

NATIONAL MARFAN AWARENESS  
MONTH

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise awareness of Marfan syndrome and related heritable connective tissue disorders by observing National Marfan Awareness Month.

Marfan syndrome is a rare genetic condition affecting roughly 1 in 5,000 Americans. Marfan syndrome impacts the connective tissue throughout the body, which can lead to various health issues. Some of these health issues can be disabling or even fatal. In Marfan patients the largest artery in the body, the aorta, can weaken, enlarge, and rupture. By raising awareness today I seek to promote recognition and early diagnosis of Marfan syndrome so that serious cardiac events can be prevented.

Early diagnosis and proper treatment are the keys to managing Marfan syndrome and living a full life. I am pleased to announce that the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology have released new treatment guidelines for thoracic aortic disease. Since recognition and proper treatment are the major components of preventing the most serious health issues, I call on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to work closely with the Marfan syndrome community to raise awareness of these conditions and the new treatment guidelines.

While there is currently no cure for Marfan syndrome, efforts are underway to enhance our understanding of the condition and improve patient care. I applaud the National Institutes of Health, particularly the National, Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculo skeletal and Skin Diseases for their research efforts in this regard. I encourage NIH to expand research efforts in this area moving forward.

On behalf of the Marfan syndrome and related heritable connective tissue disorders community, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing February as National Marfan Awareness Month.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join millions of people across the nation to celebrate Black History Month. This year's theme, "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington," acknowledges two pivotal impacts on American history.

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the proclamation to end slavery in the South and to preserve a republic for all people. A century later, hundreds of thousands of people of all backgrounds marched to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., seeking equality for everyone in America.

It was also where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous "I Have A

Dream" speech which echoes through the nation even until this day. Both events marked the beginning of endless opportunities for minorities serving as foundations for the structure of public organizations of the 21st century.

Fighting for equality is a constant struggle that requires the efforts of all of us in our time. As we celebrate the 150th year of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March of Washington, we must keep working towards progress by reducing poverty and encouraging higher education in our communities.

I have dedicated my life to promoting equality for all as I continue to remember the racial and social injustices that took place many years ago. I will remain persistent in advocating for progress alongside my fellow Colleagues in Congress.

THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to one of the single most important environmental crises facing our Nation and the global family: the threat of global warming. This past Tuesday, President Obama spoke in this chamber about the necessity of addressing global warming in order to avoid imminent, disastrous consequences.

The science of global warming is clear and empirical: the earth's atmosphere is getting warmer, due to an increase in carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels.

As a result, we are experiencing more violent and turbulent storms, longer drought seasons, and dangerous and costly wild fires in our nation's wooded areas and forests. Now is not the time to debate whether global warming is real or not, but to begin bringing together elected officials, the scientific, business, environmental, and NGO communities to come up with a comprehensive and sustainable clean energy road map for America.

I strongly agree with President Obama that Congress must take immediate action to address climate change. America is one of the most technologically advanced, innovative, and wealthiest nations in the history of the world. We already have the scientific expertise and resources needed to reduce our carbon emissions and quickly transition to clean sources of energy that can power our homes, factories, and automobiles.

The good news is that by quickly transitioning away from fossil fuels towards renewable sources of energy, we can create scores of new good paying jobs, while at the same time, reducing the threat of climate change—before it is too late.

There were those who once said that we couldn't increase the fuel efficiency of our vehicles—but we did. They said we couldn't reduce our dependence on coal—but we did. When I was just a child, there were those who said that our nation could not build the Hoover Dam and provide power to millions in the Southwest—but we did. The cries of impossibility are nothing new; I have heard them my whole life. They are just as misguided now, as they were then.

The Earth is getting warmer. Our best scientists having been telling us for decades that we need to address the problem, but we have not paid sufficient attention to them. We are literally at a do or die moment in our history. We've taken important steps to address climate change, but they aren't nearly enough, given the catastrophic implications of continued foot dragging.

America cannot afford storms like Hurricane Katrina or a Hurricane Sandy every year. Our farmers and our family tables cannot afford droughts year after year. Our children and grandchildren cannot afford a New York City flooded by higher sea levels, or a breadbasket that is too scorched to feed the country, or more frequent heat waves that place thousands of low-income and elderly persons in peril.

We must act now to speed up the transition to renewable resources, reduce carbon pollution, and usher in a new era of technological development. Remember—our automotive industry was on the brink of collapse. Yet, thanks to timely government investment and the efforts of our greatest asset—the American worker—we are now manufacturing the best cars in history.

We need to address our transportation concerns in an environmentally friendly way. There should be more electrically augmented automobiles filling America's garages and our roads. We need more Chevy Volts and Ford Energi's coming off the assembly lines in Michigan and other states. Auto emissions need to be even lower. We must invest in clean public transportation systems, such as light rail and electric bus transportation. America can, and should, be the envy of clean energy enthusiasts around the world.

We need to modernize our power grid to leverage wind and solar. Our rivers and tides are resources that we need to utilize. By creating clean energy through these technologies, we can ensure a stable future for our nation. We will ensure that our rivers are full, not dry. We will preserve thousands of miles of coastlines for our next generation. We will keep our farms green, our supermarkets well-stocked, and our families well-fed.

I encourage my fellow members to heed the President's call to action and pass bipartisan reforms that will lead to a future safe from the climate calamities.

HONORING THE WORK OF DR.  
SOLOMON GOLOMB

**HON. KAREN BASS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Mathematics at the University of Southern California (USC), Dr. Solomon Golomb. On February 2, 2013, Dr. Golomb was named a National Medal of Science laureate by President Obama for his outstanding contributions to the realm of communications technology. His innovation and dedication to the advancement of science has shaped our ability to communicate via cell phone as well as our ability to communicate in deep space.

Dr. Golomb had an illustrious academic career prior to working at USC. He received a