

professionals, child care facilities, schools and universities on not only meningitis but other vaccine preventable diseases through personal stories, educational brochures, posters and videos.

Meningitis Angels is dedicated to the support of victims of bacterial meningitis and their families. While helping families cope with the loss or care of a family member they also offer some hands on support for those children affected with bacterial meningitis.

Sadly, Meningitis Angels continues to grow. Meningitis Angels currently represents over 600 families across the U.S. and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot do justice to these families without speaking about this terrible and preventable disease.

Bacterial meningitis is an infection of the meninges, the thin lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord.

It is a deadly, debilitating disease that especially affects infants, children, teenagers, young adults, and those with compromised immune systems.

People who have bacterial meningitis may have longterm complications and disabilities like permanent brain damage and long-term physical problems such as heart, kidney, or intestinal problems or could require amputations of the arms, legs and facial features. Infants and teens are highest risk for this disease.

The most effective way to protect your child against bacterial meningitis is to complete the recommended vaccine schedule. In many states, these vaccines are required for children in school and daycare.

The families of Meningitis Angels can tell you that these requirements are not frivolous or busy work.

So on their behalf, I ask that American families get vaccinated to prevent more tragedies.

I have offered H. Res. 403 to honor Ryan Wayne Milley, his remarkable mom Frankie, and all Meningitis Angels across the United States. Today is an appropriate day to remember Ryan and to support efforts to end the disease that took his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITU- TIONS WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week during the week of September 16 through September 22, 2012. These institutions of higher learning play a unique role in bringing together families and communities to develop our nation's most valuable resource: our children. During this week, I rise to thank the Hispanic-serving institutions that are equipping our children with the skills necessary for a lifetime of success.

I would like to recognize four such institutions in the 37th Congressional District of California: California State University-Dominguez Hills, California State University-Long Beach, El Camino College-Compton Center, and Long Beach City College. These schools are preparing students to enter the workforce in science, education, and healthcare, among many other fields and career paths that will

contribute to our economic success today and in the future.

The majority of residents in my district are Hispanic, and Hispanics represent our country's largest minority group. Hispanics have already made invaluable contributions to America and I have no doubt Hispanics will continue to do so. The future prosperity of America hinges on tapping into the enormous potential of minority groups. Investing in technical education for minorities is not just a moral obligation but an American necessity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous work of Hispanic-serving institutions, within my district as well as across the nation. I thank the countless staff members and educators who are strengthening our education system and creating new opportunities for a new generation of Hispanic leaders.

RECOGNIZING ED BERGH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ed Bergh on his retirement from Yelm High School after 38 years of teaching. The Washington State Legislature has also named Mr. Bergh the Washington Civic Educator of the Year.

Mr. Bergh studied political science at Western Washington University and soon after graduation, he became a Social Studies teacher. Today, Mr. Bergh teaches World Problems, History, and American Government.

In addition to his passion for educating young people, Mr. Bergh loves learning more about the subjects he teaches. He looks for ways to increase his knowledge and apply that learning to the classroom. Mr. Bergh does not simply lecture his students, he engages them in discussion and helps them think critically before reaching conclusions.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Bergh enjoys learning and writing about his hometown, Yelm, Washington. He created the Yelm History Project, a virtual database for the history of Yelm, the Web site of which he and his students regularly update.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the career of Ed Bergh. His dedication to teaching is an inspiration and has undoubtedly helped countless students who have gone on to accomplish great things.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Monica and Ivory Garrett from Beaumont, Texas are truly Angels—Angels in Adoption. Forty-three foster children have been blessed with the Garretts' love and care over the years; Forty-three lives have been changed because of the Garretts.

Mrs. Garrett began her involvement in the foster care system in 1997 as lead staff at a

Buckner International group home for foster children. Through her work, she realized that this was God's calling for her, and a few years later, the Garretts were licensed as foster parents and began welcoming children into their own home. After caring for 25 children, the Garretts' felt that God was calling them to something even bigger.

The Garretts then opened a group home for children with therapeutic needs in 2009. They consider all of these children their own, providing a loving home and ensuring that they get the most out of life. Their children are all encouraged to explore their talents, participating in choir, sports, and various other activities. The Garretts are unsung heroes, a family with bountiful love, and truly Angels in Adoption.

I was honored to recently award the Garretts with their Angels in Adoption award. They are an incredible family that has dedicated their lives to help and change children's lives. And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OTIS CUFFEE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Otis N. Cuffee. For 37 years, Sergeant Major Cuffee has served in the United States Armed Services and will soon celebrate his retirement after decades of service to our Nation.

Sergeant Major Cuffee dedicated 37 years in continuous active duty service to our country. During his tenure in the U.S. Armed Services he served in various leadership positions, from Squad Leader to Sergeant Major. As Sergeant Major, Cuffee extended his expertise to teaching the Basic Airborne Training Course and the NCO Academy Advanced Course. Most recently, he has had the position of a senior enlisted leader at the Defense Logistics Agency.

Sergeant Major Cuffee has received numerous personal awards including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service. His relentless dedication was honored with the Meritorious Service Award, Army Commendation Award, Army Achievement, Humanitarian Service Award and Korean Defense Service Medal. Additionally, Sergeant Cuffee has received numerous unit and condition awards.

Sergeant Cuffee's long and impressive career showcases his commitment not only to his local community but our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Command Sergeant Cuffee for his dedication and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 I had to