

Fit Kids Day caught on as an event, and is now a nonprofit organization. The Presidential Fitness Counsel has since talked to Sofia Victoria about using the Fit Kids Day model for their organization. The event was created by kids, for kids, and offers many leadership opportunities. In addition, the program has helped introduce fitness ideas and plans to less fortunate communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Sofia Victoria de la Pena on her accomplishment, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her outstanding achievement. It is an honor to know a family that continues to work hard to improve their community every day.

HONORING DAVIESS COUNTY, KY,
ON CELEBRATING ITS BICENTEN-
NIAL

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Daviess County, Kentucky, on celebrating its bicentennial.

Daviess County came into its existence on June 1, 1815, through an Act of the Kentucky General Assembly. But on May 30, 2015, Daviess County will begin to celebrate its 200th birthday.

Daviess County lies in the Western Kentucky Coalfield region and is also an oil producer. Bounded by the Ohio River, it serves as an important trade and transportation artery—making it a major manufacturing center, transportation hub and U.S. Customs Port of Entry on the Ohio River. It is also a leader in health care, medical research and pharmaceutical experimentation.

The keystone celebration, on May 30th, includes an early morning 5 k run/walk at the Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse of the Ursuline Sisters. Activities for people of all ages will take place around the Courthouse Square, and the day will end with a reception and the opening of a special Bicentennial Art Exhibit at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art.

Other activities will include honoring African Americans from Daviess County who served in the Union Army during the Civil War with the dedication of an historic highway marker on the Courthouse lawn. There will also be a series of Bicentennial-related programs at the Daviess County Public Library throughout the summer.

A new history of Daviess County, Kentucky, *Celebrating Our Heritage*, has been published and highlights many aspects of daily life in the county. Among these topics is Daviess County's rich history in the agriculture industry—citing corn, soybean and tobacco producers.

Daviess County is the home to some of Kentucky's great colleges and universities, including: Brescia University, Kentucky Wesleyan College, a campus of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and a branch of Western Kentucky University.

It is important to also highlight the leadership in Daviess County and all their efforts to make this a successful and thriving community. Thank you for making Daviess County what it is today.

I encourage everyone in Kentucky's Second District to join in the festivities to celebrate the

rich history and traditions of Daviess County. I congratulate all who live and serve the county and look forward to taking part in some of these celebrations myself. Here's to many more years of success.

ADVANCING RESEARCH FOR
HYDROCEPHALUS PATIENTS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to legislation I introduced last week, the Advancing Research for Hydrocephalus Act, and urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important bill. My new legislation—which is supported by the national Hydrocephalus Association—will facilitate better research into this devastating condition by requiring the collection of demographic information on the hydrocephalus community.

Hydrocephalus, which is defined as an abnormal accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) within cavities in the brain, can cause brain damage, vision issues, and extreme pain for those affected.

One of those affected, Adrienne D'Oria, a 22 year old from my Congressional District, has suffered from hydrocephalus since she was 10 months old. In addition to the excruciating pain, complications from shunt malfunctions, dozens of brain surgeries and hundreds of hospital visits have essentially eliminated any chance of a normal childhood. Hydrocephalus continues to limit her options for the future:

All of my friends, everyone I went to school with is graduating and starting the next stage in their life. I can't do that," she said recently. "I had to withdraw from so many classes because of hospital admissions and all the surgeries. Even though I've been out of high school for four years I only have the credits of a freshman. My friends are graduating and I'm stuck in limbo. I can't control it.

Unfortunately for Adrienne and thousands like her, the most common treatment for hydrocephalus remains a surgically-inserted shunt. Shunts drain the fluid from the brain through the neck and into other parts of the body. They frequently become blocked, malfunction, or cause infection. In almost half of all cases in children, the shunt fails within the first two years. When they do, patients must immediately locate a medical facility and a neurosurgeon who can correct the problem. This precarious situation is a constant source of fear for those who suffer from hydrocephalus and their families. In fact, hydrocephalus is the most common reason for brain surgery in children.

The scientific and medical communities not only have very few resources that can help them in understanding this condition, they are not even aware of the true impact of this disorder. Without better data and research, they cannot develop more effective treatments.

