

and wider emulation, they will present their future missions and show that it can be “easier than we think” to make major changes. For the first time ever, this diverse group of fighters for justice will be assembled together on stage at Constitution Hall and show that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts when fighting for a broader democratic society. The presenters will appraise what levels of citizen organization is necessary to fulfill these broadly-desired missions.

Breaking Through Power: The Media—May 24, 2016, brings together also for the first time a large gathering of authors, documentary filmmakers, reporters, columnists, musicians, poets and editorial cartoonists. All of these presenters have documented or depicted entrenched wrongdoing by the corporate state or “crony capitalism”—the cruel impacts of corporate crimes and abuses, the absence of governmental law enforcement, and the harmful effects of concentrated corporate power.

The speakers all seek wider audiences for their works: more readers, viewers and listeners. Unfortunately the mass media barons prefer to wallow in incessant advertising, hedonistic entertainment, sports and mind-numbing redundancy. The result is what many observers see as the stupefaction of human intelligence. A major purpose of Day Two is the creation of a “Voices” advocacy organization that puts forces in motion to inject serious programming into the over-the-air and cable networks under a revitalized Communications Act of 1934 and generally champion a greater life of the mind on all media.

Breaking Through Power: War—May 25, 2016 is dedicated to enhancing the waging of peace over the waging of war. We will assemble leading scholars having military and national security backgrounds, veterans groups such as Veterans for Peace, and long-time peace advocacy associations, to explain how peace is more powerful than war. The speakers will address the horrors of war, its huge costs here and abroad to innocents and the weakening blowbacks of Empire amidst a collapse of constitutional and international law. One outcome of this day will be the establishment of a Secretariat comprised of current and former top-level military, national security and diplomatic officials who have spoken truth to reckless power. If organized for quick responses, their credibility, experience and wisdom can resist and prevent the kind of prevaricating pressures and unilateral policies that drove the unlawful destruction of Iraq, Libya and beyond.

Breaking Through Power: Congress—May 26, 2016 will unveil a new Civic Agenda to be advanced by engaged and enraged citizens in each Congressional district. The Civic Agenda includes recognized necessities ignored by Congress for decades. The planks of this Civic Agenda will be presented by nationally-recognized advocates—a veritable brain trust for the well-being of present and future generations. Each speaker will present the substance of each demand, which will be conveyed to their members of Congress via organized “Citizen Summons” in each Congressional District. Revitalizing the people to assert their sovereignty under our Constitution is critical to the kind of government, economy, environment and culture that will fulfill human possibilities and respect posterity.

For more details on the week’s agendas, speakers and how you can attend and participate, visit breakingthroughpower.org.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAUREEN
RUSSELL

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maureen Russell on her retirement after twenty-seven years of outstanding public service as a Victim Witness Advocate at the Norfolk District Attorney’s Office.

Maureen launched her extraordinary career in the Special Victims Unit, where she worked with severely traumatized victims of sexual abuse and assault. Through her strength of character and compassion, she provided victims and their families the tools necessary to navigate the complexities of the state court system, assist in prosecuting offenders, and, ultimately, begin to rebuild their lives.

Maureen has most recently been serving her community as a Superior Court Advocate in the Norfolk Superior Court, where she advocates for families of victims of homicide and other serious crimes. Among numerous other families supported by Maureen is that of Joanna Mullin, a six-year-old tragically murdered by her cousin. As she has so often done, Maureen went above and beyond the call of duty in her advocacy for the Mullins, steadfastly supporting the family as they traversed the arduous criminal justice process. Having assisted the Mullins family through the aftermath of their tragedy and the processes of the court, she continues maintains a strong relationship with the family to this day. It is this dedication and passion that is exemplary of quality victim advocacy.

Throughout her years of service, Maureen has never strayed from her commitment to providing each and every victim in her community the attention and care they deserve. Her experience in the criminal justice system and her professional and personal relationships with prosecutors, colleagues, law enforcement officers, and other professionals has allowed Maureen to smooth an otherwise turbulent, uncertain, and difficult process for victims and their families. Our community is deeply grateful to Maureen for having been a person to trust and a shoulder to lean on during these victims’ most difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in honor of Maureen Russell, who embodies all of the best qualities of a Victim Advocate. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this distinguished public servant and in wishing her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NELLIE AND J.V.
“SWEDE” SWANSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Swede and Nellie Swanson of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on March 19, 1946 in Osborn, Kansas.

Swede and Nellie’s lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies

Iowa values. It is because of Iowans like them that I’m proud to represent our great state.

I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 5243

HON. STACEY E. PLASKETT

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, last night, this Congress passed a bill to allocate funding for resources to fight the spread of the Zika virus. This funding, however, is woefully insufficient.

H.R. 5243 provides less than one-third of the White House request sent to Congress earlier this year.

Additionally, this bill also completely neglects the immediate needs of the territories of Puerto Rico and my home district of the U.S. Virgin Islands, which are both on the front line of this public health crisis.

Of the 1200 confirmed cases in the United States, more than half have been reported in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

While the Administration requested about \$256 million in health care assistance to the territories, H.R. 5243 bill provides no targeted funding to the U.S. Territories.

The House bill also cuts the request for research and development of vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics by \$132 million or 28.4 percent.

The lack of funding for these public health activities will put hundreds of thousands of pregnant women at risk. The lifetime cost of treating a child with microcephaly is estimated to be more than \$10 million—a cost that will only exacerbate the financial woes of the territories’ public health apparatus.

Mr. Speaker, every day this Congress debates whether or not to protect women and unborn children from this virus, more cases are being reported and confirmed.

Just last week, the first U.S. case of Zika-related microcephaly was identified in a pregnancy in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to continue toward funding the President’s emergency request to fight the Zika virus. We need to eradicate this mosquito now. We cannot wait for June for more authorized funding.

HONORING BEAU LOYD ON BEING
ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSI-
CIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS
AS A DELEGATE TO THE CON-
GRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL
LEADERS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joplin High School student Beau Loyd on his being accepted as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.