

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE SOUTH FLORIDA AFTER-SCHOOL ALL-STARS

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary program that has touched the lives of thousands of young people across South Florida, and continues to shine a light on the importance of engaging our youth in programs that can help support and guide them.

For almost two decades, the South Florida After-School All-Stars has provided year-round programs to at-risk youth in successful efforts to better steer and empower our young people. This organization started as a summer camp servicing less than 50 students in 1997, and has since grown into a full-service program reaching over 4,000 students a year. With programs in fields ranging from health to scholastic achievement, this organization has managed to engage young people with increasingly varied interests and continues to reach them in meaningful ways.

The South Florida After-School All-Stars serves as an exemplar organization for youth engagement, and has undoubtedly earned our community's admiration, respect, and gratitude.

### RECOGNIZING MAY AS DIRECT DEPOSIT AND DIRECT PAYMENT VIA ACH MONTH

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as the Direct Deposit and Direct Payment via ACH Month. Administered by NACHA—The Electronic Payments Association, and governed by the NACHA Operating Rules, the ACH Network facilitates direct account-to-account consumer, business, and government payments, and links virtually every one of the more than 13,000 financial institutions in the country. I commend NACHA's commitment to consumers and to providing a safe, secure, and reliable network for direct account-to-account consumer, business, and government payments.

The California, Georgia, New England, and Upper Midwest ACH Associations formed NACHA in 1974 to establish uniform operating rules for the exchange of Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments among ACH associations. With the aid of ACH, financial institutions located anywhere in the United States have been able to exchange ACH payments under a common set of rules and procedures since 1978. Annually, the Network processes more than 21 billion Direct Deposit and Direct Payment transactions totaling almost \$37 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing May as Direct Deposit and Direct Payment via ACH Month.

### HONORING LEEWOOD K-8 CENTER

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of students and teachers that came together to make a great and lasting impact on the South Florida community, and continues to shine a light on the cause for environmentalism and the pivotal role our young people can play in promoting such.

For over a decade, the Leewood K-8 Center has been a school commemorated for its successful efforts in educating and empowering young people of South Florida. This school has consistently taught students through both in and out of the classroom experiences, and has most recently been named one of five nationwide grand prize winners of the Solve for Tomorrow STEM Competition by Samsung. Leewood was chosen for its inception of a sustainable garden project, and has not only engaged our youth in infinitely meaningful ways, but has done so towards the betterment of our community and beyond.

Leewood K-8 Center serves as an exemplar institution for innovation towards a more sustainable future and youth activism, and has undoubtedly earned our community's admiration, respect and gratitude.

### LOWER BUCKS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, The Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce has been a beacon in the business community for more than a half-century—helping to inspire achievement and success among its members through a myriad of educational programs, events and camaraderie. Chamber membership is its strength. The organization has grown and thrived because of its members, notably those entrepreneurs and business owners who were among the first to join and who remained active for more than 50 years.

The group of original members began as the Chamber began—with hope and expectation—leading the way for others. Those who signed on in the earliest days, proved to be consistent, loyal and supportive to the Chamber membership and the wider business community. Business leadership sparks economic growth and success inspires, and for their role in the budding Lower Bucks Chamber of Com-

merce we are grateful and will continue to cherish our friendship and business relationship. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the duration of my time.

### HONORING JORGE CELEDÓN

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gifted man whose work in the arts and the advancement of human rights and peace in Latin America, specifically in the Republic of Colombia, is truly making a difference.

Jorge Celedón is an innate artist who sings music rooted in the desires and efforts of the Colombian people who seek peace in their homeland. His 20 year career as a singer has been recognized with multiple awards, including a Grammy Award in 2007 for his album titled "Son para el Mundo."

While achieving success as a recording artist, Jorge's music career has helped fuel his charitable work. Recently, he worked closely with United for Colombia, a non-profit organization based in Colombia and Washington D.C. to help the victims of mine explosions. Thanks to Jorge's efforts, many children in Colombia are now enjoying open spaces free from dangerous land mines.

In honor of his outstanding music career and dedication to peace in one of the world's most beleaguered regions, I ask that we recognize Jorge Celedón for his commitment to making the world a better place.

