

Time and again, he has proven to be an outstanding leader for the Lions of District 16C.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me on congratulating Mr. Albert Olizi. The people of your community, the people of New Jersey, and the people of America thank you for your service.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
LENORE C. "LORI" WENDELL

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Lenore C. "Lori" Wendell, whose life was filled with family, friends and service on behalf of our community.

Mrs. Wendell was the cherished wife of the late Richard. Together, they lovingly raised their daughters, Jennifer and Heather. She was a devoted mother and enjoyed a close relationship with her grandchildren, Jamie, Patrick, Anthony, Quinn and Allan.

Mrs. Wendell's giving and kind nature reflected throughout her life. She was active in local politics and was a community leader. She consistently volunteered her time and talents on behalf of numerous causes. Whether to assist with a local fundraiser or to help a family in need, Mrs. Wendell was always there to help. She was also a longtime member of the American Legion Post 738 in Fairview Park, where she led numerous meetings and prepared countless dinners for a variety of Legion events. In local politics, she worked diligently, volunteering many hours on behalf of candidates whom she supported.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Lenore C. "Lori" Wendell, who lived her life with unwavering love for family and friends and great joy for life. I offer my condolences to all who loved her including her brother, John and her dear friend, Cliff. Mrs. Wendell touched the lives of many throughout our community, and she will be remembered always.

HONORING RAUL H. CASTRO,  
FORMER GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, while many have written of the inspirational story surrounding Raul Hector Castro, Arizona's first Hispanic Governor, it seems only fitting that in today's highly charged atmosphere of anti-immigrant sentiment, we take the occasion of Governor Castro's 94th birthday on June 12th to examine his life as one who has surely proven the American dream is achievable. In fact, he has not only shown that dream is achievable, he has also underscored the fact that those pursuing the dream contribute mightily to the strength of our nation.

Born in Mexico, the second youngest of 12 children raised in Arizona by an immigrant copper miner and a mother who was a well-trusted midwife, it would have been easy for

him to get lost in the shuffle of such a large family that had to scratch a living from the ground to survive, but early on, he recognized the value of setting goals and not giving up until they are met. Based on that determination, he parlayed his natural athleticism and keen mind in high school into a scholarship to Arizona State Teacher's College.

While no stranger to racism and discrimination when he graduated from college and become a naturalized citizen in 1939, he still had not anticipated the rejection he would experience when applying for teaching positions because school districts were unwilling to hire an Hispanic teacher. Discouraged, but not defeated, he traveled America for several years until he landed a civil service job as a foreign-service clerk for the U.S. State Department in Sonora, Mexico. Many would have been satisfied with a secure position in the federal government, but he was determined to further his station in life, becoming a Spanish instructor at the University of Arizona so that he might attend the institution's law school. Passing the Arizona State Bar in 1949, he established an enviable career over the next five decades that took him from Pima County Attorney through the appointment by two United States Presidents to three ambassadorships, in addition to becoming Arizona's first Hispanic governor. Throughout this process, he never lost sight of the importance of an education and his mother's mantra that he could accomplish whatever he set his mind to. As a result, when he did accomplish more than many ever hoped for, he didn't forget the four miles he and his Hispanic friends had to walk to school while the buses filled with Anglo children passed them by, and he worked tirelessly to rectify these kinds of incomprehensible bigotry.

For example, as a judge he presided over a full-schedule of cases, but was particularly disturbed by the vulnerable at-risk youngsters in the juvenile court system who were being shoved under the rug by society. This inspired him to take time every Monday to check attendance records at the local high schools. In the evenings, he would visit with families of students exhibiting high rates of absenteeism in an effort to get their support in encouraging the students to stay in school and make the most of that experience. This concern for improving society continued throughout his career. Sometimes limited to simply seeing Hispanic children given equal access to the YMCA, to concentrating on improving human rights abroad while serving as an ambassador, he never lost sight of using his opportunities to make a difference.

Throughout our history it has been proven that immigrants are far more than just an inexpensive work force. They are in fact a valuable asset to this country and Raul H. Castro is an outstanding example of one such person. Therefore, in light of today's divisive view of immigration, his story should be noted as a symbol of how the United States has benefited from those who value this country so much, and that after moving here to build a better life for their families, they remain dedicated to making sure that they improve our nation for future generations.

