

the American Story for All, early and under budget, to the President of the United States.

Since that time, the notion of a Smithsonian American Latino Museum has continued to gain support from a diversity of people and places. Despite that long-standing support and almost 20 years later, we are still not there yet, but we are getting closer.

To move forward in our effort, the House and Senate must pass the Smithsonian American Latino Act. Our bill would do 3 things:

Designate the now-vacant Arts and Industries Building (AIB) within the Smithsonian Institution as the location of the museum, including an annex that would be constructed underground and adjacent to the AIB. The bill requires that the planning, design and construction of the museum be harmonious with open space and visual sightlines of the National Mall.

Provide the Board of Regents 18 months to conduct a study to determine the best way to plan, design, fund and construct the Museum of the American Latino, taking into account the Commission's report.

Authorize private fundraising to begin for the planning, designing and construction of the museum.

Upon the bill being passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President, the Smithsonian American Latino Museum would be on its way to becoming the 20th museum within the Smithsonian Institution, forming part of the world's largest museum and research complex.

Many may ask: at this moment in time how can we afford to create a new museum? The better question is how can we not?

These are challenging times. And in these times, the arts, culture and humanities have a distinct role to play in helping unite us during episodes of adversity and prepare us to share in the prosperity to come. Cultural and historical institutions play a critical role in investigating, educating, sharing, celebrating, preserving, and convening the American people—as we are doing today—to show that we are in this together.

Mr. Speaker, the Smithsonian Institution was created for the purpose of helping increase and diffuse knowledge. It is in that same spirit that we seek to advance the Smithsonian American Latino Museum effort. Just like the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of the American Indian, The National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Air and Space Museum, and others, the future Smithsonian American Latino Museum will help display America in its full bloom.

IN HONOR OF THE PARADISO FAMILY

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 15, 2013*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on September 2, 1912, Arthur Rose Eldred of New York earned this Nation's first Eagle Scout Award. Arthur would be the first of three generations of Eldred's to rise to the rank of Eagle; his son and grandson hold the honor as well. The title of Eagle is an exceptional and extraordinary achievement earned by just

2% of Boy Scouts. This uncommon accomplishment is precisely why, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael and Cheryl Paradiso. On Saturday, March 16, 2013, Daniel Paradiso will be the fourth child of Michael and Cheryl to attain scouting's highest honor. Their daughter, Stephanie, has achieved the Gold Award in Girl Scouting and their three sons, Tony, M.J., and now Daniel have all earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

A century has passed since Arthur Eldred earned our Nation's first Eagle Award. One hundred years later, dedicated parents Mike and Cheryl Paradiso provide the guidance, support and commitment for their children just as Arthur Eldred did for his son and grandson. Congratulations, Mike and Cheryl for your extraordinary achievement.

CONGRATULATING DAVID J. JOHNS ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF NEW WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 15, 2013*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Secretary Duncan's appointment of David Johns to head the new White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. David's expertise will be critical in helping to address the academic challenges that many Black students face. America's educational system has undergone a remarkable transformation in the years since segregation, and we must continue to move forward to ensure equality of access and opportunity for education for all.

Here in Congress, I have advocated for advancing the educational opportunities for minorities through increased funding to public schools, federal fellowships, and tuition reimbursement programs. However, substantial obstacles to equal educational opportunity still remain in America's educational system. Black students lack equal access to effective teachers and principals, safe schools, and challenging college-preparatory classes. It is no coincidence that over a third of them do not graduate from high school on time, and those that do are not nearly as prepared as their peers. I look forward to working with David to bridge this gap and to provide all Americans regardless of race or gender the skills they need to compete in the workforce.

Education is the key to success in today's world, and everyone in America is entitled to equal opportunity to obtain a degree, get a good paying job, and live fulfilling lives. America needs to come together to solve the problems of today in order to create a brighter future tomorrow. I am confident that David Johns will help us get there sooner."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF DELTA ENTERPRISES IN ASSISTING THE MOST VULNERABLE VICTIMS OF SUPERSTORM SANDY

**HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 15, 2013*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution made by Delta Children's Products and it's President, Mr. Joseph Shamie, in assisting the most vulnerable victims of Superstorm Sandy.

Staten Island and Brooklyn were ravaged by the unprecedented force of this natural disaster, leaving thousands of residents without homes or even the bare necessities of life.

While the damage of Superstorm Sandy uprooted the lives of so many it also left the most vulnerable victims of this tragic event, infants and young children, without the essentials they needed to provide for their well being.

As a resident of Brooklyn, Mr. Shamie saw firsthand the devastation left in Sandy's wake, and understood that there would be a desperate need for child care products. Moving swiftly he ensured that Delta Children's Products filled this much needed gap in supplies by donating cribs, changing tables and infant supplies to those affected.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Shamie and Delta Children's Products for their overwhelming support in helping to protect and care for the most vulnerable victims of Superstorm Sandy, and I ask you to join me in recognizing their commitment to the ongoing recovery effort.

RECOGNIZING MARIA FOOTE AS THE 2013 OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 15, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Maria Foote as the 2013 Okaloosa County Educational Support Professional of the Year. I am honored to recognize her achievements and dedication to the students and teachers of the Northwest Florida community.

Since 2008, Mrs. Foote has worked as an English Language Learner (ELL) interpreter at Destin Elementary School. While serving the Okaloosa County School District, Mrs. Foote has never wavered in her commitment to the ELL program and her students. She works tirelessly to facilitate learning amongst students, teachers, and the community. In a school district that comprises a high ELL population, Mrs. Foote's role as an interpreter is extremely critical, as she translates conferences, documents, and provides academic support. Mrs. Foote also continuously accepts new challenges, and when the Okaloosa County School District began English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class for families, she was tasked as the liaison between ELL families and the district facilitator.