### ONE-MINUTE REMARK OF SEQUESTRATION/ BUDGET CONFERENCE

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in years, Congress is poised to pass a budget that the American people deserve—one that reflects our nation's values, invests in jobs and economic growth, pursues balanced deficit reduction, and strengthens the middle class.

The House and Senate acted on two competing proposals last month, but these plans have languished because the Republican Leadership refuses to appoint conferees. Why? Perhaps consensus would have to be reached.

Back in the real world, \$85 billion in indiscriminate cuts from sequestration continue to take their toll on our national security, health, and economic growth.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office projects 750,000 jobs will be lost from sequestration in this year alone. This alarming projection is proving to be reality with headlines from across the country citing jobs lost in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

defense, research, healthcare, education, tourism—the list goes on and on.

Nearly a hundred thousand Head Start slots are facing elimination. Cuts to housing vouchers for 140,000 low-income families have begun. Unemployment benefits have been cut by 11 percent for millions of unemployed workers.

Is this the America we come here to shape and serve? I don't.

It's time for Congress to complete the job of producing a budget. There's no reason to stop the conference process in its tracks when our constituents, our families, and our middle class have demanded a reasonable, responsible budget that advances their interests and strengthens our economy.

Let's set aside partisan political games, halt backroom talks and unnecessary delays, and engage in a full, open, transparent debate about our priorities and the path forward for our budget and our country.

HONORING THE DOMINICAN  
HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION OF  
FLORIDA

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization of extraordinary individuals who have dedicated their lives to bettering the lives of others, and continue to shine light on the pivotal roles health care professionals play in our communities.

Since its inception in 2011, the Dominican Health Care Association of Florida has served as an outstanding organization in the Dominican, Floridian, and health care communities. Comprised of health care professionals with ties to the Dominican Republic, this organization not only accentuates unique health care issues faced by both providers and patients today, but particularly issues faced by such persons of color. Focusing efforts on everything from advancing goals of Dominican health care professionals to informing health care reform in Florida and beyond, this organization has continually worked towards the betterment of the experiences and lives of increasingly diverse and eclectic members of our communities.

The Dominican Health Care Association of Florida serves as an exemplar organization for health care advocacy and community engagement, and has undoubtedly earned our community's respect, admiration, and gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE REVEREND DR.  
EUGENE JOHNSON ON HIS 20TH  
PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY AT  
MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH  
IN CENTREVILLE, VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Reverend Dr. Eugene Johnson on his 20th Pastoral Anniversary at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Centreville, Virginia.

Mount Olive Baptist Church has served the spiritual needs of those in the Centreville and Northern Virginia communities for nearly 120 years, and Dr. Johnson's leadership has positioned this institution for another century of success.

Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and raised in nearby Oakville. His father was a minister and his mother worked avidly for the good of the community. Dr. Johnson received a Bachelors of Architecture Degree from Southern University, Baton Rouge, in 1970. He earned his Master of Divinity Degree at Howard University in 1989, and in 2006, the Richmond Virginia Seminary conferred on him the prestigious Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree for his exemplary leadership and service.

Before assuming full time pastoral duties at Mount Olive, Dr. Johnson was known as a national expert in design, art, and architecture. He served as the principle Resident Architect with the Federal Highway Administration and was credited as being the first African American in many of the agency's national accomplishments. Dr. Johnson has been recognized for his efforts that resulted in the designation of "All-American Road" to the historic Selma-to-Montgomery March for Voting Rights route. This march, led by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., began on March 21, 1965 with 3,200 marchers. Four days later, on March 25, 1965, 25,000 marchers had joined.

In 1992, Dr. Eugene Johnson assumed the leadership of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Under his guidance, the Church has experienced unprecedented growth in not only the number of members, but also in its activities and influence. Membership has increased nearly ten-fold from 250 members in 1992 to more than 2,000 today, including many young people.

