

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS
GAUCHER DISEASE AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DeLUZIO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize that October is Gaucher Disease Awareness Month and spotlight the national patient advocacy organization, the Gaucher Community Alliance. Gaucher Disease is an ultra-rare genetic disorder that affects approximately 6,000 people in the United States. Gaucher Disease is the most common genetic disorder for persons of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry. This disorder results from a build-up of fat laden Gaucher cells in organs such as the spleen and liver or in the bone marrow. As a result of this build up, the organs of people with Gaucher Disease can become enlarged, impeding their ability to function. If the bone tissue and bone marrow become affected, patients' bones will become weaker, making them more prone to fractures and ultimately could lead to bone death.

There are different forms of Gaucher Disease. Gaucher Type 1 accounts for 95% of patients in the United States. Patients with this specific type, experience spleen and liver enlargement including low blood counts and issues with the clotting process and various problems with their bones. The FDA has approved two types of treatments for Gaucher Type 1, including enzyme replacement therapies (ERT) or oral substrate reduction therapies (SRT).

Gaucher Type 2 is rarer than Type 1 and is typically fatal within the first two years of life because of the severe neurological abnormalities associated with this type. Patients with Gaucher Type 2 suffer from poor development, seizures, jerking movements, poor ability to suck and swallow, as well as an enlarged liver and spleen. GCA hopes that a current clinical trial taking place to combat this terrible disorder that claims the lives of young, will show success.

Gaucher Type 3 is the most common Type worldwide and its severity falls between that of Type 1 and Type 2. Patients with Gaucher Type 3 suffer from a mix of symptoms from the first two types including seizures, skeletal irregularities, eye movement disorders, cognitive issues, poor coordination, an enlarged liver and spleen, respiratory problems, and various blood disorders such as anemia. It is important to note that patients can be characterized as having a blend of the types and not within a single category.

The Gaucher Community Alliance is the national nonprofit organization for the patient community, based in Western Pennsylvania. Two passionate Gaucher patient advocates founded GCA—Aviva Rosenberg of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Cyndi Frank of Sonoma, California. The mission of GCA is to

support patients with Gaucher Disease and their families through peer-to-peer support and education, advocacy, patient and family resources and networking. GCA collaborates with industry partners to encourage clinical trials for additional treatments and therapies; access to Patient Assistance Programs for Gaucher patients; and promote newborn screening for Gaucher Disease and other lysosomal storage disorders. GCA also hosts patient meetings around the country.

The Gaucher Community Alliance is working hard to improve the quality of life of those diagnosed with Gaucher Disease. I would like to salute the community during Gaucher Awareness Month.

HONORING DICK COOK

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor Dick Cook of Crystal City, Missouri, a legend in high school sports who is being inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

For 49 years, Mr. Cook coached at the high school level—34 of those years at Crystal City. Most of the time, he coached track and field, leading his 1984 and 1989 girls' teams to state championships in Class 2. During his time as coach, Crystal City earned 16 state championships by individuals and relay teams in track.

In the 1970s, he started the Jefferson County Jets Track Club, an AAU program that produced athletes who competed in the Big 8 Conference with one reaching the Olympics. He began his career in Poplar Bluff and coached a season at Herculaneum as well. But he spent most of his career in his hometown of Crystal City where he graduated high school in 1956 and graduated from the University of Missouri in 1960.

No one could be prouder of his achievements than his wife Mary Ellen, his son Richard, and daughters Mary Beth, Jill, and Amy Jo. I congratulate Coach Cook on his induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame this year and I am pleased to share his accomplishments today before the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING MARK
PELLETIER ON BEING NAMED
YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE
YEAR

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in recognition of Mark Pelletier, a

New Hampshire resident who was recently named the 2023 Young Professional of the Year by the Cooperative Credit Union Association. The Cooperative Credit Union Association annual awards recognize individuals across Delaware, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire that make the extra effort to empower their coworkers, company, and community. As the Young Professional of the Year, Mark has been recognized for his experience, enthusiasm, and strong work ethic at St. Mary's Bank in Manchester.

A senior data analyst lead for St. Mary's, Mark was nominated by the credit union's leadership team and employees because of his inclusive leadership style, his skills in devising data-driven solutions, and his extensive volunteer record. For the past two years, Mark has served as Chairperson of St. Mary's Young Professionals Group. In this role, Mark has taken to guiding, influencing, and supporting other young professionals. Mark's time as leader of this Group is a testament to his talent and passion for promoting young business leaders across New Hampshire.

Outside of the office, Mark has committed himself to addressing the needs of his community. In his free time, Mark volunteers with organizations such as Families in Transition and Habitat for Humanity. Dedicated to empowering young leaders and committed to supporting the local community, Mark has enriched the lives of all those around him.

I look forward to seeing all that Mark accomplishes in the years to come, and I am confident that he will continue to serve as a guide for all those looking to make a difference at their workplace and in their community. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I applaud Mark for his commendable leadership and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

NORTHWEST DOUGLAS COUNTY
CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION—"WOMEN
WHO SOAR"

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of three outstanding women. Ashley Ferris, Yvette Marquez-Sharpnack and Alice Jackson who will be honored by the Northwest Douglas County Chamber & Economic Development Corporation as "Women Who Soar."

Ashley Ferris, a law enforcement officer, left an indelible mark in Denver from 2018 to 2023. Even before her tenure as a dedicated law enforcement officer, her background as a United States Army Intelligence Analyst and project manager showcased her remarkable skills.

Ashley's heroic efforts were exemplified during the critical incident on December 27, 2021,

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