

Mr. Speaker, in closing, our thoughts and prayers are with Bill's friends and family as they remember the loss of such a great man. His contributions to Delaware will live on, as will his memory.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which commemorates the numerous contributions that Latinos make to our country.

I am proud, honored and privileged to represent California's 53rd District in Congress. The district's rich diversity embodies the vibrant cultural fabric of our country.

During this month of celebration, I would like to recognize the efforts of some ordinary individuals who are doing extraordinary things in San Diego.

GUS CHAVEZ

For thirty years, Gus Chavez helped make the dream of a college degree possible for countless students. Chavez is widely recognized as the heart and soul of the Education Opportunity Program (EOP) at San Diego State University. He transformed a pilot program to attract low-income students into one of the most successful programs in the state's history.

Chavez turned the department into a comprehensive admissions outreach and retention program. He expanded services to include pre-collegiate recruiting and pre-admission advising, academic orientation, tutoring, skills development and test preparation, summer bridge programs for freshmen and transfer students, career counseling and grants.

At his retirement words like "activist" "leader" "mentor" and "advocate", easily rolled off tongues. Indeed, many alumni cite Chavez as the person who had the most impact on their educations.

ALBERTO R. CORTÉS

For nearly 18 years, Alberto Cortés has been dedicated to educating people of color about HIV and AIDS. He has worked as a bilingual information specialist and health educator for the San Diego AIDS Project and volunteered for the San Diego AIDS Information Line. Cortés has also been active with the Council of Community Clinics where he helped build HIV awareness and counseled individuals.

Presently, Cortés serves as executive director of Mama's Kitchen, a nonprofit organization that prepares and delivers food to people affected by AIDS. Last year, Mama's Kitchen provided more than 316,000 meals to community members in need.

This year, Cortés was one of five San Diegans honored as a local hero as part of the Union Bank of California and KPBS Hispanic Heritage Month Local Heroes Awards. Awardees are chosen for demonstrating a high level of commitment and community participation.

JOSE MONDRAGON

While some high school students view summer vacation as a time to relax, this 17-year-old used it to coordinate a community meeting with city council members.

Working with Barrios Unidos Hoy Organizados (BUHO), Mondragon was a key organizer for a public meeting that brought together 300 community residents to address issues of concern such as affordable housing and adequate street lighting. Those who worked with him on the community meeting describe Mondragon as "a true role model."

Mondragon is currently Commissioner of Community Service for the Associated Student Body at San Diego High School. Despite all of his extracurricular activities, Jose has maintained a 3.81 GPA and hopes to attend Stanford University after high school.

I hope you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my colleagues will join me in honoring these extraordinary individuals and their accomplishments for the Latino community.

COMMEMORATING THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF KKLA-FM

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 99.5 KKLA-FM, Los Angeles, California's leading Christian-teaching radio station, as it celebrates 20 years of community-oriented broadcasting.

And what an amazing twenty years it has been. From its humble beginnings in a small studio in Hollywood to the multimedia powerhouse it is today, KKLA-FM has always striven to engage Southern California listeners with thought-provoking discussions and family friendly programming. In an age when our media increasingly focuses on violent and offensive material, KKLA-FM has consistently remained committed to providing quality material for listeners of all ages.

Since October 15, 1985, KKLA-FM's first day on the air, the station has been dedicated to its mission of beaming the Lord's word and teachings to Southern California. But it wasn't until 1986, with the debut of "Live from LA," that the station moved to the national forefront as the voice of Southern California's Christian community. Today, KKLA-FM is unquestionably the leader of Christian-themed radio in Southern California.

KKLA-FM's success was twenty years in the making. It was the first Los Angeles radio station and second in the nation to stream their programming on the Internet. And the station was quick to develop other radio outlets, including News/Talk 870 KRLA-AM, 95.9 KFSH-FM (The Fish), News/Talk 590 KTIE-AM and 1190 KXMX-AM. The development of these technologies has helped to grow KKLA-FM's listener base and spread its message of peace, tolerance, and love to listeners around the world.

Much of KKLA-FM's accomplishments can be attributed to the dedication and passion of its owner, Salem Communications Corporation, the leading U.S. radio broadcaster focused on Christian and family themes programming. The company will soon own 106 radio stations, including 67 stations in 24 of the top 25 markets. In addition to its radio properties, Salem owns Salem Radio Network, which syndicates talk, news and music pro-

gramming to over 1,900 affiliated radio stations; Salem Web Network, the leading Internet provider of Christian content and online streaming; and Salem Publishing, a leading publisher of Christian themed magazines.