Dr. Johnson has led efforts to expand the Church's influence in the larger community, creating ministries to encourage health and physical fitness, provide tutoring, SAT/PSAT prep, and computer skills training, and serve the spiritual needs of others in our community, including seniors and those who are incarcerated. He has also established partnerships with local schools to foster the academic achievement of minority students. He is an active supporter and participant in foreign mission programs, and under his leadership, Mount Olive has extended its outreach activities around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson on this momentous occasion, and in commending him for his contributions and service to Mount Olive Baptist Church and our community.

HONORING JOEL FURNARI

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary person who has touched the lives of countless young people across South Florida, and continues to shine a light on the cause of empowering our youth through better guidance and support.

For almost three decades, Joel Furnari has served as the Athletic Director at South Dade

Senior High School in Homestead, FL, and has continued to impact the lives of student-athletes both on the field and off. Mr. Furnari was sure to make a holistic impact on South Dade, doing everything from bringing the school to have a top Athletic Department, to helping many student-athletes enter college. As Mr. Furnari prepares to retire, he is commemorated for his dedication to our youth, and the great and lasting impact he has made on the South Florida community.

Mr. Joel Furnari serves as an exemplar person for serving and enriching the lives of others, and has undoubtedly earned our community's respect and gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO TY WOODS

HON. JOSEPH J. HECK

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to pay my most solemn respects to and commemorate the life of Ty Woods, a former Navy SEAL and my constituent who was killed in the attack on the American diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, on the occasion of his name being enshrined on the American Foreign Service Association memorial plaque.

The memorial honors "diplomatic and consular officers of the United States who while on active duty lost their lives under heroic or tragic circumstances." The events that surrounded the untimely loss of Ty Woods were at once tragic and heroic and it is fitting that his name be added to the memorial. He lived a life of service to his country and in the end made the ultimate sacrifice in its defense.

After twenty years of honorable service in the Navy, Ty, who led raids and reconnaissance missions in the most volatile parts of the Middle East, could have chose a life of relative ease as a decorated war hero. Instead, the man who Secretary of State Hillary Clinton memorialized as having "the hands of a healer as well as the arm of a warrior," again answered the call to serve and joined the State Department Diplomatic Security team.

Since 2010, Ty protected American diplomatic personnel in dangerous posts from Central America to the Middle East but it was at Benghazi where he demonstrated exemplary courage under fire. In Benghazi, while defending an under-secured, besieged diplomatic mission, Ty Woods gave his life so that other Americans could escape to safety. According to reports, Ty saved the lives of thirty staff members by heroically engaging the insurgents even after sustaining mortal wounds. For his heroism in the face of grave danger, Ty has earned his place on the memorial that hangs at the State Department. His name joins dozens of others who have given their lives in the service of the country they loved.

Ty Woods was a loving son, husband, and father who lived up to the highest ideals of the United States Navy and the State Department. I thank him for his service and his selfless sacrifice and commend to his memory yet another honor so well deserved.

HONORING THE MEXICAN  
AMERICAN COUNCIL

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary organization that has touched the lives of innumerable people in South Florida, and continues to shine light on the economic, educational, and social issues many Latino Americans face.

For over three decades, Mexican American Council, led by Maria Garza, has served as an organization dedicated to bettering the lives of Mexican American migrants otherwise facing great adversity in their communities. This organization started as a organization serving South Dade County, Florida, and now serves as a national model for serving members of the Latino community. Focusing on everything from raising Mexican American cultural awareness to providing scholastic and scholarship assistance to children of farmworkers, Maria Garza and the Mexican American Council have managed to assist community members encountering increasingly varied obstacles and continues to reach them in meaningful ways.

Under the leadership of Maria Garza, the Mexican American Council serves as an exemplary organization for social service, cultural inclusion, and community engagement, and has undoubtedly earned our respect, admiration, and gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH  
SHERMAN

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Elizabeth Sherman, a resident of Sandwich, Massachusetts, who celebrates her 100th birthday today.

Elizabeth, or Betty as her family and friends know her, was born on May 3, 1913, to the Burns family. She later married Alvin Sherman of Brookline, Massachusetts. Betty and Alvin would go on to raise their five children together: Ann, Bud, Mary, Jeanie, and Elaine. The Sherman family later settled in Arlington, outside Boston. Betty, a dedicated and caring mother, also helped support her family by working as a secretary at Harvard University and the Chase Brass & Copper Company.

