

Jesse was born in Coahoma County on September 5, 1935 to the late Jesse J. and Cordelia B. Jossell, Sr. His family later moved to Quitman County, Mississippi where he attended school and in May 1954 he graduated from Marks Industrial High School. He received his Associate of Arts Degree from Coahoma Junior College in May 1959. In 1961, he received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Jackson State College, now Jackson State University. He also attended Howard University in 1965. In 1969, he earned a Master of Science Degree in Natural Science from Oklahoma State University and later a Master of Education Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision in 1973.

From 1960 until 1973, Jesse Jossell worked for the Quitman County School District in Marks, Mississippi as a classroom science teacher and science supervisor before accepting a principal position at the Falcon Junior High School in 1973.

In 1973, Jesse Jossell was asked to seek the office of Superintendent of Schools in the upcoming State and County Elections in 1975. Just four years earlier, the leadership in the black community under the new voting rights law sought to test this new tool. Jesse by far was the most attractive candidate and offered the best opportunity to elect an African-American to a countywide position. For two years, voter registration was the order of the day. More than 1,500 African-Americans were added to the voter rolls by qualifying deadline. Although Jesse and the other black candidates were not elected, three years later he was elected the first African-American to the Quitman County Board of Supervisors.

Jesse Jossell was later called into the ministry, where he has served as Pastor of Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church since 1984. Through his work as pastor, he has provided child care to working mothers, especially single low-income and those trying to better themselves by going to school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Jesse Jossell, Jr. for a life of dedication to bettering the lives of the least among us.

#### HONORING CONNECTICUT'S PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the 26 Peace Corps members from eastern Connecticut who are currently serving in the Peace Corps around the world. For five decades, the Peace Corps has supported international diplomacy through the promotion of peace, goodwill, and social and economic equality. I am proud that these young Connecticut residents have devoted part of their lives to help improve the lives of others.

Among these eastern Connecticut volunteers is Keith Esposito, a resident of Gales Ferry and a Boston University graduate who is teaching English in Ukraine. Emily Howell Heller, a Niantic resident and Connecticut College graduate, is serving in Panama as an Environmental Education volunteer. Justin Lamountain, who is serving in the Philippines,

is a forest and land management consultant as part of the Peace Corps Response program.

Another volunteer, Chelsea Krieger, is serving as a HIV/AIDS technical health advisor in Malawi. Chelsea previously spent a year in Honduras through the Peace Corps; however, the Honduras program was suspended only a year into her service. Chelsea completed a Master's in Public Health and was motivated to apply for a Peace Corps response position to use her knowledge to assist those in need. Lantham Avery Jr. is currently serving in Kenya, a country currently experiencing unrest in the wake of the upcoming national elections. Additionally, one of my former interns, Gabrielle Tassone from Montville, is serving in Madagascar as an education volunteer. Other eastern Connecticut residents are serving in countries from Armenia to Tanzania to Gambia, and Kenya.

As we recognize the 52nd Anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps program, it is important to recognize the over 210,000 American volunteers that have participated in this important service program. Volunteers have shown the international community the American value of service in over 139 countries. This program provides the best and brightest of our young people the opportunity to represent their country abroad, by teaching English, by assisting with economic development programs, and by providing necessary support to small communities throughout the world. As we begin Peace Corps month, I am hopeful that we can all recognize all of these invaluable contributions to American values and global understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these distinguished volunteers from Connecticut and across the country, for their contributions to the developing world and for embodying the core value of service we all share.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ALLIANCE FOR LUPUS RESEARCH'S 10TH ANNUAL WALK WITH US TO CURE LUPUS

#### HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alliance for Lupus Research's tenth annual Walk With Us To Cure Lupus. Since its creation, Walk with Us To Cure Lupus has promoted awareness in our community and raised over one million dollars in support of medical research aimed at curing this disease.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease in which a person's immune system attacks normal, healthy tissues. The underlying causes are unknown, and there is no cure. This disease may cause damage to various parts of the body including skin, joints, and internal organs. As a chronic disease, those who suffer from lupus can endure months of symptoms that may reemerge as flares throughout their lives.

It is estimated that over 1.5 million Americans have lupus, including 100,000 people in my home state of Florida. The worldwide total is now over 5 million. It is important that we

continue to support research to develop better treatments and find a cure, educate our friends, families, and health care professionals to improve diagnosis and treatment, and promote awareness of this disease and advocate on the behalf of those who are affected by it.

I am especially proud of the many Floridians who have contributed to these efforts. In particular, I would like to recognize my good friend and the district director for Florida's 21st Congressional District, Wendi Lipsich. Wendi was diagnosed with lupus 25 years ago. While she is well-known for her energetic advocacy on behalf of seniors, children, and families throughout our community, she deserves special recognition today for her contribution to the Alliance for Lupus Research. Ten years ago, with the help of her friends Allison Rubin and Randy Netko, Wendi launched the first annual Walk With Us To Cure Lupus event in South Florida. Eight hundred people attended the first walk in 2004 and raised \$200,000. Each year since, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised exclusively for the purpose of research into curing lupus. In total, the Alliance for Lupus Research has committed \$81 million to develop a greater understanding of this disease and find a cure.

This weekend on March 3, 2013, hundreds of participants will join together at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida to walk together in support of lupus research. I commend all of the participants and donors that will make the tenth annual Walk With Us To Cure Lupus a success. Congratulations to Wendi, Allison, and the other organizers of this year's walk. Together, you are providing hope to the millions of families touched by lupus and bringing our nation closer to finally discovering a cure.

#### INTRODUCING THE EVERGLADES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION ACT

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Everglades for the Next Generation Act.