CONGRATULATING THE BENJAMIN  
FAMILY ON EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS  
OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 85th anniversary of Carroll Cut-Rate Furniture, a local family-owned-and-operated business that has graced the Greater New Haven community for generations.

Begun as Carroll Cut-Rate Cosmetics by Samuel Benjamin in 1925, this small business has passed down through the Benjamin family and thrived through boom times and depression, peacetime and war, and even, in 1951, through a notable shift from discount cosmetics to the furniture trade.

Over the course of these 85 years, Samuel, his sons Jerry and Don, and his grandsons Cary and Bruce have always kept an eye to innovation, quality, and above all customer service. With ten full-time employees, the Benjamins have also worked to promote jobs in our state and across the country by stocking their store with Connecticut mattresses and American-made furniture.

The story of Carroll Cut-Rate Furniture is not only a triumph of small enterprise and business savvy. It shows that through hard work, perseverance, and ingenuity, the American dream still comes true. I salute the Benjamin family on this 85-year milestone, and I look forward to seeing them continue as a staple of our Connecticut community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GAL-  
VESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on June 26, 2010, the Galveston Historical Foundation will celebrate its acquisition of the historic 1861 U.S. Custom House. I was pleased to help make this possible by sponsoring legislation, H.R. 2121, which directed the General Services Administration (GSA) to sell the Custom House to the Galveston Historical Foundation. H.R. 2121 passed the House by voice vote on September 9, 2009. It is therefore a great pleasure to extend my congratulations to the Galveston Historical Foundation for acquiring the U.S. Custom House.

The U.S. Custom House is the oldest non-military federal building in Galveston. The two-story structure was built in 1861 and has served many important historical functions, including housing the ceremony that officially ended the Civil War in Galveston. In 1917, construction began on a federal courtroom located on the second floor of the U.S. Custom House. In 1970, the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1974 it was commemorated as a Historic Custom House by the U.S. Customs Service.

In 1998, the Galveston Historical Foundation entered into a public-private partnership with the Federal Government that allowed the Galveston Historical Foundation to lease the

building from the GSA. Under this agreement, the Galveston Historical Foundation took responsibility for performing renovations on the U.S. Custom House. In 2008, the house was inundated with six feet of flood waters from Hurricane Ike. Fortunately, the Galveston Historical Foundation has been able to complete restoration of the first floor of the Custom House earlier this year.

Madam Speaker, by owning as opposed to leasing, the Galveston Historical Foundation will be able to improve this historical structure for future generations of Texans. It is difficult to think of a more appropriate owner for the U.S. Custom House than the Galveston Historical Foundation. Founded in 1954, the Galveston Historical Foundation is one of the Nation's largest local preservation organizations. Over the last 56 years, this foundation has expanded its mission to encompass community redevelopment, public education, historic preservation advocacy, maritime preservation and stewardship of historic properties. Today, the Galveston Historical Foundation has over 2,000 members representing individuals, families, and businesses across Texas, the U.S., and around the world.

The Galveston Historical Foundation's accomplishments include the redevelopment of The Strand; the rescue and restoration of the 1877 iron barque the ELISSA; the revitalization of historic residential neighborhoods and creation of historic districts; and the conception of signature events including Dickens on The Strand and the Galveston Historic Homes Tour.

The Galveston Historical Foundation has received numerous awards and honors. For example, they have twice received the National Trust for Historic Preservation's prestigious Honor Award. In 1991, the Galveston Historical Foundation was the first recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation, and in 1995, received the National Trust's first ever award for organizational excellence. The American Institute of Architects has presented the foundation a Citation of Honor for its ongoing contribution to urban design and the quality of life in Galveston. In addition, the Association for Preservation Technology International honored the Galveston Historical Foundation with a Presidential Citation in 2004.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I once again congratulate the Galveston Historical Foundation for acquiring the U.S. Custom House, and I extend my thanks to the Galveston Historical Foundation for all they do to preserve Galveston's rich heritage.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION  
FOR JOSEPH BLAIR

**HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph Blair, who is celebrating 10 years of unselfish service and dedication to hundreds of youth through his Arizona Basketball Academy.