The Shermans enjoyed many summers at their vacation home on the Cape, and Betty and Alvin would later retire to Sagamore Beach. Though Alvin passed away in 1995, Betty's loving family has grown to include six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Elizabeth Sherman on this joyous occasion of her 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING THE LADIES IN WHITE

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of women who have worked tirelessly towards the advancement of human rights in Cuba, and continue to shine a light on an imperative cause for freedom right in our backyard.

For the past 10 years, the Ladies in White has served as a leading pro-democracy organization of the Cuban human rights movement. Known for being white-clad in symbolization of peace, the women of this organization are all relatives of political prisoners and have remained steadfast in their fight for freedom. They are renowned for their weekly, non-violent, silent protests, and just yesterday received the Salcharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in an award ceremony delayed eight years because of oppressive travel restrictions.

The women of the Ladies in White continue to fight with courage and dignity for the betterment of the lives of the millions of people who call Cuba home, and have undoubtedly earned our profound respect and admiration.

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
FAMILY SERVICE'S 2013  
COMMUNITY CHAMPION AND  
LEGENDS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Lizama as this year's Northern Virginia Family Services Community Champion and also to honor Earle and June Williams who have been named the 2013 Northern Virginia Family Services Legends of Northern Virginia.

Since its founding in 1924, Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) has addressed the growing needs of families throughout our region. NVFS works to improve its clients' lives through a variety of programs in five mission initiatives: housing, child and family enrichment, health access, emergency assistance, and workforce development. Today, 33,000 individuals and families receive assistance each year.

The Community Champion Award is a recognition given each year to someone who has made immeasurable contributions to children and families in Northern Virginia. More than 25 years ago, George Lizama founded Production Solutions and PS Digital, one of the country's largest mail and digital marketing firms providing services to numerous nonprofit organizations, such as the American Heart Association, Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, Capital Area Food Bank, and Human Rights Campaign.

Whether he's in a march for the homeless or cleaning up a park, George carries a strong sense of duty and gains a great deal of reward in volunteering. He embodies passion around the clock. In fact, one cannot distin-

guish the "business George" from the "volunteer George."

During his 14-year involvement with NVFS, George served on the Board of Directors for 11 years and chaired the Gala Sponsorship and Auction Committees. George is receiving NVFS' Community Champion Award this year in recognition of his unwavering sense of excellence in service to his company, his industry, his community, but most of all because George is "passion personified" and one of the most dedicated volunteers you will ever encounter.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams have lived in Northern Virginia since 1970 when Earle's company, BDM International, Inc. relocated to McLean. In 1972, he became President and CEO of BDM, where he served until his retirement in 1992. Under his leadership, BDM's employment grew tenfold to 4,300 and annual revenue grew 550% to \$424 million.

Earle is an Emeritus Director and Past Chairman of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Emeritus Director and Past Chairman of the Business/Industry Political Action Committee, past Chairman of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, past Chairman of the Naval Research Advisory Committee, a Permanent Director and Past International Chairman of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, and former member of the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges.

In addition to being involved in her husband's work at BDM, June became deeply involved in the community. She participated in a major way in the George Mason University annual Arts Gala, joined the Capital Speakers Club, became involved in P.E.O. (a philanthropic educational women's organization), joined Achievement Rewards for College Scientists, and served on the Board of the Fairfax Symphony.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending NVFS for 89 years of service to our region's most vulnerable families and congratulating this year's deserving honorees. I also thank the staff, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners for their dedication and ongoing support of NVFS.

HONORING RICHARD BLANCO

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary person who has made incomparable use of poetry as a canvass for activism and exaltation, and remains a mantel of inspiration for the innumerable people who encounter his work.

Known for his poetic ingenuity and having served as the inaugural poet at the 57th Presidential Inauguration, Richard Blanco joins the ranks of venerated artists and activists as Maya Angelou and Robert Frost. As the first immigrant, first Latino, and first openly gay person to serve in said role, Richard remains a beacon of hope for increasingly diverse individuals in our community and beyond. Further, as an alumnus of Christopher Columbus High School and Florida International University, Richard serves as a special source of delectation for the millions of people who call South Florida home—many of whom I represent.

