

Mr. Speaker, Labor Day signifies the end of the summer and the beginning of a new fall season. Schools are back in session, and many Americans return from their end-of-summer vacations. Well, I say it's about time that Republicans returned from their 244-day vacation of failing to put forth any job creating legislation, and join Democrats to enact our bipartisan solutions and the "Make It In America" initiative.

Under this plan, we can rebuild our infrastructure, invest in innovation and clean energy, and level the playing field for American businesses and workers by demanding that our trading partners, including China, play fairly in global trade.

Later this week, President Obama will address a joint session of Congress and unveil his plan to create jobs for the millions of persons who desperately want to work and provide for their families. In addition to the Make it in America agenda, Democrats in Congress have long been promoting an agenda focusing on jobs for the American worker.

Take for instance transportation infrastructure projects with the potential to employ millions and facilitate trade across the Nation. We must pass a clean extension of the Surface Transportation Act and the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act; both are set to expire at the end of this month. These transportation programs provide funding for highway construction, mass transit systems, transportation projects and bridge repair.

If Congress does not act, the laws will expire and these programs will be shut down. Almost one million construction and other workers will lose their jobs over the course of the year. In addition, if the extension is delayed over 4,000 professionals in the Department of Transportation will be immediately furloughed without pay.

Passing a fully funded Surface Transportation bill is an essential step in protecting nearly a million American jobs and creating new opportunities for workers across the Nation. Transportation infrastructure is one of the most effective ways to stimulate the economy and reduce unemployment. Studies suggest that for every \$1 billion spent on transportation projects, more than 35,000 jobs are created.

Our number one goal should be putting Americans back to work. Congress needs to

work together to create jobs, strengthen the economy, and help small business owners hire workers.

Labor Day is a time to honor a movement that respects the dignity of work and reflects the decency and dedication of our workers. Let us honor the story of the American workers who built this country, who created this dream by protecting and promoting what matters to them the most—their jobs.

HONORING MARY LEE SPENCER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, reaching the age of 93 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer was born on August 28, 1918 and is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Spencer has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Spencer is celebrating her 93rd birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in De Kalb County, Georgia on August 28, 2011; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 93rd birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim August 28, 2011 as Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 28th day of August, 2011.

HONORING JENNIFER CASTELAZO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mrs. Jennifer Castelazo, a truly remarkable person who has been chosen to be the Napa County Teacher of the Year for 2012.

Mrs. Castelazo has always had a profound love for teaching and it is clearly visible with her students. She has been teaching Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, and Advanced Placement Chemistry at Vintage High School since 1998.

Born in Massachusetts but raised in Livermore, California, she obtained an undergraduate degree in microbiology and her Master's of Science in food science and nutrition at California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo. She is a credentialed teacher in Physical and Life Science.

Throughout her teaching career, Mrs. Castelazo has volunteered for leadership positions on her campus, including twice participating on Western Association of Schools and Colleges leadership teams and serving as the 9th grade House lead teacher. She has supported student enrichment activities, serving as advisor to the Adventure Club, the GREEN Club, and senior class. Mrs. Castelazo has also led student sports, coaching Junior Varsity Girls' Soccer, Boys' Varsity Tennis and teaching the foreign exchange student summer program physical education course.

Mrs. Castelazo has been married for 15 years to Mark Castelazo. She is the mother of 12-year-old Maddie, 9-year-old Connor, and 7-year-old Ethan, and is often seen coaching her daughter's soccer games on Saturday mornings.

Mrs. Castelazo makes herself available to all students to ensure they are achieving their highest potential and works to ignite a passion for the sciences. She is a natural teacher and a leader among her peers. It is therefore appropriate that we honor her at this time for her service to Napa students and the community.