I congratulate all the listeners and employees of KKLA-FM, who should be extremely proud of the station they have helped to build. I ask this Congress to join me in wishing the KKLA-FM family a happy 20th anniversary.

AZERBAIJAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is an important strategic ally for the United States. The Country is located in a region that can produce and transport energy products to the West. As well as provide military and intelligence capabilities to the United States.

Azerbaijan is an emerging major non-OPEC oil producer and transit country (i.e. Baku-Ceyhan pipeline), which will supply 1.6 million barrels a day after being operational December 2005. This will stabilize the other energy producing countries (oil and gas) in the region and their ability to get their product to the marketplace without the dependency of Russia or Iran.

Azerbaijan is a front line positioned state for military and intelligence access to Iran. This will act as a stabilizing effect for the region and fight off the aggressive position of Iran. It will also work against terrorist activities spread by fundamental terrorist who have the support of Iran.

Azerbaijan is the first Muslim state to provide troops to the U.S. backed coalitions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo. To date, they are the only Shiite Muslim state to provide troops.

Azerbaijan is in the vanguard of the emerging democracies from the former Soviet Union. Azerbaijan has parliamentary elections scheduled November 6, 2005, and is moving forward with international support to assure free and fair elections. Azerbaijan has allowed opposition parties the right to organize, protest, and access public television.

Azerbaijan maintains excellent relations with the State of Israel, both, diplomatically and economically including providing crude oil.

Azerbaijan is a strong strategic partner with the United States and is cooperating in United States activities regarding Caspian regional security overseeing Iran (e.g., Caspian Guards program, radar system, fly-over rights and refueling capacity).

Azerbaijan is a strategic asset given its presence as a strong United States-Israel ally next to Iran. Azerbaijan welcomes trade with Israel and stronger ties between the two countries.

Iran has threatened Azerbaijan due to cooperation with Israel and the United States Iran continues to inform Azerbaijan that their strong relations with the United States and Israel will not be beneficial, as Iran is their neighbor.

The Iran military enters Azerbaijan airspace weekly and Iran has made claims on Azerbaijan's offshore oil and gas exploration.

Iran has attempted to spread Madrassas schools in Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan has resisted.

Iran pressures Azerbaijan to abolish visas between the two countries, which would lead to less control and more Iranians infiltration into Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan is resisting this effort.

Occupied Azerbaijan (NK Region) is on the Iranian border, where alleged terrorist camps, narcotic trafficking and weapons trading goes on. Since Armenia has occupied this region of Azerbaijan, almost 16 percent of the total country, this activity has existed with the support of Iran. Azerbaijan is defenseless in trying to stop this activity, as long as Armenia occupies this region.

RECOGNIZING THE EAST TEXANS
AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Texas' 1st Congressional District, I would like to recognize the efforts of the 3,000 members of the East Texans Against Lawsuit Abuse organization and the Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse in promoting Texas' fourth Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week from October 3–7, 2005.

East Texans Against Lawsuit Abuse (ETALA) is a respected and effective organization that works to educate consumers about the human and financial costs associated with frivolous lawsuits. This organization has led successful efforts to reform our states medical malpractice system, reduce the number of frivolous lawsuits in Texas, ensure that Texans who are truly injured have access to our court system and educate Texans about how to become wise legal consumers.

ETALA is recognized locally for their efforts to encourage personal responsibility among local school children. For the second year, they are sponsoring a personal responsibility essay-writing contest among local sixth and seventh graders. What is most interesting and encouraging is that our children seem to understand this basic concept that has escaped so many adults.

We support ETALA in their efforts in support of civil justice reform and wish to thank their many supporters, board members and staff in their efforts. Through the courage and dedication of these individuals, what was once only a nice idea, has now become a reality. It has been my pleasure to work with ETALA in the past, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HURRICANE
DISASTER MORTGAGE
MORATORIUM ACT OF 2005

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Hurricane Disaster Mortgage Moratorium Act of 2005, which would provide a 6-month moratorium on mortgage payments owed by residential and commercial property owners who reside in the disaster areas of

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This bill would provide a temporary refuge from payment for those individuals and entities who are unable to make their mortgage payment obligations.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, the devastation wreaked by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was of colossal proportion. The ensuing fallout of lost jobs, destroyed homes and shattered lives is equally devastating.

