Jr., 100, passed away in Columbia early Friday morning, February 20, 2015. Born March 16, 1914, in Florence, the son of Dr. and Mrs. John Gregg