Mr. Speaker, there are some estimates that this condition affects roughly one million Americans. Yet given that hydrocephalus can occur either congenitally or be acquired, oftentimes through infection or traumatic brain injury, reporting of hydrocephalus has been inconsistent. Currently no mechanism exists to

identify and track persons with hydrocephalus who develop the condition after birth. As a result, we do not have a good grasp on the demographics of hydrocephalus patients.

My bill provides a remedy. The Advancing Research for Hydrocephalus Act will establish a National Hydrocephalus Surveillance System (NHSS) to collect information on the incidence and prevalence of hydrocephalus among a range of demographics, including changes in epidemiology over time. This surveillance system would provide a wealth of data for researchers. Better surveillance will facilitate better research and lead to better outcomes, treatment and care for the infants, children, and adults experiencing the agonizing pain of hydrocephalus.

So I urge my colleagues to support my legislation to help provide assistance and raise the quality of life for individuals, like Adrienne, who are suffering from this condition.

IN RECOGNITION OF EAST HAR-
LEM COUNCIL FOR HUMAN SER-
VICES, CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker I rise today to give recognition to the East Harlem Council for Human Services, which is celebrating 50 years of serving the local community. The work done by the Council has been vital to our community and has changed the lives of so many for decades. Groups like the Council and institutions like the Boriken Care Center are worth fighting for, and I will continue to make sure there are adequate resources available for them to continue to thrive and serve their community.

I am proud to honor the East Harlem Council for Human Services which was incorporated in 1965 through grass-roots efforts of local East Harlem residents committed to addressing unmet needs in their community. The Council is a multi-service not-for-profit which coordinates an array of affordable and no cost services to more than 10,000 individuals each year without regard for an individual's ability to pay for services. The Board of Directors and more than almost 200 staff members are united in a commitment to the Council's mission of providing the highest quality of comprehensive, community-based, fully bilingual services to the East Harlem community.

The Council is the largest grass-roots, multi-service not-for-profit in our East Harlem community. By continuing its strong history of diverse community-based leadership, and commitment to the self-determination of this institution and the East Harlem community at large, the Council has positioned itself for continued growth. The Council continuously renews its commitment to the residents of El Barrio to ensure that the Boriken Neighborhood Health Center and its sister programs will continue to provide affordable quality comprehensive services in East Harlem for many more decades.

There's no finer work than fighting to bring health and essential wellness to those struggling to make ends meet in underserved communities. Everyone deserves access to quality

care within their community and we are proud to have the East Harlem Council for Human Services serving us.

CONGRATULATING REV. DR. MICHAEL L. PFLEGER ON HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRIESTHOOD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my congratulations to Rev. Dr. Michael Louis Pfleger, the Senior Pastor at Saint Sabina Church in Chicago on his 40th Anniversary of the priesthood. I am sincerely thankful for the forty years of his devotion to community service and endless effort in fighting social injustice.

Michael Louis Pfleger was ordained a Catholic Priest for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago on May 14, 1975 and since 1981 has been Pastor of the mostly African American Parish of Saint Sabina, a Catholic church in Chicago's Auburn Gresham Neighborhood. His uninterrupted tenure in just one neighborhood is normally unheard of in a diocese where Pastors usually serve for only six to twelve years. When he was appointed to his present position, at the age of 31, he became the youngest Pastor in Chicago Archdiocese. Under Pfleger's leadership, Saint Sabina has established an outstanding social service program including job programs, conflict resolution, Employment Resource Center, a Social Service Center, and also an elder home.

Father Pfleger has adopted three sons, and led efforts to curb drug and alcohol use, especially among teenagers. He has led protests of all kind, encourages people to register and vote, take positions on all kind of controversial issues, always on the side of the people. He has fought against the proliferation of hand guns and hold regular lecture series at Saint Sabina featuring individuals like Reverend Jesse Jackson, Reverend Al Sharpton, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, Dick Gregory, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Reverend Joseph Lowery, Harry Belafonte and others. He has called out disrespectful rappers, embraced salvation for prostitutes, defied the Cardinal and pushed for the Ordination of women as Priests. Michael Louis Pfleger, a man among men, a Priest among Priests, a force for good, a friend to humanity, my brother and a Servant of God.

ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, May is Asthma Awareness Month. As co-chair of the Congressional Asthma and Allergy Caucus and a senior member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Health Subcommittee, I want to take this opportunity to bring attention to asthma's prevalence in the United States, as well as what must be done to control its growth.

Asthma is one of the most serious chronic diseases in the U.S., affecting almost 26 million Americans and nearly 7 million children. It can cause shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing, chest pain, and even death.

In my home state of New York, asthma takes a particularly heavy toll—especially in my hometown of the Bronx. About 390,000 children and 1.4 million adults in New York have asthma. The total cost of asthma-related hospitalizations in New York in 2007 was a staggering \$535 million. The Bronx, where I was born and raised and am proud to represent part of, has one of the highest rates of asthma-related emergency room visits in all of New York.

These statistics are even more alarming when looking specifically at minority and low-income populations. Children from poor households are twice as likely as their more affluent peers to be diagnosed with asthma. In addition, asthma rates among African American children increased by 50 percent between 2001 and 2009.

Asthma's prevalence costs children and adults dearly with regard to quality of life. However, it carries an economic cost as well. The direct medical costs of asthma treatment, coupled with absences from work and school, result in losses of more than \$56 billion annually. Children additionally suffer academically, as asthma causes about 14 million student absences each year.

While asthma can be treated and managed, it is too often not managed properly. Asthma sufferers require regular check-ups, asthma management plans, and access to both maintenance and fast acting inhalers. People with persistent asthma must be tested for allergies so they can learn what triggers might cause an asthma attack. Furthermore, environmental triggers in homes and schools, such as mold, dust, animal dander, pests, toxic chemicals, and excessive moisture must be eliminated.

Congress must also work to reduce asthma rates. A little over five years ago, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act, which prohibited insurance companies from denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, like asthma. While this was a terrific stride, more efforts are needed here in Washington.

I have been a strong supporter of the Centers for Disease Control's National Asthma Control Program, which helps states implement systems to monitor and treat asthma. This Program's work has resulted in a \$23.1 billion decline in asthma health care costs since 2001. In addition, deaths related to asthma have dropped by 24 percent since the Program's inception in 1999. Earlier this year, I wrote a letter asking appropriators to fund the National Asthma Control Program at \$30.6 million in Fiscal Year 2016.

While financial support for this Program is vital, we cannot rely on funding alone to solve the problems that asthma causes. We must continue to increase awareness of preventative measures to help people manage their disease. In addition, we must work collaboratively across sectors to address the burden that asthma creates.

I look forward to continuing to work to ensure that adults and children across the United States can live healthier and more successful lives.

CHRISTOPHER BOULANGER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Christopher Boulanger as a member of the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2015.

Christopher will graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on May 28, 2015.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Christopher's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation. The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

The challenge for this young man will be to retain as much as possible, pass on what he learns to others, and live life for every moment.

South Mississippi is proud of Christopher and his accomplishments, and we look forward to him continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Air Force officer.

As Christopher embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Air Force Academy.

I would like to send Christopher my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES OF THE FALLEN HEROES ON MEMORIAL DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember all those brave and heroic men and women of the Armed Forces who gave the last full measure of devotion in defense of our country.

Each May, veteran and service organizations come together to hold events around the country to demonstrate their gratitude to current and former men and women in uniform and their families for their service to our country.

The month of May is a time when a grateful nation acknowledges and affirms the debt owed to those brave men and women who risked their lives to preserve the freedoms we too often take for granted.

It is important that we recognize and celebrate the tremendous role military personnel have played across the globe.

Texas is home to more than 130,000 active military personnel and more than 1,600,000 veterans, 30,000 of which are from the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

It has been an honor to represent these constituents and I am extremely proud of their service.

As we acknowledge our former, current and future military men and women, it is essential that we provide them with the resources necessary to help wounded warriors, veterans, and their families' transition to civilian life.