Everglades restoration is unfortunately at a standstill. All of the projects that can be started are already underway and nearing completion. It has been six years since the last Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Projects (CERP) were authorized. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is supposed to be the vehicle for these authorizations, but clearly is not sufficient. In the 12 years since CERP was signed into law, Congress has passed only one WRDA bill. An awkward state of limbo is not the future Congress had in mind for the Everglades when it passed CERP, and it is not the future that the American people deserve. Congressional inaction has persevered for far too long despite bipartisan support for restoration.

Regardless of the real progress, restoration efforts will not succeed without the next generation of projects, which cannot begin without further Congressional authorizations. That is exactly what this bill does: authorizes the shovel-ready projects which have been awaiting another WRDA. Additionally, this legislation will make it easier for the Army Corps of

Engineers to move on many of the remaining projects in order to prevent future Congressional bottlenecking.

Restoration is not a theoretical exercise. CERP has demonstrable successes and biennial reports from the National Academy of Sciences. We know that the federal and state governments can successfully work together with private businesses and landowners to reach mutually beneficial agreements that restore the health of this unique, beautiful, wild, and wonderful resource that is absolutely essential for Florida.

I urge my colleagues to support critically important legislation.

#### STATEMENT ON SEQUESTRATION

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment with the budget sequester that seems almost certain to occur. These automatic budget cuts will become effective tomorrow, Friday, March 1, 2013 unless Congress acts immediately. Many of my Democratic colleagues have proposed serious alternatives to the cuts, which I fully support.

Since the start of the 113th Congress, House Republicans have failed to bring a single bill to the floor that would prevent the cuts. The sequester will harm every American, especially the constituents of my district.

Estimates from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities demonstrate that the Women, Infant and Children nutrition program will be unable to assist between 600,000 and 775,000 individuals. Low income families depend on food assistance programs. Too many children in my district come to school hungry, which leads to the inability to focus on their schoolwork.

Sequestration will also undermine federally-funded programs that provide low income, underinsured, and uninsured women access to breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic testing. The women in my community need these programs to receive proper treatment.

Layoffs and furloughs to the Social Security Administration will slow the processing of Social Security applications. Many of my constituents who are retired or have disabilities depend on Social Security. Americans have worked for their Social Security benefits, and have the right to expect service.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am concerned about cuts to airport security. This issue has enormous importance to me and my fellow New Yorkers, many of whom work in airport security at JFK and LaGuardia airports. The cuts present seri-

ous risks to the workers at these airports and to our national security. These men and women have dedicated their lives to serving this country to keep it safe. A reduction in security workers will increase complications in air travel and increase the possibility of danger to this nation and its people.

The sequester will also harm small businesses, by reducing support for loan programs administered by the Small Business Administration as well as government contracts, and training program for small businesses. I am extremely sensitive to the plight of small businesses, as a member of the Small Business Committee.

I urge my colleagues to prevent these cuts to important programs. Our constituents want us to compromise to prevent these drastic cuts. In the words of Mohandas Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." We swore an oath to defend, protect and serve this country. Americans are depending on us to make the right decision. We should not delay a vote. We need to come together, make a decision and protect the interests of the people we represent.

#### VOICING SEQUESTER CONCERNS

**HON. JOHN K. DELANEY**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, the sequester is bad way to deal with deficit reduction and will likely have a negative effect on our economy, particularly Maryland's economy, which I have been saying for years is unusually vulnerable to reductions in government spending. We are faced with the sequester because our government has failed to act in a bi-partisan way for the good of the country. The cost of doing nothing is not nothing. Because we failed to take the necessary steps to deal with our deficit in a balanced way—and because special interests were uncompromising in the face of any proposals that affected them—we find ourselves facing a mini-doomsday machine in the sequester.

Unless Congress acts, sequestration would have a serious and disproportionate impact on job creation and economic growth in Maryland. The 60 non-military federal facilities and 17 military facilities in Maryland would see their ability to conduct operations significantly erode; nearly 140,000 federal civilian employees who work in Maryland would face furloughs and potential pay cuts; and thousands of jobs in Maryland would be put at risk. Our students, small businesses, families, and first-responders would also be affected by devastating cuts to investments in education, law enforcement, infrastructure, innovation, re-

search, and other areas that are critical to building a strong middle class.

Our focus should be on avoiding the sequester and passing a grand budget deal along the lines of Simpson-Bowles that reduces the deficit in a balanced way. We should do our job, which is to come together, negotiate in good faith, and find a solution.

#### THE 52ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise regarding the 52nd anniversary of the Peace Corps to recognize the service, sacrifice and commitment of the men and women who devote a portion of their lives to the task of helping to strengthen the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of United States and others around the world. These cultural ambassadors embody the legacy of service that is the foundation of this nation's image abroad. Since 1961, more than 210,000 volunteers have served in 193 countries around the world. Their efforts in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere have made significant and lasting contributions in the areas of agriculture, business development, education, health, and youth development among others.

I know firsthand of the long-lasting benefits of the good work of the Peace Corps. My father served in the Navy and then went on to become a United States Foreign Service officer, proudly representing America in places like Turkey and India and Pakistan, where I was born. I learned a lot about the world as a child in those places, but I also learned a lot about America.

One memory of those years stands out. It was in the early 1970s, and I had just turned 14. One day, I traveled with my parents to a tiny remote village in Sri Lanka. There, I walked into a family's small hut and as my eyes adjusted to the light, I noticed, hanging on the wall, a portrait of President John F. Kennedy. It was 10 years after he had been in the White House and half a world away from our country, but for these villagers it represented the America that had sent Peace Corps volunteers to help them. It represented the America they looked to as a land of opportunity and as a force for good and justice around the world. That portrait of our president represented an America that was a beacon of hope.

As we celebrate the fifty-second anniversary of the Peace Corps, let us salute the men and women who helped bring the best of America to the people of the world.