Tino served as a Small Arms Proof Technician during the Vietnam War where he was wounded while participating in operation “Prairie” in Dong Ha Vietnam. Tino was discharged from the Marine Corps on October 31, 1967 and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, a Rifle Marksmanship Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal, a Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Upon completing his military service, Tino began working for Tracy Defense Depot and married his wife, Mary Hope Lopez in June, 1970. Tino and Mary have been married for 45 years and though they do not have any children of their own—they have many nieces and nephews and more than 20 god-children.

Tino is an active and proud veteran, who served as the first Latino Commander of the Karl Ross Post 16 in Stockton, California. He also served as Chairman of the 4th of July parade, Memorial Day Ceremony and Veterans Day Ceremony and assisted in coordinating and carrying out many other events at the post.

Mr. Speaker, Tino Adame, is truly an outstanding individual who served his country, his family and his community with the utmost respect and dignity. I respectfully ask my colleagues to rise and join me in recognizing his service and dedication.

RECOGNITION OF HENRY L. "HANK" LACAYO’S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 19, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good man and a great American, Henry L. “Hank” Lacayo, an exceptional individual who has dedicated his life to public service, community leadership and social activism. On August 20, 2011, the Henry L. “Hank” Lacayo Tribune Committee will be celebrating Hank’s 80th birthday, and honoring him for his endless contributions to the County of Ventura, the State of California and our Nation.

Hank is currently serving a fifth term as State President of the Congress of California Seniors, a statewide senior advocacy organization. But Hank has been an active and engaged community leader for more than half a century. He first began his labor career in 1953, and was soon elected to become the President of UAW Local 887, representing over 32,000 workers at North America Aviation/Rockwell International in Los Angeles.

During his presidency Hank served as an instrumental figure in several events that forever changed our nation. Hank’s activism during the civil rights movement was one of them. In August of 1963, Hank led a delegation from the L.A. area to join Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Washington DC civil rights march. Hank also showed his support of Cesar Chavez by serving as a key individual in encouraging the UAW to financially aid farm workers.

Although Hank’s trajectory has been focussed within the work of labor unions, he has also been heavily involved within the Latino Community. Raised in Chihuahua, Mexico, Hank has stayed close to his roots and culture. He joined the late Willie Velazquez and Dr. Juan Andrade to help found the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute, and he served as its first President and Chairman of the Board. Hank also currently serves as the Chair of the Vision Committee and co-founder of Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund of the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Hank has been recognized on numerous occasions and has received various prestigious honors and recognitions. These include the Tri-Counties Labor Leader of the Year, The Fast Bronson Institute Life-Time Public Service Award, California Lutheran University Exemplar Medallion and, among many others, the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute National Hispanic Hero Award.

Hank has been able to expand his life legacy to many broad aspects of community leadership and public service. It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join with me in wishing Henry L. “Hank” Lacayo a happy 80th birthday and in saluting him for his years of public service and community leadership.

HONORING THE SONOMA COUNTY INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the Sonoma County Indian Health Project on its 40th anniversary, celebrated August 19, 2011.

Sonoma County Indian Health Project was founded in 1971 to provide health care to the Native American population residing in Sonoma County. Since its establishment, the Indian Health Project has grown considerably, serving evident unmet needs in our community and leading to its move into the large, modern health care facility it occupies today.

Through its relationship with the California Area Indian Health Service, the Sonoma County Indian Health Project assists in serving not only a large Native American population, but also a non-Indian population lacking sufficient access to care. Hundreds of families and individuals from communities across our region seek care at the facility each year, from traditional medical or dental treatment to nutritional consultation or transportation services for those in isolated areas.

Supported by the Cloverdale, Dry Creek, Lytton, Graton, Manchester-Point Area, and Stewarts Point Rancherias, the Indian Health Project also puts an emphasis on providing its services in a manner that respects and considers the strength and determination of our Native American community and a proud part of what makes our region unique.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join us in thanking the Sonoma County Indian Health Project for its longstanding contributions to the health and welfare of Sonoma County, and in wishing the organization many more years of success.

THE IJAW DIAPO-era CONVENTION AND EDUCATION TRUST FUND

HON. KAREN BASS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 19, 2011

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the launching of the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund and the presentation of the Ijaw History Project by the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora.

From August 19 to August 20, 2011, the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora is assembling in New Jersey along with the nine governors of the Niger Delta States and scores of dignitaries and officials in Nigeria and the United States with Distinguished Prof E. A. Alagoa of the University of Port Harcourt to present the “Ijaw History Project”—A Five Year Landmark Research Project on the Izon people and to launch the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund.

The Ijaw History Project and the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund are being launched with the support and endorsement of the Special Guest of Honor for this prestigious event, His Excellency Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Nigeria Governors Forum.

Mr. Speaker, this historic event will focus on “Transforming Niger Delta Ijaw Communities through Investment in Education and Capacity Development”; and promote the core beliefs of the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora. The organization stands for the power of literacy to end poverty, injustice, discrimination and violence; strengthen peace, democracy and prosperity; transform lives, families, communities and societies; reduce high infant mortality and preventable infectious diseases, and adapt to the challenges of globalization and technology.

The Ijaw Diaspora Education Trust Fund will be used to support the Federal University at Otuoke Bayelsa State’s current efforts to develop a library, provide University Scholarships and develop special projects such as research, education and training in Biotechnology to further the efforts of the U.S. based Corporate Council on Niger Delta Affairs in the development of a Biotechnology Industrial Park.

