

YouTube into classroom instruction. In an effort to share his concepts with other educators, May authors a website where he provides tips on how teachers can effectively connect with their students.

This is not May's first award or recognition. He was also honored by the Florida Association of Community Colleges and named their 2010 Professor of the Year.

On behalf of the citizens of Florida's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate Professor James May for his hard work, determination, and leadership. His enthusiasm and investment in Florida's students is most deserving of the 2011 Professor of the Year Award.

DUTCH AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize Dutch American Heritage Day, a day that honors the strong friendship between our two countries and the many contributions of Americans of Dutch descent.

It was the Netherlands who first officially recognized the flag of the newly formed United States of America on this day in 1776, and later, The Hague would become the first American Embassy in the world.

Today, the United States and the Netherlands share a very robust economic relationship. The Netherlands is the third-largest investor in the U.S. Between exports and this investment, our partnership helps to generate over 700,000 jobs in the U.S. In 2010, the Netherlands ranked seventh among all the trading partners the U.S. exports goods to.

The Netherlands has been a strong ally as well. Dutch troops fought beside Americans in occupied territory during World War II and in conflicts since, as well as serving together in peacekeeping missions across the world.

The contributions of many great Dutch-Americans have helped shape U.S. history, including three presidents, Martin Van Buren, Theodore Roosevelt, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as numerous cultural figures, including Thomas Edison, Humphrey Bogart, Walter Cronkite, and, more recently, General David Petraeus.

While a destination for many immigrant settlers, the Dutch have left an influential mark on the Second District of Michigan, both economi-

cally and culturally. From cities and villages with Dutch namesakes like Borculo, Drenthe, Holland, and Zeeland, to traditions like the Tulip Festival and Sinterklaas parade, Dutch settlers have shared their heritage proudly with their neighbors.

Today we celebrate not only a common heritage, but also a friendship that has helped shape America since its birth.

We are thankful for the contribution of Dutch-Americans not only in West Michigan, but throughout the United States, and look forward to a strong partnership for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 837 I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."