

am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Maximillian McElligott is a junior at Clear Springs High School in Galveston County, Texas. His essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country. Maximillian chose the Cold War.

The Cold War had numerous effects on America that led to prosperity in not just the American political machine but also in the everyday society. One well-known effect is the putting together of National Aeronautical and Space Administration or NASA.

During the 1950s, both the Soviets and Americans were in a so called "Space Race". The goal was simple: Be the first to space. The Soviets were the first to achieve this goal by successfully launching their rocket, Sputnik I, into space. In response to the possible threats of nuclear war and the new Soviet technology of long range missiles, the United States founded the National Aeronautical and Space Administration or NASA. The "Sputnik Crisis", as it was called sent a shockwave through the United States. For once, we weren't the first to accomplish something that hadn't been done yet. NASA's early goals consisted of getting to space, and then once John F. Kennedy was elected in the early 1960s, the goal changed to putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

The dream of putting a man on the moon was accomplished quickly by landing a man on the moon, July 20th, 1969. That single day in history where over 500 million people worldwide watched as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin took mankind's first steps on the moon. The first manned moon landing opened the door for future space explorations such as missions to other planets, other planets moons, and possibly other galaxies which wouldn't have come as quick as they had without the so called "Russian Initiative".

Another immediate effect in the public school system was the majority of the focus was situated onto math and science based criteria. The government had planned to get youths more excited and intrigued by the new policies. The country went through a technological boom to close out the century. New inventions such as the cell phone, World Wide Web, computer storage units, etc.

Looking back over the Cold War, it was a stepping stone of greatness to where we are today with both our education and technological advances. Through the ups and downs the space race worked in our favor to give our country a head start on the essentials to become an even stronger, more diverse world superpower. If we as a country had not gone through the Cold War and had succumbed to letting communism make its way throughout the world, the United States would be far behind when it came to superiority.

#### SUPPORTING RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MOROCCO AND THE POLISARIO FRONT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the renewal of negotia-

tions between the government of Morocco and the Polisario Front.

The Western Sahara region has been disputed territory since the Spanish withdrew in 1975. It is claimed by Morocco and the Polisario Front, which seeks independence for the Western Sahara.

Morocco and the Polisario began direct negotiations in 2007, under the auspices of the United Nations. The next round of negotiations begins on Monday, and I hope that a solution will finally be agreed to during the new talks in Manhasset, NY. The people who live in the Western Sahara have suffered as a result of the region's status being in limbo, and they deserve for this longstanding dispute to be resolved.

Morocco has a compromise proposal on the table: democratic autonomy for the region under Moroccan sovereignty. I believe this is a reasonable offer and can serve as a basis for negotiations. Undersecretary of State William Burns previously described the Moroccan initiative as a "serious and credible proposal to provide real autonomy for the Western Sahara." It is also important for the region's residents to be able to express their views on their future, and for negotiators to take those views into account.

Mr. Speaker, after more than 35 years, it is time for all parties to negotiate in good faith to finally bring this crisis to a close. We are witnessing monumental changes in North Africa following revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya. It is in the interest of the United States and the parties involved to achieve a peaceful, negotiated solution to the Western Sahara issue, and more broadly to encourage Morocco to fully implement King Mohammed's proposed constitutional reforms and continue moving toward a more balanced governmental system that serves the many needs of all citizens of Morocco.

#### RECOGNITION OF MARCH 12, 2012— MARCH 16, 2012 AS NATIONAL YOUNG AUDIENCES WEEK

**HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Young Audiences, as they celebrate National Young Audiences Week, March 12th thru March 16th 2012. Young Audiences was founded in 1952 and serves as our nation's leading source for arts-in-education services.

National Young Audiences Week was created by Leonard Bernstein in 1971, who wanted the entire country to understand the contributions Young Audiences was making to the cultural education of children throughout the United States. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of Young Audiences, and the first celebration of National Young Audiences week since 1991.

Annually, Young Audiences reaches more than five million school children. Their many programs enable students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, imagina-

tion and creativity, discipline, alternative ways to communicate and express feelings and ideas, and cross-cultural understanding.

In my Congressional district, Young Audiences serves approximately 21,860 students in my district in 14 different school districts. I am proud to recognize Young Audiences for their work, and will remain a strong advocate for arts-in education services.

HONORING CAROL PASTOR

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Carol Pastor and mourn her upon her passing at the age of 75.

Born on September 2, 1936, Carol Pastor dedicated her life to her family and was the proud matriarch of a three generation Michigan based construction business, George H. Pastor and Sons.

Regrettably, on March 4, 2012, Carol Pastor passed from this earthly world to her eternal reward. She was preceded to eternity by her beloved husband of 54 years, Richard and her treasured son, Keith. Mrs. Pastor is survived by her cherished children, Craig, Mahala, John, Tim, and Michelle and will be long remembered by her sister, Barbara and her brother, Thomas. She leaves a precious legacy of 12 grandchildren. A thoughtful and benevolent woman, Carol will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, Carol Pastor is remembered as a loving mother, a devoted wife, adored matriarch, compassionate leader, and a valued friend. Carol was a true lady who deeply treasured her family, friends, community and her country. Today, as we bid Carol Pastor farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning her passing and honoring her dedicated commitment to her family, our country and community.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK (MARCH 5-9, 2012)

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National School Breakfast Week which this year is March 5th through 9th. I thank the School Nutrition Association for their efforts to promote this important week and raise awareness for the need to ensure our school children have a healthy breakfast to start their days.

Research has shown that eating a nutritious, balanced breakfast helps kids focus and succeed in school. I believe that the federal government has an important role to play in