

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: "I AM U. U R ME. WE ARE PRIDE!" as the theme for this year's celebration.

DC Black Pride is a project of the Center For Black Equity and is coordinated by Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. and Kenya Hutton with assistance from a volunteer advisory board, which coordinates this annual event and consists of Andrea Woody-Macko; Shannon Garcon; Genise Chambers-Woods; Réginald Shaw-Richardson; and Gladece Knight.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 26th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C., and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States citizens who reside in the District of Columbia are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

CONGRATULATING VALLEY HOPE
AT GRAPEVINE ON THEIR FIF-
TEENTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Valley Hope at Grapevine on their fifteenth anniversary of service in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Nearly fifty years ago in Norton, Kansas, Valley Hope began providing affordable treatment services to those within their community suffering from addiction and needing assistance. Since first opening in 1967, Valley Hope has grown to offer their services in seven states and provides support to thousands of individuals in need. Over the last fifteen years, Valley Hope has provided the residents of Grapevine and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex with addiction treatment and rehabilitative services, impacting the lives of countless Texans and their families struggling with addiction. By providing comprehensive treatment services for substance use disorders, Valley Hope is able to increase the quality of life of their patients and allow them the opportunity to live their lives free from the anchors of addiction.

The nation's substance abuse epidemic continues to spread throughout our cities, our communities, and our schools. I commend Valley Hope for their efforts to address this crisis and tackle an issue of such great importance head on. Rehabilitation services such as those offered by Valley Hope provide a tremendous benefit to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the tireless efforts Valley Hope has made towards ending chemical dependency and substance use disorders. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating

Valley Hope at Grapevine on their fifteenth anniversary of service.

IN HONOR OF ELENA IZCALLI MEDINA FOR HER RECOGNITION BY RENOWNED POET LAUREATE JUAN FELIPE HERRERA AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elena Izcalli Medina on being honored by United States Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera at the Library of Congress.

The 21st Poet Laureate Consultant Juan Felipe Herrera celebrated the conclusion of the first year of his laureateship by honoring young poet Elena Izcalli Medina at the Library of Congress. Elena Izcalli is a 7th grader attending High Tech Middle School in Chula Vista, California. She has been writing poetry for four years. She first received praise from Herrera in 2012 for her poem "Where I am from" which Herrera said "contained a philosophical reflection about how all of us are impermanent. It was just a solid poem where she really touched base with wisdom."

Herrera made an unprecedented gesture by arranging for Elena Izcalli and her family to attend the last lecture of his first term. Herrera presented Elena Izcalli to guests and dignitaries at the Library of Congress where she read her poem "One Day" on April 13, 2016. I would like to submit her poem.

ONE DAY

(by Elena Izcalli Medina)

One day the border will come down
And all the colors will flow and
We will grant ALL a crown.

One day police brutality will be no more
And ALL will have equality no matter who
you
Are fighting for.

One day we will ALL love each other
No matter what skin what religion
because we are from the same mother.

One day we will treat the environment like
a human being
And ALL of nature
Can go back to being free.

One day when someone is shot
Black and brown Lives will matter
And ALL will stand up to the cops.

One day we will have peace between coun-
tries
and instead of starting war
we will grant each other awards
One day we will find each other the same
and realize we ALL go through
sunshine and rain.

One day we will look at women
so they are not objectified
But we'll pay attention to who they are in-
side

and instead of calling them bossy
We will take away the y.
'Cause I wonder why,
why this belief is still alive.

My hair flies freely in the wind
Me being proud of the color of my skin
I inhale clean air and exhale my worries
But one worry that stays inside me

is the idea
that this one day might not come
One day.

One day we'll all be free
and proud to be
Under the same sun
singing songs of freedom

*Last stanza borrowed from Matisyahu

HONORING 23 WORLD WAR II VET-
ERANS FROM OREGON FOR
THEIR HONOR FLIGHT TO THE
NATION'S CAPITAL

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 23 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to our nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Clifford W. Anderson, Army; Bernard D. Brown, Army; Charles E. Brown, Army; Donald S. Doughton, Army; Wayne G. Homes, Army; Alvin W. Mohr, Army; Mikio Tamiyasu, Army; Delmar G. Wilks, Army; William A.P. Lawrence, Army Air Forces; Robert E. Parry, Army Air Forces; John T. Reeves, Army Air Forces; Ray A. Snook, Army Air Forces; Richard L. Harriman, Merchant Marines; William D. Alder, Navy; Alvin O. Bradford, Navy; George W. Hayes, Navy; Gorder R. Hoefer, Navy; John T. Hyer, Navy; Raymond M. Mader, Navy; James D. Walker, Navy; William E. Wetmore, Navy; George W. Zentgraf, Navy; and Jeanne E. Heuett, Women's Army Corps.

These 23 heroes join the estimated 20,000 to 25,000 veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. from their home states in 2016, adding to the more than 150,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

I would also like to recognize the nine volunteers traveling on this trip who have also served our country: Eden R. Brown, Army Air Forces; Clement K. Hyer, Army; James E. Morley, Army; Theodore J. Riehl, Army; Marc R. Snook, Army; Michael Allegre, Army Air Forces; George W. Hyes, Marine Corps; and William M. Lawrence, Navy. These brave men and women put their lives on the line for our freedom, and they continue their dedication to service by contributing to this great cause and honoring those that came before them.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these brave Americans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.