Needless to say, the figures that have begun to be compiled in the aftermath of the storm are staggering. Analysts with the National Association of Realtors are projecting that at least 200,000 homes in the Gulf Coast region have been destroyed or will have to be demolished. The U.S. Department of Commerce has estimated that uninsured losses could easily exceed \$100 billion. Sadly, up to a million Americans were displaced by the storms and many are still living in temporary shelters.

The Department of Labor job figures released today show that unemployment is up to 5.1 percent for September, up from a 4.9 percent pre-Katrina and Rita level and much higher than the 4.0 percent level we experienced during the 1990s. According to the Joint Economic Committee Democratic staff, the unemployment rate would in fact be 9.0 percent if the figure included those who are marginally attached to the labor force and those who are forced to work part-time because of the weak economy. The Houston Chronicle on October 6, 2005 reported that as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, at least 363,000 people have lost their jobs. These dismal numbers are likely to remain constant in the short-term as our nation rebuilds this region.

In fact, most of those unemployed as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are expected to be out of work at least 6–9 months and we should only anticipate the indicators to increase. As we know, just this week we heard Mayor Ray Nagin of New Orleans inform that he has to let go of 3,000 municipal employees because the City cannot afford to pay them. This unfortunate scenario will surely be repeated to some extent throughout the region as municipal and state coffers dwindle from depleted revenue bases.

Whereas the number of job losses for the month of September is surprisingly only 35,000, the Department of Labor reported that last week, it received an additional 74,000 hurricane-related unemployment claims. In fact, nearly one in every five unemployed people—1.5 million Americans have been jobless for more than 26 weeks, the maximum number of weeks for receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits and the Hurricanes will only exacerbate these passive numbers.

The CBO predicts that the Hurricanes could actually cut job growth by between 280,000 and 400,000 jobs. Although it may sound obvious, Americans who have lost everything in a hurricane, who are not working and have little prospects of working in the near future cannot afford to pay their mortgages. This bill would provide them with a reprieve from their mortgage payments. Also, as it does not mandate forgiveness of this debt, this bill reflects the shared burden that our Nation will have to shoulder temporarily during this time of rebuilding.

Mr. Speaker, behind these figures are thousands of home and business owners whose entire livelihoods have been destroyed and who now face the prospect that the properties

they have worked a lifetime to purchase could be taken from them when they fall behind in their mortgages. This bill provides a temporary sanctuary from payment and stops the clock for any default or foreclosure proceedings and negative credit reporting.

Needless to say the economic effects of the Hurricanes are being felt in painful increments nationwide. However, for the Americans forced out of their homes by the Hurricanes, the economic effects are not coming in the form of a trickle, but a deluge.

The Hurricane Disaster Mortgage Moratorium Act of 2005 will ensure that during the moratorium, those Gulf Coast residents who cannot afford to pay their mortgages will not lose their homes or suffer the negative attendant consequences from non-payment. Let's not make these Americans suffer needlessly by facing the prospect of losing their homes twice. I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

ON THE 2ND PLACE FINISH OF
THE EL PASO HIGH-Q
TEAM AT THE NATIONAL ACADEMIC
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2005 a group of students from historic El Paso High School in my district of El Paso, Texas, after months of grueling preparation and a hard-fought season, finished second at the National Academic Championship in Chicago.

I congratulate the following El Paso High Tigers for their hard work and dedication: Blain Baurngard, Trevor Vargas, Alex Neuman, Robert Heyman, Emil Michal, and their coach, named Coach of the Year by the National Academic Championship, Gerard Neuman.

The El Paso High School High-Q Team made it to the final round with a combination of intelligence, teamwork and self-discipline. The team demonstrated the ability to come from behind and showed maturity beyond their years.

Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2005 the El Paso High Tigers gave us a preview of the excellence we can expect from our city's young generations and showed El Paso is home to some of the best and brightest our Nation has to offer. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the El Paso High-Q team on their second place finish at the National Academic Championship.

HONORING VICTOR AND MAE
LOBUE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two very special people, Victor and Mae LoBue, who are celebrating seventy-five years of marriage on September 10, 2005.

Victor LoBue and Mae DiSalvo were both born in 1910 in San Jose, in a neighborhood of Italian-American immigrants called "Little