

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote due to extenuating circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 79; YEA on Roll Call No. 80; YEA on Roll Call No. 81; YEA on Roll Call No. 82; YEA on Roll Call No. 83; YEA on Roll Call No. 84; YEA on Roll Call No. 85; and YEA on Roll Call No. 86.

RECOGNIZING SERGIO PECORI FOR RECEIVING THE 2020 OUTSTANDING PROJECTS AND LEADERS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Sergio "Satch" Pecori, P.E., chairman and CEO of Hanson Professional Services Inc. in Springfield, IL for receiving the 2020 Outstanding Projects and Leaders Lifetime Achievement Award from The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This prestigious award recognizes Satch's outstanding lifetime accomplishments, leadership skills, and long-term commitment to business and his community.

Mr. Pecori's accomplishments and positive impact on the community have been widely recognized over the years. He was presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from UIUC's College of Civil Engineering in 1999. He was a finalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2007 and was given the President's Award for Outstanding Leadership and Dedication by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he has received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service and the Boy Scouts of America Abraham Lincoln Council's Trailblazer Award.

Mr. Pecori was also a recipient of the 2019 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The Medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from diverse ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage and culture.

Mr. Pecori has risen to top of his profession through hard work and dedication. He is an example for all of us to emulate. Satch and his team have engineered numerous projects that have transformed communities and helped local economies thrive. He also leads by example and strives to improve the lives of those around him. Congratulations to Satch, the honor is well deserved.

## RECOGNIZING A SPACECOAST SYMBOL OF KINDNESS

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend kindergarten students in my Congressional district who have made it a priority and to remind us that kindness "is always possible."

Nearly a year ago, transition kindergarten teacher Ms. Barbara Wilcox inspired her class at Tropical Elementary on Merritt Island in Brevard County, Florida, to join an initiative they called "Together Kind." She shared, "I do a lot of service learning with them, talking about how to be kind to people."

Children often "get it" when adults are slow to respond. That certainly played out strongly in Ms. Wilcox's class. The children wanted to make a difference. They recognized the meaning behind common symbols like the peace sign, the happy face and the heart, for love. And, in their wisdom, they perceived the value of having a symbol to remind the world of the importance of just being kind to one another.

The class designed four candidates for a Symbol of Kindness and took their vision to the world. They shared their symbols on Facebook, through email, and a website they created called togetherkind.com. About 1,000 people from 25 states (and England and Ireland) voted and decided the winner.

The children use social media only through parents and their teacher. But, they learned the power of communication and how to engage people in a meaningful and valuable way. They sold \$1 magnets with the winning Symbol. "Every day we looked to see how many people had signed the petition, and we highlighted, on a map, all the states people are from," said Ms. Wilcox, who's been teaching for 22 years. So, showing a little kindness can teach geography and bringing people together.

Those are some of the things that kindness is about:

Reaching out beyond ourselves and showing respect and care for others. Their symbol builds on the heart as the symbol of love. The heart is enclosed in a circle of arrows and that reminds me that kindness is more than just a noun. Kindness is an "action" word. Kindness happens by doing.

I'm so proud that a class of young people in my district could remind us, "Kindness is always possible" in what they did and in the Symbol of Kindness they have given to the rest of us as a reminder.

I have introduced a resolution to recognize their work as the Spacecoast Symbol of Kindness. Hopefully, their symbol can be carried by our astronauts on some future mission into space to spread their message beyond even our planet. If the nation needs kindness today, we can surely look forward to taking kindness with us to the moon, Mars, and beyond.

Once again, I commend Ms. Wilcox and her class. They remind us that kindness is doing something for another person without expecting anything in return other than the possibility that others will pass on kindness to others. I thank the kindergartners at Tropical Elementary, for this reminder.

## CONGRATULATING JEANNETTA POLITIS ON RECEIPT OF THE FNB COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

**HON. DANIEL MEUSER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize Jeannetta Politis of First National Bank of Pennsylvania on receiving the FNB Community Spirit Award.

Each year, the First National Bank of Pennsylvania presents the FNB Community Spirit Award to an employee who provides excellent service to customers and contributes positively to their community through charitable endeavors. FNB selects two recipients from each region and donates \$4,000 to a charity of their choice.

Ms. Politis serves as one of FNB's Business Banking Relationship Managers and is also a dedicated community member with a commitment to volunteerism. She has focused her efforts on helping the next generation, serving as a board member for organizations such as the Harrisburg Young Professionals, Leadership Harrisburg, and The Joshua Group, a non-profit organization focused on the mentoring and guidance of at-risk youth living in the Allison Hill neighborhood of Harrisburg. Additionally, Ms. Politis volunteers with the Harrisburg Rotary Club and Hospice of Central Pennsylvania, caring for those who are most in need among us.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jeannetta Politis on this great honor and thank her for her dedication to the betterment of our communities.

## ABORTION RIGHTS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, we are at a critical juncture for abortion rights in America.

Abortion is health care and a fundamental right. But, across the street from the Capitol, the Supreme Court appears ready to overturn precedent to go after reproductive justice. *June Medical Services v. Russo* is the first abortion case to be heard by anti-abortion Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. They could pave the way for states to ban abortion for 25 million people in the United States.

So, we are standing up. Because we will not be standing by.

Regardless of where they live or how much money they make, individuals deserve the right to control their own bodies and future, and to get the healthcare that they want and need. When women can make decisions about their own reproductive healthcare, including whether and when to have children, they have autonomy over their lives, and their economic security.

So, reproductive justice is about economic justice. That is what is under threat.