

missing and presumed to have lost their lives in the line of duty: Lt. Cmdr. Che J. Barnes of Capay, California; Lt. Adam W. Bryant, of Crewe, Virginia; Chief Petty Officer John F. Seidman of Stockton, California; Petty Officer 2nd Class Carl P. Grigonis of Mayfield Heights, Ohio; Petty Officer 2nd Class Monica L. Beacham of Decaturville, Tennessee; Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason S. Moletzsky of Norristown, Pennsylvania; and Petty Officer 3rd Class Danny R. Kreder II, of Elm Mott, Texas. The following crew members of the Marine Corps helicopter are missing and presumed to have lost their lives in the line of duty: Maj. Samuel Leigh of Kennebec, Maine, and 1st Lt. Thomas Claiborne of Douglas, Colorado.

The men and women of the Coast Guard are "Always Ready" to safeguard the United States against all hazards and threats at our ports, at sea, and around the world. As the men and women of the Marine Corps are "Always Faithful" to their mission of defending the United States on the ground, in the air, and by sea, in every corner of the globe. These individuals lost their lives in service to their country and I, as well as every other Member of Congress, should support this resolution in their honor.

CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the month of November as Native American Indian Heritage Month, and to express my support for the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009.

Over 562 Native American tribes have made extraordinary professional, educational, and cultural contributions to our community. After centuries of gross mistreatment at the hands of the U.S. government and generations of unequal, exploitative policies that have worked to effectively rob Native Americans of their land, culture, and livelihood, it is a privilege to honor the many accomplishments that these groups are making today. Their rich ancestry and surviving traditions are a living testament of the strength and unyielding spirit shared by many great tribal nations across this land, and their legacy will continue to be a major part of the ethnic fabric of American society.

Since its inception in 1990, Native American Indian Heritage Month has sought to promote recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States, and increase awareness of the tragedies and discrimination these groups have experienced throughout history. This year's theme, *Pride in Our Heritage*, Honor to our Ancestors, reflects the importance of remembering the rich and diverse cultural legacy of our Native American communities.

In the spirit of recognizing the longstanding social and economic inequalities facing Native American tribes, it is crucial that we take steps to ensure that Native American communities achieve equal access to public services, government funding, employment, business and

educational opportunities. Individually and as distinct nations, Native Americans have made distinguished and significant achievements in the fields of agriculture, business, medicine, music, language, and art. I have every confidence that they will continue to distinguish themselves in those arenas as well as in government, as entrepreneurs, athletes, and scholars in the years and decades to come.

As we proceed to strengthen America's economic and social infrastructure, it is imperative that we target existing inequalities and discriminatory policies and make an active, nationwide effort to include Native Americans in future programs through forward-thinking legislation, such as the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009.

I strongly support H.R. 1834, the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009, which will be considered by the House today. This legislation, introduced by my colleague Rep. ANN KIRKPATRICK, will establish the Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration. This effort will increase Native American entrepreneurship and engage tribes in the small business arena.

In this vein, I have been working to further Native American business and economic development by supporting the elevation and funding of the Office of Native American Business Development, ONABD, at the Department of Commerce. I believe the ONABD should be more independent and receive an increase of funds in order to expand its activities, and fulfill its duties to expand business development, trade promotion and tourism opportunities for Native American tribes and their enterprises.

In closing, Madam Speaker, celebrating Native American Indian Heritage Month and supporting our Native American community is an important milestone to increase public awareness of their role in American history and recognize their cultural legacies that enrich our everyday lives.

DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res 841, which will designate November 29, 2009, as "Drive Safer Sunday". I strongly support the passage of this resolution because at some point in time, all of our lives have been or will be in the hands of a driver. Motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation for most of us here in the United States. Advocating safer driving methods will help save the lives of countless mothers, daughters, fathers and sons. Losing the people we love due to another drivers' lack of attention, carelessness or belligerent intoxication while driving is inexcusable.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, in 2005, Americans now spend more than 100 hours a year commuting to work. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, estimates that in 2009, 37,313 people, an average of more than 100 drivers a day, were

killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Throughout the first half of this year, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, has reported over 16,000 deaths. Throughout 2008 in Houston, my home district, the 18th District of Texas, there were an estimated 74 fatalities according to the Texas Department of Transportation, TxDOT.

Between driving to work, taking our kids to school, running to the grocery store and various other errands; for many of us, our highways and byways become a home away from home. Unfortunately, distracted drivers have endangered us all with careless antics. 'Distracted driving' includes anything that takes your eyes, hands, or mind away from driving, including food and beverages, traffic accidents, adjusting the radio, children, pets, objects moving in the vehicle, talking or texting on a cell phone, smoking, putting on make-up, shaving, and reading.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, conducted a study on driver distraction with respect to both behavioral and vehicle safety countermeasures in an effort to understand and mitigate crashes associated with distracted driving. In September of this year, the Department of Transportation, DOT, Secretary Ray LaHood announced research findings by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, that showed nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver, and more than half a million were injured. Distracted driving was reported to have been involved in 16 percent of all fatal crashes in 2008, according to data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System, FARS. The age group with the greatest proportion of distracted drivers was the under-20 age group, 16 percent of all under-20 drivers in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving. Crashes in which the critical reason for the crash was attributed to the driver, approximately 18 percent involved distraction, according to the National Motor Vehicle Crash Causation Survey, NMVCCS.

While traveling on our roads and highways, we all need to drive safer to reduce deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents. Driver behavior can be effectively changed through education and awareness. The Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year and would be appropriate to be designated as "Drive Safer Sunday."

HONORING THE LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE ILLINOIS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lyons Township men's soccer team on its victory in the Illinois 3A State Championship match on November 7 in Naperville, IL.

Lyons Township enjoyed immense success this season, posting a record of 26 wins and only three losses. This year marked LT's sixth appearance in the state tournament. But after five previous trips ended in early exits, this