

riders and parade through downtown Houston. This year was a little different than years past and did not take place on Texas Avenue, but to me the old route will always symbolize the rich history of the rodeo. Texas Avenue is wider than other streets downtown. This was to accommodate the early longhorn cattle drives coming into town headed to the rail station.

There's a long history behind the Houston rodeo. It started in 1931 when a handful of men had an idea to get together and have a "Fat Stock Show." Each year after, the show got a little bit bigger. While the show was originally held in the modest confines of the Sam Houston Coliseum, it has since had several distinguished homes. I remember the first year it moved to the "Eighth Wonder of the World," the Astrodome before finding home at Reliant Park, and when the king of country music, George Strait, thanked the Astrodome for hosting so many amazing years of Houston Rodeo by singing a "Cowboy Rides Away." It is amazing to think that in 1931, a few men just wanted to show off their livestock and help educate people about agriculture in Texas. Today, their simple idea has turned into the world's largest livestock exhibition, the world's largest regular-season rodeo, top musical performers, and one of Houston's most popular and profitable events. As a kid, I remember seeing Roy Rogers and Elvis at the Rodeo Spectacular.

The Houston Livestock Show provides an impressive economic boost. Last year, over 2 million people came to the Houston Rodeo. Aside from having a great time at the show, this pilgrimage to the rodeo draws people to our great city and boosts the Houston economy. The show alone brings in over \$320 million and create over 7,000 full time jobs. That is something to be proud of.

The Houston Rodeo's "founding fathers" in 1931 also wanted to establish a charitable event that provided for the educational and scientific advancement of Texas agriculture. They succeeded. Today, over its history, the Rodeo has given \$330 million to Texas' youth through scholarships, research, endowments, calf scramble participants, junior show exhibitors, school art participants and other educational youth programs. All the work behind the scenes is done by hundreds of volunteers.

A Texas-sized thank you to all of those who make the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo what it is today. The Show is the world's largest livestock exhibition, world's largest barbecue cook-off, world's richest regular-season rodeo and the entertainment lineup is nothing to sneeze at either. This year, some music greats like Tim McGraw, Toby Keith and Dierks Bentley just to name a few, performed. Whether one is a volunteer, local Go Texan member, youth livestock participant, employee, organizer, sponsor or attendee—those contributions go well beyond the three weeks of the Rodeo. It's a Western celebration for us in Houston, Texas. It's almost like our Mardi Gras, just with boots and cowboy hats. The rodeo is truly something for everyone. After all, it's our cultural duty "to Rodeo Texas." For there is no place like Texas. And that's just the way it is.

SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS ALTERNATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Congressional Black Caucus Alternative Budget for Fiscal Year 2014. As we debate the various budget proposals this week, the CBC has developed a budget that will reduce the deficit, continue to foster growth in our economy, and strengthen our Nation's safety net.

The CBC's budget would raise \$1 trillion in new revenue and avoid the drastic sequestration cuts that took effect March 1. In addition to raising new revenue, our budget protects and strengthens critical domestic programs: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP. These are critical programs that the American people depend upon, and are slashed beyond recognition in the Ryan budget.

In addition, a key factor in creating jobs is the continued investment in our Nation's infrastructure. The CBC's budget invests in rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, as well as in transit and workforce development programs. These investments are crucial to bolstering our economy and protecting working families.

These priorities stand in stark contrast to those in the Ryan Budget. The Ryan Budget fails to replace the drastic spending cuts, cuts which would cost 750,000 jobs a year. The Republican budget also transfers the burden of the discretionary sequester to non-defense programs, further gutting the funding needed to pursue innovation and research, and to staff our country's air traffic controllers and food safety inspectors. By slashing these critical investments, we jeopardize domestic economic growth and the wellbeing of American families.

Mr. Speaker, the American people spoke loudly in November concerning the fiscal policies we should pursue. The American people rejected the Ryan Budget, and the misplaced priorities of the GOP.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 20

10 a.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Subcommittee on Science and Space  
To hold hearings to examine assessing the risks, impacts, and solutions for space threats.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Business meeting to consider S. 601, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States.

SD-406

Committee on Finance  
To hold hearings to examine reforming the delivery system, focusing on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Animal Drug and Animal Generic Drug User Fee Reauthorization Act of 2013", and S. 330, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish safeguards and standards of quality for research and transplantation of organs infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine Hurricane Sandy, focusing on getting the recovery right and the value of mitigation.

SD-342

Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine Veterans Affairs mental health care, focusing on ensuring timely access to high-quality care.

SR-418

10:30 a.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine the future of drones in America, focusing on law enforcement and privacy considerations.

SD-226

2 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine building an immigration system worthy of American values.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine counterterrorism policies and priorities, focusing on addressing the evolving threat.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine aviation safety, focusing on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) progress on key safety initiatives.

SR-253

MARCH 21

10 a.m.  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Sarah Jewell, of Washington, to be Secretary of the Interior.

SD-366