

## 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

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