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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *115<sup>th</sup>* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## *House of Representatives*

HONORING THE 27TH ANNUAL D.C. BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Ms. NORTON, Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day Week, May 22nd to 29th, Washington, D.C. celebrates “The Ties that Bind: Twenty-Seven Years of D.C. Black Pride!” -- the theme of the 27th annual D.C. Black Pride. This multi-day festival begins on May 23rd at the Human Rights Campaign with the 2017 D.C. Black Pride Awards Reception. We congratulate Countess Clarke Cooper and Daryl Wilson, recipients of the Welmore Cook Award; Check It Enterprises, recognized with the Leadership Award; Unsung Heroes SaVanna Wanzer and Shannon Garcon; Aaron Bryant, winner of the President's Award; and Maurice David Parker, the Charlotte Smallwood Volunteer of the Year for 2017.

Black Pride continues through Memorial Day with community town halls; educational and interfaith workshops; a poetry slam hosted by Mary Brown; a film festival; an interfaith worship service; and social events, including speed dating, breakfast, brunch, dinner and happy hours. The Black Pride parties range from Super to Grand; Mega to Ultimate; Picnic to Pool; and Purposeful to Epic. Performances by musicians, dancers, and artists enliven the festival. Sunday, the festival's penultimate day, features its main event, a Cultural Arts and Wellness Exposition and Epic Live, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Black Pride culminates with a traditional Memorial Day picnic, the “Us Helping Us Annual Picnic in the Park” at Fort Lincoln Park and concludes with evening parties thereafter.

The D.C. Black Pride festival began during my freshman year in Congress, Sunday, May 26, 1991, at Banneker Field on Georgia Avenue across the street from Howard University. I have watched it mature from an ad hoc event to what is now widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations. It now draws more than 30,000 participants from the United States, Africa, Europe, and the Americas to our nation's capital.

D.C. Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc.) and the “Black Pride Movement,” which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents.

I commend Shannon Garcon, Genise Chambers-Woods, Reginald Shaw-Richardson, Ralph “Rocky” Ferguson and Gladece Knight, the volunteer Advisory Board that assists Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. and Kenya Hutton with the coordination, planning, and execution of D.C. Black Pride. I take pleasure in noting that this year Earl commences his third decade of involvement with D.C. Black Pride and the Black Pride Movement around the globe.

As Black Pride comes to town, I also take this opportunity to inform the celebrants and to remind my colleagues of the various limitations Congress has placed on the District of Columbia. Despite paying more federal taxes than 22 states and having the highest per capita federal tax rate in the United States, the residents of Washington, D.C. still have no full voting representation in Congress.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 27th annual D.C. Black Pride celebration.

safe at great personal risk, and it is my hope that the Taylor Police Auxiliary continues to build on its legacy of success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Taylor Auxiliary Police Department for its public safety and service to the City of Taylor. The auxiliary volunteers have helped make the community safe through their work and activism.

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**HONORING JAMIE MANCHESTER**

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jamie Manchester of Davenport, Washington.

Mrs. Manchester recently received the Recognizing Inspirational School Employees (RISE) Award for her exemplary service to the students of Washington State. Sponsored by the National Coalition of Classified Education Support Employee Unions (NCCSEEU), the RISE Award seeks to recognize all classified school education support employees across the country for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring student achievement, student safety and overall well-being.

During her 10 years of service as a Library Technician and Technology Coordinator in Sprague, Lamont, and Davenport, Jamie has been a strong advocate for technology in the classroom, creating her school’s first elementary computer lab, and implementing 1:1 Chromebooks for K–12. Furthermore, she has authored grants that helped to introduce STEM based curriculum and new technology in the classroom to enrich the education and overall lives of her students.

Jamie serves as the Vice President of the Creston Alumni Association, helping award over \$240,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors in the community. She has been a member of the Public School Employees (PSE) of Washington SEIU Local 1948 since 2006 and has served on the Education and Training Committee, as Chapter Vice President and Chapter Secretary, and as an Annual Convention Delegate.

Again I wish to send my congratulations to Jamie as PSE’s first recipient of the national RISE Award recognizing her leadership and contributions to the students of Davenport, Creston, Sprague, and Lamont.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2017 INTERFAITH BRIDGE BUILDER AWARDS**

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize this year’s recipients of the Interfaith Bridge Builder Awards, Mr. Rizwan Jaka, Rabbi Jack Luxemburg, and Ms. Priscilla Martinez.

Since 1978, the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC) has brought together people of eleven historic faiths to promote a dialogue and advocate for religious tolerance and cooperation across our nation and region. In order to bring these religious groups and our diverse community together, the IFC hosts a variety of events, including award ceremonies and seminars. The IFC also engages in grassroots activity while providing a broad range of educational tools.

This year marks the 13th Annual InterFaith Bridge Builders Awards, in which the IFC recognizes the achievements and leadership of individuals in our region. Mr. Rizwan Jaka, Rabbi Jack Luxemburg, and Ms. Priscilla Martinez are not only exemplary leaders within the IFC, but they are also extremely respected in our communities.

Additionally, I want to specifically recognize my constituents and friends, Mr. Rizwan Jaka and Ms. Priscilla Martinez, who for years have been tremendous leaders in Northern Virginia, both with very active roles within the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS). In these roles, they have not only strengthened our region’s interfaith relations, but they have placed a great deal of emphasis on educating our youth. Mr. Jaka previously served as the President of ADAMS and is currently serving as a Member at Large of Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) and on the Board of Directors for the IFC.

Mr. Speaker, organizations, like the IFC, that focus on fostering strong and welcoming communities are vital to the success of our region. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the IFC for their continuous efforts and to congratulate Mr. Rizwan Jaka, Rabbi Jack Luxemburg, and Ms. Priscilla Martinez on receiving this year’s Interfaith Bridge Builder Awards. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

**COMMENDING LOCAL 2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE SIXTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY**

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 93 Fredericksburg, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Marine Corps after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities, and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selflessness and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the United States Marine Corps.

Allander, Grace; Baez, Christopher; Bills, Scott; Blake, Elliot; Breland, William; Bridges, Brandon; Brown, Jallil; Buckles, Aaron; Campbell, Kailayjia; Carhuancho, Andy; Clemente, Timothy; Cook, Thomas; Conteh, Ibrahim; Corbett, David; Creed, Barton; Devin, Timothy;