

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission, which celebrates its 50th anniversary today.

More than two years before the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the city of Louisville asserted itself as a voice of compassion and reason in the face of hate, building on a recent history of social progress by passing an ordinance to formally condemn racial and religious discrimination.

The ordinance referred to elements that are "contrary to public policy and detrimental to the peace, progress, and welfare of the city," and in doing so created a city agency to monitor and adjudicate discrimination in public accommodations at a time when Louisville—and much of the country—was working to fully integrate schools, housing, neighborhoods, and public employment.

Over the past 50 years, the Commission has helped preserve and advance that history of progress, serving as a conscience for our community and protecting our citizens from discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, familial status, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

It has been a primary force in building a safe and supportive community where diversity is not only accepted, but embraced.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission on 50 years of important work, and I look forward to another 50.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL AND THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the Centennial Celebration, commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the gift of trees and the enduring friendship between the United States and Japan.

Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival heralds the coming of spring and produces diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit, showcasing the best of Washington, DC to the world.

More than one hundred years ago, the combined vision of unlikely partners led to the world-renowned majestic cherry trees that line the Tidal Basin in our nation's capital. Eliza Scidmore, the National Geographic Society's first female board member, Dr. David Fairchild of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, First Lady Helen Herron Taft, Mayor Yukio Ozaki of

Tokyo, and Dr. Jokichi Takamine, goodwill ambassador, world-famous chemist, and the founder of Sankyo Co., Ltd. (today known as Daiichi Sankyo), all worked together to bestow Washington, DC with more than 3,000 cherry trees in 1912. This gesture of goodwill was honored in a simple ceremony on March 27, 1912, when First Lady Taft and Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first two trees at the Tidal Basin. Today, the trees are a national treasure enjoyed by millions, and, as First Lady Taft envisioned, a wonderful backdrop for cultural and community events of all kinds.

Today, the National Cherry Blossom Festival unites the region for over one million visitors each spring, who look forward to signature events like the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, world-class entertainment, cultural performances and more, primarily free and open to the public. Our Nation's greatest cultural institutions participate, including the National Gallery of Art, The Kennedy Center, and Smithsonian, with over 50 area organizations participating in total.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival greatly benefits the nation's capital. The Festival generates over \$126 million annually for Washington, DC, and has received many accolades and international recognition.

Among the many special commemorative initiatives to mark the historic Centennial Celebration, the Government of Japan has designated the Centennial Celebration an official anniversary event. The United States Postal Service has issued Cherry Blossom Centennial Forever stamps, and the American Bus Association has named the Centennial Celebration the top event for group travel in 2012. Millions of people have enjoyed the National Cherry Blossom Festival, and millions will continue to create cherished memories here in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the work of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the message of peace, friendship, and international understanding it carries on each year during the Nation's greatest springtime celebration.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of National Prescription Drug Awareness Month.

Throughout California, March is recognized as National Prescription Drug Awareness Month. The purpose of this initiative is to increase community awareness about the dangers that many medications may pose if not used properly.

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared prescription drug abuse to be a national epidemic. In 2008, approximately 20,000 people died from prescription drug overdoses. In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals. These num-

bers are tragic and unacceptable, and we must make every effort to address the issue.

Fortunately, the National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse, NCPDA, is leading the effort to combat this epidemic. NCPDA is hosting a variety of events in California this month to help raise awareness and public engagement in the battle against prescription drug abuse. Education plays a critical role helping children, young adults, and their parents to avoid prescription drug abuse, and education serves an important first step to combating this serious problem.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important work of the NCPDA and the role National Prescription Drug Awareness Month can play in preventing the loss of loved ones across the country.

HONORING JEFFERY L. KLEIN CEO OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Jeffrey L. Klein, on the occasion of his 25th Anniversary as CEO of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. His years of dedicated service have been instrumental in building a vibrant, diverse Jewish community in Palm Beach County and throughout South Florida. It is truly an honor to represent him in the United States Congress.

The Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County would not be what it is today without Mr. Klein's visionary leadership. During his tenure, the organization grew dramatically to include two state-of-the-art campuses in West Palm Beach and in Boynton Beach. In addition, the Federation was able to unveil many new programs to promote leadership, assist seniors, and educate teens about their Jewish heritage. Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Klein's efforts have led to the creation of programs that go beyond South Florida to strengthen ties to the global Jewish community in Israel, Ethiopia, and the former Soviet Union.

It is a privilege to represent an individual who has done so much to promote the welfare of the Jewish community across the world. I applaud his efforts, and I look forward to his and the Federation's good work for years to come.

Congratulations to Jeffrey Klein, together with his wife Carla, his children, and his grandchildren, as they celebrate this well-deserved honor.

RECOGNIZING ELVIN YU-LING DUNCAN CHIANG ON BEING NAMED THE 2012 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Elvin Yu-Ling Duncan Chiang