Richard Blanco continues to grace the world with his unparalleled artistic vision, poetic genius, and social consciousness, and has undoubtedly earned our profound respect and admiration.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated staff of Sacred Heart Hospital as they continue to celebrate Sacred Heart's 100th year of providing dedicated service to the community.

Sacred Heart Hospital started in 1912 in response to a diphtheria outbreak when the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart arrived in Allentown to render nursing service to the diphtheria patients of the Sacred Heart Parish. Since that time, Sacred Heart has answered each and every call from the community.

When Sacred Heart Hospital made a commitment to the Allentown community over 100 years ago, the hospital was a draw to the city and, as a result, a neighborhood took shape. Sacred Heart's response to this neighborhood and beyond has always been simple—they are there to serve. Sacred Heart is personal, different and it is a unique place to heal as a patient. The hospital is also a special, caring place to work each day, with staff and employees who truly believe in the mission of providing nurturing care. Catholic beliefs inspire the Sacred Heart's philosophy of patient care by creating balanced and compassionate paths to well-being. Sacred Heart is focused on providing all persons the personalized approach to medical care they deserve.

Sacred Heart holds the firm belief that it is their responsibility to care for those in need, to promote and to defend the human dignity of each patient, and to create an environment that promotes healing and compassion. These values, and a tradition of commitment to the community, are used to guide the team of nearly 1,300 physicians and medical support staff every day.

Sacred Heart was established as an institution that was truly focused on the patient and that focus will never change. On a personal note, I was born at Sacred Heart Hospital and so were my three children.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Sacred Heart remains a vital part of our community far into the future. I offer my heartfelt congratulations and thanks to the people that make Sacred Heart such a great asset to our community and I wish them continued success and growth.

HONORING THE SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL PARKS TRUST

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary organization that

has consistently worked to better the South Florida community and the lives of the countless people who call it home, and continues to shine a light on the cause for environmentalism, sustainable living, and conservation.

For over a decade, the South Florida National Parks Trust has worked to support South Florida's national parks and to perpetuate the livelihood of our landscape and wildlife. This organization has directly benefited our community through its support for South Florida's four national parks, and indirectly through its promotion of community involvement and environmentalism. The work of the South Florida National Parks Trust allows members of our community to visit better-preserved parks today, and helps to ensure our children continue to have the opportunity to visit parks tomorrow.

The South Florida National Parks Trust serves as an exemplary organization for conservation and environmentalism, and has undoubtedly earned our community's admiration, respect, and gratitude.

NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason. The American Humanist Association has issued a statement, which I submit on their behalf.

"The National Day of Reason celebrates the application of reason and the positive impact it has had on humanity. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm the constitutional separation of church and state in an age where the line between religion and government is increasingly blurred.

"The National Day of Reason is also an opportunity for nonreligious and secular Americans to get out and help local communities. Community service events, such as food and blood drives, are some of the ways that people have worked to help those in need on the Day of Reason and during the rest of the year.

"Therefore, I encourage all citizens to join in observing this day, focusing on the employment of reason, critical thought, the scientific method, and free inquiry to the resolution of problems for the welfare of humanity."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason.

HONORING YOANI SÁNCHEZ

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a courageous woman whose work on behalf of the advancement of human rights has inspired millions around the world and continues to shine a light on the cause of freedom just 90 miles from our shores.

For over 10 years, Yoani Sánchez has documented the realities of life in Cuba through

her blog, Generacion Y, and drawn worldwide attention to Cuba's civil society. Her riveting accounts detailing human rights violations and other injustices have earned her praise and recognition throughout the world. She has been named as one of Time magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World" and won the prestigious El País 2008 Ortega y Gasset Prize for Digital Journalism.

Yoani stands as a beacon of hope for Cuba's future, and her strength in the face of incredible odds has earned our community's profound admiration and respect. If my colleagues would indulge me, I would like to say a few words in Spanish.

