



GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 30

NEWSLETTER

June 2018

Friends,

As June comes to a close, and temperatures keep rising, I hope everyone has been having a productive and family-filled summer. The last few weeks have been busy throughout our community, and my office has been hard at work!

I was honored to serve as the keynote speaker for Liberty High School's graduation ceremony.

Wednesday, June 20th was World Refugee Day. I spoke before a panel together with Mayor Turner and Rice University Professor Dr. Klineberg.

Trauma created by Hurricane Harvey can have an unknowingly large effect on anyone's life, Texas Recovering Together provides free crisis counseling to survivors of the natural disaster – please use their services should you feel the need.

I would like to recognize Dr. Everette B. Penn for receiving the Liberty Bell Award as well as for all his hard work and dedication in bringing the community and police together.

The Alliance is hosting its Annual Back to School Drive during which they will be handing out free school supplies to students and their families. Please take advantage of this event to equip your children with the tools they need to succeed.

Lastly I would like to take the opportunity to recognize this June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month! It is important to celebrate and support the members of our community who identify as LGBTQ+, it is our diversity that makes us stronger. Happy Pride!

Sincerely,



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World Refugee Day

Earlier this month saw Houston's World Refugee Day hosted at the Museum of Fine Arts. I had the great pleasure of speaking at the event alongside Mayor Turner and Professor Stephan Klineberg from the Rice Kinder Institute.

In addition to our speeches, the event hosted a panel consisting of several organizations dedicated to aiding and supporting refugees all over Texas. Houston is the most diverse city in the state, and these organizations have made it their priority to help and protect our most vulnerable populations.

Refugees make up such an important and large part of our community, and I am honored to stand as an ally and advocate.



Gene with members of the Consortium, who represent organizations committed to helping refugees resettle in the United States.

Families Belong Together March - Houston

This month saw marches across the nation calling for an end to family separation at the border. My office gladly attended the march in Houston, along with hundreds of other Houstonians. Pulling children from their parents is morally indefensible and we must continue to raise our voices and demand that they be reunited. Stopping this policy is not enough. These children and their parents have

been forced from one traumatic situation into another. These children must be reunited with their parents, and I am

working hard to see it so. I urge you to get involved as well! Please, feel free to contact my office for more information on how you can get involved, and make your voice heard.



Liberty High School Graduation

The 2018 class of seniors graduated from Liberty High School this past month, I had the honor of addressing them as their keynote speaker. I shared with them a few pointers that I picked up from my education and career (not that I would have listened to me when I was their age). Formal education is such a shared experience in our culture, I'm proud to see another class of hardworking students graduate and take the next steps in their lives.

Congratulations to all of the graduates and their families! House District 137 is proud of you!



Giving the Keynote address to graduating seniors at Liberty High School

Dr. Penn Receives the Liberty Bell Award



Dr. Penn receiving recognition from the State of Texas

My office had the honor of presenting Doctor Everette B. Penn, Ph.D., with a certificate congratulating him on receiving the Liberty Bell Award.

The Liberty Bell Award recognizes one non-lawyer in Texas who has worked selflessly and effectively to strengthen his or her community's understanding and appreciation of the law.

Dr. Penn, as the Director of the Teen and Police Service (TAPS) Academy, works to better the relationship between youth and law enforcement. The TAPS Academy

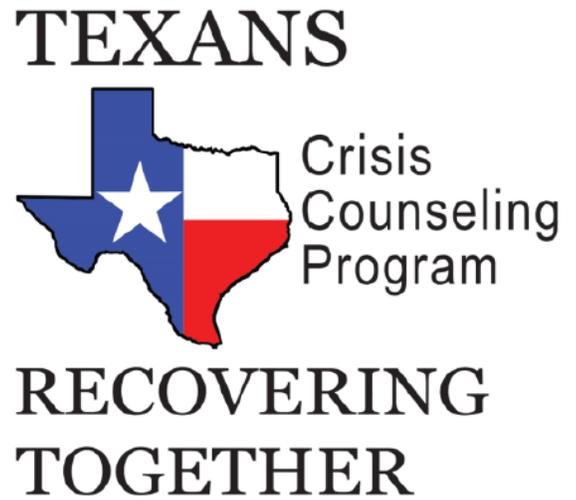
facilitates the mentorship of its students by highly engaged police officers through a Texas Education Agency (TEA) approved, evidence-based, curriculum. TAPS allows for greater understanding and the opportunity for both groups to act upon their new understandings.

Post-Harvey Mental Health Support

It has almost been a full year since our city was hit by Hurricane Harvey. The progress that we, as a community, have made in recovering has been monumental. Although many of us have started to move past it, we cannot forget those in our city who are still affected by the event. It is common to experience trauma from a severe natural disaster – trauma that may unknowingly lead to depression, frustration, and anger. If left untreated, these symptoms could grow to debilitating stress disorders.

Texans Recovering Together is a Crisis Counseling Program that is offering free, anonymous, and confidential services for any survivor of Hurricane Harvey. They are currently offering their services in 31 Texas counties until the 31st of October.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing trauma from Hurricane Harvey, you can dial 2-1-1 to be routed to a local mental health professional or visit <https://hhs.texas.gov/disaster-assistance>.



Alliance Back at School Expo

The Alliance is a non-profit organization that provides services for refugees, immigrants, and underserved residents. On Saturday, August 4th, they will be hosting their 10th Annual Back to School Drive at the PlazAmericas Mall. They will be distributing backpacks full of school supplies to around 5,000 students and their families. There will also be a Health Fair and Business Expo for free medical check-ups and information about different businesses and their products. The event is kids friendly and includes face painting, snow cones, popcorn, entertainment, and more!

