

Every day I come here, we talk about continuing resolutions and budgets and taxes and creating jobs.

But absolutely nothing we can do right now will stimulate our economy as much as putting more gasoline, diesel, home heating oil, aviation fuel, and other liquid fuel into the market.

What in the world is Washington waiting for?

#### COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of more than 111,000 of my constituents who are of Polish descent, I rise to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. We remember those in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, many of whom suffered the loss of life, health, and home as a result of this tragedy.

The accident at the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl occurred on April 26, 1986, and is considered to be the most serious nuclear disaster in human history. A flawed reactor ruptured, causing a cloud of highly radioactive smoke to be spread over a wide geographic area. Unaware of the seriousness of the situation, firemen and emergency workers were summoned to the catastrophe. Many received high doses of radiation and later died as a result.

The entire town of Pripjat was forced to evacuate, and, in total, it is believed that more than 200,000 people were forced to relocate due to the Chernobyl disaster. An area of more than 150,000 square kilometers is considered to be contaminated, and the immediate area around the plant is still, for the most part, uninhabited.

This tragedy came at a huge human and environmental cost, and so it is of the utmost importance that it not be forgotten. For this reason, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Kyiv Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program which is working to commemorate the anniversary of this tragedy through a program highlighting response and recovery efforts.

Mr. Speaker, on this, the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, I invite my colleagues to remember those who suffered as a result of this disaster, as well as recognize the efforts of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program. Only by commemorating and learning from this catastrophe will we be able to move forward towards a safe and productive future for nuclear energy.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM P. HITE AND THE UNITED ASSOCIATION

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate General President William P. Hite

for his selection as the 2011 recipient of the Military Officers Association of America's Distinguished Service Award.

This most recent recognition and honor are well deserved. As General President of the 350,000 members of the United Association of Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Welders, Sprinkler Fitters, and HVAC Technicians, Bill has worked tirelessly to ensure members of our armed forces have access to the very best careers in his industry.

His organization provides one of the best services available to our veterans. The Veterans in Piping Program trains veterans for the finest careers in the industry. The United Association's Veterans in Piping partnership with the Marines at Camp Pendleton is considered by many to be the most successful military transition program in the country. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis described it as "an awesome program" and one that "should be expanded throughout the United States." It differs from other programs in that it trains Marines prior to discharge—at no cost to the individual—in a certifiable skill, and then provides the network and connections to ensure job placement. Every graduate of the program has been successfully placed in the position of second year Apprentice or higher with the exception of a handful who have either re-enlisted or gone on to college.

General President Hite's service to our armed forces and veterans is accentuated by a distinguished career in public service. He was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Task Force on Rebuilding the Gulf Coast and to the Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations; and, by President Barack Obama to the President's Export Council. He has been called upon by the leaders of both of our political parties in recognition of his fidelity, objectivity, and candor. These characteristics have made him among the most respected labor leaders in the United States.

As we recognize General President Hite and the United Association today, I wish to point out that he is a third generation union member and the membership of the United Association voluntarily bears all of the costs of its veterans programs. The membership supports the men and women of our armed forces with a record of commitment that is second to none. I am particularly and personally proud of the work that San Diego based Local 230 has done to implement this successful and innovative program at Camp Pendleton.

#### HONORING YAZMIN SPEARMAN FOR WINNING THE LESSONS OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WRITING CONTEST

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yazmin Spearman as a winner of the second annual Lessons of the African-American Experience Creative Writing Contest. Yazmin is currently in the eighth grade at the Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication, which is located in New London, Connecticut.

In celebration of Black History Month, I sponsored a creative writing contest for all

third through eighth grade students within the Second District. As we know, Black History Month is a time to reflect on the struggles and triumphs of our nation's past. The lessons learned during this month continue to serve as the stepping stones of our nation's future. Yazmin's essay "African American Music History: The Reason I Remember Black History Month" eloquently embraces this belief.

Yazmin's essay shows a remarkable enthusiasm for learning that is inspiring to all. She identifies the principles of perseverance and discipline as embodied by Marion Anderson and Stevie Wonder. Yazmin creatively discusses how their successes and failures encourage her dreams of becoming a musician. For this, her essay was among the winners selected.

#### RECOGNIZING MONICA GUZMAN ON BEING NAMED THE 2011 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Monica Okada Guzman for her years of outstanding business leadership and community involvement on Guam. Ms. Guzman is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner of Galaide Group, a full service communications and public relations firm on Guam. She was recently named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Women in Business Champion of the Year for Guam.

Ms. Guzman partnered with local artist Ron Castro in 1998 to form the Galaide Group, which provides services that combine Chamorro culture, art, and language with public relations and advertising campaigns on Guam. Under Ms. Guzman's leadership, the Galaide Group has grown to 45 employees, more than half of whom are women. The Group has expanded its services to provide a full range of communications and public relations services to public and private sector clients on Guam. Ms. Guzman's efforts with the "We Are Guam" project through the Guam Visitors Bureau identified many women leaders on Guam to serve as Village Ambassadors and promote Chamorro cultural traditions. Her business has also focused on developing small business opportunities on Guam, and it helped to coordinate the Guam Industry Forum series and the Guam Economic Forum. These projects promoted awareness of business opportunities on Guam and helped to form partnerships between local small businesses and off-island firms.

Ms. Guzman is actively involved in a variety of community organizations on Guam. She has worked with the Guam Women's Club, Women in Movement, and the Guam Make-a-Wish Foundation. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities and TASI, an organization dedicated to the preservation of traditional canoe construction, sailing, and navigation practices.

I congratulate Monica Guzman on being named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Women in Business Champion of