The Federal University at Otuoke Bayelsa State is in the heartland of the Ijaw community of the Niger Delta and is a major contributor to meeting the goals of the US-Nigeria Bilateral Commission on meaningful development of the Niger Delta Region in the areas of food security, regional and economic security, environmental mitigation and energy.

Mr. Speaker, the Ijaw Education Trust Fund has the potential to have a lasting beneficial influence of on countless families, individuals, and institutions in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora and Bayelsa State Nigeria.

I express my gratitude for the influence and contributions the Ijaw History Project and the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund will bestow to meeting the goals of the US-Nigeria Bilateral Commission on meaningful development of the Niger Delta Region.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the supporters and donors of the Ijaw Diaspora Convention & Education Trust Fund on...
I would like to request a moment of silence in his honor and memory.

HONORING J VINEYARDS AND WINERY OF HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor J Vineyards and Winery of Healdsburg, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

J was conceived and developed by Judy Jordan, an exuberant, fiercely independent 25-year-old who saw an opening in Sonoma County’s wine landscape for a high-quality, all-American sparkling wine brand. It was a lofty goal for a product that was first made in an old, ramshackle prune processing barn that routinely flooded when the nearby Russian River overflowed.

From those humble beginnings, J sparkling wines have become some of the finest in the world. The winery’s J Vintage Brut is a fixture on high profile wine lists and top hotels around the world. Queen Elizabeth sipped J at the White House. Mikhail Gorbachev spoke of peace while sipping a glass of J at his home, and J sparkling wines were the official celebratory bubbles of the Academy Awards Governors Ball for 4 consecutive years.

To produce this remarkable wine, Ms. Jordan and her team rely on ten distinctive vineyard estate properties located throughout the Russian River Valley Appellation. These vineyards have at least 20 different soil profiles, with each vineyard displaying a different soil type and distinctive microclimate. This diversity allows J winemakers to coax the best flavor characteristics from each vineyard.

Ms. Jordan also came to the realization that her vineyards would also be ideal for producing site-specific, cool-climate Russian River varietals such as Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris in addition to her river valley varietal wines such as Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris in addition to her.

J's ten estate wines will be “Certified Sustainable” in 2012 by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance. After a number of energy savings initiatives were implemented throughout the winery, J was named a “Green Winery” in 2010.

One of the first wineries to offer food and wine pairings to visitors in the “Bubble Room,” J was also named “Best Winery Tasting Room” by Sunset Magazine in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, from its humble beginnings, J Vineyards and Winery has become an internationally successful business. One of the linchpins of the Sonoma County wine industry. It is therefore appropriate that we honor them today on their Silver Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE WEALTH GAP AMONG RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, although our economy is gradually improving, we cannot ignore the fact that the economic crisis remains a daily reality for millions of Americans, nor can we ignore the fact that the crisis unevenly affects certain groups of citizens, such as racial and ethnic minority groups.

A study by the Pew Research Center released last month demonstrates starkly the wealth gap among racial and ethnic minorities in this Nation. Although all racial and ethnic groups experienced loss of wealth during this economic crisis, the wealth of African American and Latino households dropped dramatically. For example, the median net worth of a white family now stands at 20 times that of a black family and 18 times that of a Hispanic family, roughly twice the gap that existed before the economic crisis. Even more startling, this is the largest wealth gap since data started being collected in 1984. Other findings of note that reflect the uneven economic difficulties among groups of citizens include the fact that approximately 35 percent of Black households and 31 percent of Latino households had zero or negative net worth in 2009, compared to only 15 percent of white households.

The Pew findings echo those of a recent study by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) that found that the Great Recession has decimated the black middle class. This study found that the median wealth of black households decreased by a full 40 percent from 2003, essentially wiping out the economic gains that black Americans made since the early 90s.

There are multiple factors that contribute to the wealth gap—disproportionate investment patterns, experience of unemployment, and education debt are a few. The EPI study highlighted the fact that white families are typically able to diversify their investments in housing as well as stocks and bonds, whereas minority families usually invest heavily in housing.

The housing crisis then contributed to wealth disparities because minority families lost everything and had few (if any) other investments on which to fall back.

African Americans and Latino Americans disproportionately experience both unemployment and long-term unemployment, which further contributes to the wealth gap. African Americans stand at the highest unemployment levels since 1984. Most recently, the black unemployment rate averaged 16.1 percent in April, May, and June 2011, compared to an average of 7.9 percent for whites during the same periods. The unemployment rates for recent high school graduates who were white were 9.5 percent and 21.4 percent in 2007 and 2010, respectively. In contrast, the unemployment rates for recent high school graduates who were black were 20.3 percent and 31.3 percent, respectively.

Thus, the unemployment rate of 21.4 percent is the highest of the recession for white high school graduates was about the same level of unemployment for black high school graduates at the beginning of the recession. Similarly, recent black college graduates have the highest unemployment rate among college graduates. With regard to long-term unemployment, researchers at the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at the University of California at Berkeley recently found that African Americans represent only 11 percent of the labor force, but 22 percent of the long-term unemployed. Thus, African Americans are twice as likely to experience long-term unemployment compared to their representation in the labor force. Similarly, Latino Americans...