For young people in my community, these camps are unique because they are provided at no cost to participants and are conducted by a former University of Arizona Wildcat bas-

ketball player who went on to play the game professionally.

Joseph Blair started his program by traveling to various Boys & Girls Club locations, sharing basketball and life skills. The sessions evolved and have been consolidated so they now also benefit teens from Tucson Parks & Recreation and the Tucson Urban League, among others.

The growth of Mr. Blair's altruistic donations of time, influence and funding are paralleled by his athletic endeavors. His global career as an international ambassador of basketball and good will was launched at the University of Arizona, where he was the 6-foot-10-inch "big man." As a Wildcat, he led the team to appearances at Madison Square Garden, the Great Alaskan Shoot-Out and the Maui Classic as well as games in Australia and in the 1994 NCAA Final Four.

Mr. Blair was picked in the second round of the 1996 NBA draft, but opted to pursue a career in Europe, playing in France, Greece, Turkey, Russia and as a member of the famed Harlem Globetrotters. Most of his international career was in Italy where Mr. Blair played in the mountains of Biella, the seashores of Pesaro and in the city of Milan. Mr. Blair is fluently bilingual and loved the rich culture of his adopted home.

While abroad, Mr. Blair earned numerous accolades and was named the Most Valuable Player of the Euroleague in 2003.

His understanding of how basketball can have a positive influence on young people has gone far beyond his own experiences on the court. His empathy for youth started during these years when Mr. Blair conducted basketball clinics in Greece and created a basketball academy in Italy.

Mr. Blair now is retired from basketball, but his philanthropic contributions continue. In addition to teaching athletic and life skills at his basketball academy, he is deeply involved with the Ronald McDonald House in Tucson where he and his staff provide and serve dinners for patients' families during the academy's week of camp.

At the end of his camp, Mr. Blair visits young patients in the pediatric unit of University Medical Center in Tucson, bringing smiles to them through gifts and an exhibition of his basketball skills.

Mr. Blair has worked and travelled in many other countries but has remained true to his roots. He is a living testimony of how to give back to one's community, not only as a big man, but as a man with a big heart.

I am proud to recognize Joseph Blair on the 10th anniversary of his Arizona Basketball Academy and I join with a grateful community to commend him for his valuable contributions to the young people of Tucson and Southern Arizona. Thank you Joseph for being such a great role model and for all that you do to help our youth develop their athletic and leadership skills.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION FOR  
THE DISPLAY OF STATE AND  
TERRITORY FLAGS AT THE  
WASHINGTON MONUMENT

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Mr. FALEOMVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to ensure that the flags of the several States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories of the United States encircle the Washington Monument.

Standing at 555 feet and 5 $\frac{1}{8}$  inches tall, the Washington Monument is the most prominent structure in the nation's capital and is the world's tallest stone structure and the world's tallest obelisk. Completed in 1884, it memorializes the first President of the United States, President George Washington, who led our country to independence and helped shaped the role of the presidency and the course of our democracy in its early days. It was most fitting then that Congress in 1833 established the Washington National Monument Society to create a monument in honor of the Father of our Country.

Today, the Washington Monument serves as a reminder of the greatness of this Nation, as an object of pride to the American people and of admiration to all who see it.

The legislation I am proposing directs the U.S. National Park Service through the Secretary of Interior, to ensure that the flags of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories of the United States encircle the Washington Monument. As an object of pride to the American people, I think it is most fitting that the flags of all States, DC and U.S. Territories are flown at the Washington Monument.

Yesterday, we celebrated our national Flag Day by commemorating the adoption of the national flag of the United States as proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson on June 14, 1916. As such, a public display of State and Territory flags at the Washington Monument will be an opportunity for each State and Territory to share its own uniqueness through its icons and figures representing the traditions, values, and local histories that collectively have made the United States.

Flags have always been a part of our history and traditions. This legislation will ensure that every American will be part of one of our great national treasures.

WORLD OCEAN DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2010*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1330, recognizing June 8 as World Ocean Day. This is only the second year that World Ocean Day has been officially recognized. Unfortunately, now is a tragically appropriate time for all of us to recognize and honor our nation's oceans.

The ongoing British Petroleum oil spill makes all of us realize how much our lives and the fate of our planet are intertwined with