

baseball. The golf program has been successfully turned several players into members of the PGA Tour, including Rocco Mediate, Lee Janzen, and Jeff Klauk.

Florida Southern has overcome many a hardship to keep its educational dream alive. Since its inception in 1852 when it was founded by the Methodist Conference at the Florida Seminary in Micanopy, Florida Southern has moved four more times before settling into its present location in Lakeland, Florida.

Florida Southern won its charter after moving to Leesburg and awarding its first college degree. At the time, the university went under the name of the Florida Conference College and moved from Leesburg to Sutherland to Clearwater and finally to Lakeland due to devastating freezes hurricanes, a fire and a flu epidemic.

The campus itself is an international treasure, having been designated as a National Historic District due to having the largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture in the world. Wright's relationship with the college began when Florida Southern's 1938 president Dr. Ludd Spivey invited the internationally-renowned architect to design "a great education temple in Florida." Wright designed 18 structures for the campus, 12 coming into fruition.

In his over 500 completed works, Wright promoted a style he called organic architecture—which aimed to harmonize the building with the natural world around it. In first tour of the Lakeland area, he reportedly envisioned buildings rising "out of the ground, into the light and into the sun." These beautiful and unique buildings have helped make Florida Southern College a top destination for education.

On behalf of Florida's 12th Congressional District, I wish to congratulate President Kerr and the Board of Trustees for leading Florida Southern to such tremendous success. Florida Southern College is well on its way to another stellar 125 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcall 488, 489, and 490. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" for these measures: H.R. 5850, on agreeing to the Boehner Amendment; H.R. 5850, on agreeing to the Latham Amendment; and H.R. 5850, on agreeing to the Culberson Amendment.

NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 5143, the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2010. I want to commend Rep-

resentative DELAHUNT for his leadership on this legislation and dedication to our nation's criminal justice system.

H.R. 5143 establishes the National Criminal Justice Commission and directs that commission to review all areas of the criminal justice system, including costs, practices, and policies. It also directs the commission to make findings upon their review and recommendations for changes to prevent, deter, and reduce crime and violence, reduce recidivism, improve cost-effectiveness, and ensure interests of justice at every step of the criminal justice system.

As an attorney and former judge, I can say with confidence that I believe our criminal justice system is flawed. It is an expensive system that is in many ways ineffective. It is important that this commission be established and put to work immediately. We can no longer be satisfied with allowing crime to fester and spread throughout the nation, especially among our youth. Real solutions to deter crime are possible if we only take the time to invest in them. It's time we identify the problems in our criminal justice system and make tangible efforts to ameliorate the system.

In our efforts to create "a more perfect union", we have to take a closer look at our nation and work to make our nation better for our children and the generations to follow. H.R. 5143 gives us an opportunity to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 5143, the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2010.

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM IN OAK LAWN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn, as its staff and volunteers celebrate the first-year anniversary of the Museum's expansion to a new building.

Since it was first established in 2003, the Museum has become a well-known and much-loved institution in my District. Drawing 10,000 visitors when it first opened its doors, the Museum attracted over 85,000 visitors from over 36 states in the first year at its new location. The Museum gives children and their families an important place for fun and relaxation, while also actively immersing children in the joyful world of learning. The Museum's staff has taken care to align the exhibits with the Illinois Learning Standards required of schools. As a result, over 150 schools have reached out to the Museum to enrich their curricula and take their students on field trips. At a time when evidence increasingly demonstrates that learning environments and enrichment activities in early childhood profoundly affect later life outcomes, the importance of the Museum's work becomes increasingly clear.

From the Museum's beginnings in a small space of 900 square feet, it has grown into an institution that stands as a pillar of Oak Lawn, Illinois' 3rd District, and beyond. I look forward to continuing to work with the Museum's staff, volunteers, and supporters to strengthen the Museum for many years to come. I ask you to join me in congratulating the Children's Mu-

seum in Oak Lawn on its work and the first-year anniversary of its new facilities, as well as to wish it many more years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAKING HOME AFFORDABLE ACTS OF 2010

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Making Home Affordable Improvements Act of 2010. For the last eighteen months, the Obama Administration has tried very hard to make mortgage modifications available to struggling homeowners but the program has largely failed to have the impact we had hoped.

Average homeowners around the country are paying the price for an inflated housing market and a bursting real estate bubble—this is being felt acutely throughout Central Maryland. For every borrower who defaults, there are many others on the brink of default who are looking for a way forward.

And this isn't a problem that will go away quickly—an estimated 10 to 15 million Americans own homes that are worth less than they owe on their mortgages. These are homeowners with a strong financial incentive to default on their mortgages, irrespective of their ability to pay.

In a market in which the values of homes have fallen out of step with mortgage debt, I strongly believe that the best solution for homeowners is a structured bankruptcy process, including a judicial mortgage modification or "cramdown." This is the process by which a bankruptcy judge reduces the value of a mortgage attached to a home, thereby reducing the monthly payment owed by the homeowner and allowing families to stay in their homes.

This would be only available to homeowners who elect to file bankruptcy, a lengthy and costly process with long-term consequences for individuals and their families—an avenue of last resort for struggling homeowners, not a new means for speculators to "game the system." The House of Representatives passed legislation to provide bankruptcy judges with this authority, only to watch it die in the Senate. The political reality today is such that judicial mortgage modification may never become an available option for struggling homeowners, leading policy makers to search for an alternative.

Absent judicial modification, I believe that voluntary mortgage modification holds the promise of a better way forward for homeowners, but, as it stands today, it has failed to offer real relief to the millions of homeowners who are in desperate need of assistance. This can be attributed to a widespread unwillingness by banks to do right by their borrowers—the same borrowers who are acting against their financial self-interest by continuing to pay their mortgages each month.

The effort is also hampered, in part, by a bureaucratic and unwieldy modification process—one that is often overwhelming and unmanageable for the average homeowner. But working within the voluntary mortgage modification structure created by the White House as part of the Making Home Affordable Initiative, there are thousands of experts across the