

pain. It is estimated that 1.5 million Americans are losing their sight because they do not know that they have the disease and are not getting the treatment they need.

The resolution also supports early detection of glaucoma for those at risk, enhanced treatment for those affected, and expanded research. Those groups at highest risk for glaucoma include African Americans, Hispanics, people with a family history of glaucoma, as well as individuals with diabetes and/or hypertension. Senior citizens, in general, are also at high risk for glaucoma. Compelling studies and data show that glaucoma is 6 to 8 times more common in African Americans than in Caucasians, and that African Americans between 45 and 65 are 14 to 17 times more likely to go blind from glaucoma than Caucasians in the same age group. Glaucoma is also the most common cause of blindness in Hispanics, the fastest growing ethnic minority in the country, and they too are at particular risk of being blinded by the disease.

I am proud to support the resolution and underscore the use of legislation as a vehicle when necessary, support adequate Federal funding for early detection, treatment, research, annual screenings and comprehensive eye examinations for individuals over 40, and those at highest risk for glaucoma.

I applaud and support the mission and service of those agencies and organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, National Eye Institute, Glaucoma Research Foundation, glaucoma specialists at teaching hospitals, clinics, colleges and universities across the country who demonstrate on a daily basis, their dedication and commitment toward combating this devastating disease.

I am particularly proud of the work of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, a non-profit organization and the affiliation that I share with my colleague and friend Congressman ED TOWNS, as founding members of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, a non-partisan body of more than 90 congressional members in the House and Senate. I urge my colleagues who are not members of the caucus to join to promote free glaucoma screenings, education and awareness within your districts.

Finally, I join in with my colleague Congressman ED TOWNS of New York and urge the Energy and Commerce Committee to hold a speedy hearing on H.R. 3005, the Glaucoma Screening Act of 2007, a worthy and important bill introduced by our colleagues, Representatives SERRANO and BOOZMAN.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 242, H. Res. 1011—Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, as well as in the wider region that includes the northern region of the Central African Republic and

the Darfur region of Sudan—had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

#### CELEBRATING TEN YEARS AT ALLIANCE OPPORTUNITY CENTER

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the Alliance Opportunity Center, which has served North Texas for 10 years.

The Alliance Opportunity Center, a non-profit organization supervised by Hillwood, Tarrant County College, Tarrant County Workforce Development Board, Texas Workforce Commission and the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, has long been committed to economic growth in Tarrant and Denton Counties, and their impact on the area is certainly cause for celebration.

The Alliance Opportunity Center's main goal is to shorten employee turnaround time, reduce job recruitment costs, and enhance employee skills and retention. This objective is achieved through the many services the AOC offers to the community. The Alliance Opportunity Center advertises Alliance job listings nationwide, maintains a current job-applicant database to best match open positions with available candidates, provides companies with the resumes of candidates best suited for open positions, and screens applicants for qualified referrals.

The organization also hosts the Annual Alliance Texas Hiring fair and coordinates and conducts job fairs for individual companies. The Alliance Opportunity Center staff keeps the interests of the community in mind, allowing area companies more time to focus on their core work and, in the process, making Alliance businesses an even greater success.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to honor Alliance Opportunity Center for its commitment to playing an active role in the development, improvement and success of the North Texas community. I am proud to represent such a prestigious organization in Texas' 26th Congressional District.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTHA KRUEZTMANN

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Martha Krueztzmann on the celebration of her 100th birthday on April 2, 2008.

Martha was born on April 2, 1908 to Peter and Lydia Wigand in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. She was one of four brothers and three sisters. Martha was married to the late Reverend A.I. Krueztzmann and has three children, Eileen, Evelyn, and Edith; eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. She currently lives at the Hubbard Care Center in Hubbard, Iowa.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred years. Since Martha's birth we have revolutionized air

travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Martha has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. And, in her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Martha Krueztzmann for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Martha in the United States Congress and I wish her happiness and health for many years to come.

#### FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay recognition to the Filipino veterans who so bravely served under the U.S. flag during World War II.

The Philippine Islands were a U.S. territory from 1902–1946. On July 16, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called over 200,000 Filipinos to service under the command of General Douglas MacArthur. They courageously fought side-by-side with soldiers from the United States, under the American flag and for a common goal to protect all nations from aggressive governments.

Madam Speaker, despite their patriotism, sacrifice, and service to this nation, the Filipino veterans of World War II have still not received the full benefits they were promised 62 years ago.

The average age of these heroes is 84. Congress has a moral obligation to provide for the Filipino veterans who fought as part of the United States during World War II before it is too late. We must restore dignity and honor to these proud veterans.

#### HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF SGT. RICHARD J. “RICK” KASPER

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant from Chester County, Pennsylvania, who is retiring after a nearly 30-year career with the West Whiteland Township Police Department.

Sgt. Richard J. “Rick” Kasper joined the West Whiteland Police as a patrol officer in 1978. He became one of the first members on the force to be promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1988.

As a patrol shift supervisor for 25 years, Sgt. Kasper earned the respect of his colleagues for his ability to think on his feet and his sound judgment at times when officers' lives and the safety of the community were on the line.

Whether it was safely disarming a knife-wielding suspect or responding to a threat of violence at a local mall, the members of the West Whiteland Township Police Department