Es un gran honor reconocer la valentía de Yoani Sánchez quien es una fuente de inspiración para los millones alrededor del mundo que buscan la libertad y los derechos humanos. Yoani estará con nosotros aquí en el Capitolio la semana que viene e invite a todos mis colegas que vengan a conocerla para aprender sobre las realidades de Cuba y rendirle un homenaje a ella y la causa de los derechos humanos.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today, in recognition of the National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man, created in 1975 to remember the victims of inhumanity, specifically the Armenian people who lost their lives in the early part of the 20th century, I would like to note its importance to our nation.

Nearly 100 years ago, the hatred of one race toward another spilled over from politics into the murder of more than 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of Ottoman soldiers. This day not only recognizes those murdered in that genocide, but also the staggering inhumanity and atrocious acts of violence committed so often throughout human history. This day should serve to not only remind us of millions of lives lost, but that we must act with vigilance to ensure that atrocities are not allowed to ever occur again.

As we remember this dark period in history, we should remain hopeful, because goodness exists and that it is possible to prevent such horrific losses. I stand united with the Armenian people and the rest of America to take up that challenge.

RECOGNIZING THE 2013 PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2013 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards. The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put

their lives on the line everyday to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. The individuals we honor with these awards have demonstrated extraordinary dedication to public safety.

It is with great pride and honor that I submit the recipients of the 2013 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

The recipient of the Hillary Robinette Award: Master Detective David Abbott, Manassas City Police Department.

The Silver Valor Award recipients from the Prince William County Police Department: Officer Joshua Boughman, Officer Luke Dean, and Officer Michael Scarsella.

The Bronze Valor Award recipients from the Manassas City Police Department: Officer Chris Golick and Officer Adam Plourde.

The Bronze Valor Award recipients from the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue: Captain Erik McCoy, Technician I Raymond Sanz, Technician I Cager Mackaravitz, Lieutenant Walter Hunt, Technician II David Thomas, and Technician II Samuel Kaye.

The Bronze Valor Award recipient from the Provost Marshal Office, Security Battalion, Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA: Officer Michael Rivera.

The Lifesaving Award recipient from the Manassas City Police Department: PFC Dann Villanueva.

The Lifesaving Award recipients from the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue: Technician II Christopher Gant, Technician II Matthew McClurg, Technician II Chanse Twyman, Technician II Luke

Deatley, Technician I Michael Hendrickson, and Technician I Keith Kraus.

The Lifesaving Award recipients from the Prince William County Police Department: Officer Michael Pope, Officer Jonathan Zarkauskas, Officer Dirk Jan Cumings, Officer Trevin A. Frame, Officer Daniel C. Guinn, Officer Gary Brunelle, Officer John G. Franklin, Officer Robert J. Davis, Officer Eric J. Garecht, Officer Kelly R. Anderson, TCIV Tracy Zingg, and Sergeant Jeff H. Good.

The Lifesaving Award recipient from the Provost Marshal Office, Security Battalion, Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA: Officer Bradley J. Montoya.

The recipient of the Investigative Merit Award from the Prince William County Police Department: The Special Victims Bureau.

The recipients of the Investigative Merit Award from the Joint Task Force of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Prince William Police Department, the Commonwealth's Attorney Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation: Lt. Dave Cooper, Lt. Brad Miller, Lt. Angel Tyson, Special Agent Chad Campanell, and Special Agent Paul Parisi.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men and women of our public safety community. Their efforts are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable individuals.

HONORING THE YMCA OF  
GREATER MIAMI

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization that has been making a difference in my community for nearly a century. Since 1916, the YMCA of Greater Miami has been bringing people together from all walks of life and serving as an agent of unity in South Florida.

The YMCA of Greater Miami provides programs—child care, sports, before and after-school care, aquatics, day camps, teen programs, adult fitness and senior programs—in 4 family centers, 3 preschools, and over 60 elementary and middle schools, and park locations throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Its mission is to enrich the lives of the communities it serves. The Greater Miami YMCA also keeps young people off the streets by providing them with opportunities to get involved in sports.

I am proud of the great work that the YMCA of Greater Miami is doing in South Florida and especially pleased to learn of the opening of its new family center in South Dade.

For its record of service to our community and the impact it has on the lives of young people, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the YMCA of Greater Miami.