

am pleased to join them in celebrating Mr. Hwang's appointment. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hwang for his service to the local Korean-American community and in commending the NUAC for its efforts to promote peace and unity on the Korean peninsula.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CLARA THOMPSON

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 8, 2013*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Clara Delle Thompson of Rock Island, Illinois.

Clara Thompson will be retiring at the end of this month after almost 45 years serving Rock Island as a court reporter. Her friendliness, unmatched style and love of her "bling" will be greatly missed in the Rock Island County Courthouse by the many judges, bailiffs, attorneys and others who love and respect her. Thompson is a legend in the 14th Judicial Circuit in Illinois where she has continued to use her notebook and shorthand to take notes on court proceedings, even while the rest of her colleagues turned to electronic steno-machines. She jokes that if the power goes out, her pen still works.

Thompson has lived in the Quad Cities since her family moved to Rock Island when she was nine. She worked for Deere and Co. and Dohrn Transfer before becoming a court reporter in her late 30s. Along with her work, she is very involved in her community, supporting the Figge and the Putnam museums and the Quad City Botanical Center among other organizations.

While the Rock Island County Courthouse will not be the same without Clara Delle Thompson, I wish her the best as she continues to serve the people in her community, play bridge and I hope she will be able to keep travelling the world.

FIREFIGHTER BRAD LUCZAK

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 8, 2013*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Brad Luczak from my district. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating him on his nomination for the Saginaw Firefighter of the Year Award. This award speaks highly of his consistent dedication and commitment to excellence. Mr. Luczak has worked hard to earn this opportunity, and I am proud to have him protecting the people of Saginaw.

As a demonstrated leader, among not only his fellow firefighters, but also his city, Mr. Luczak exhibits what a true hero looks like. His drive and determination are truly inspiring, and he is a role model for the town. It is a true honor, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Luczak represents Michigan and I thank him for his service to our country.

I applaud Mr. Luczak's efforts, and I look forward to following his progress in the future.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. PAUL C. BROUN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 8, 2013*

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the rich heritage of Zion Missionary Baptist Church whose members are celebrating its 150th anniversary. In 1863, shortly after President Abraham Lincoln gave the Emancipation Proclamation, thirty-six freedmen founded a church at the Pepperton Community in Jasper, Georgia. Since then, Zion Missionary Baptist Church has become a thriving fellowship, dedicated to ministry and service in the African-American community.

It is worth noting that before there were African-American mayors, governors, or even a president, Black churches, like Zion, thrived with leadership from African-American Sunday school teachers, deacons, and pastors. As with many churches, over the years the members of Zion were seen as community leaders, who helped mentor, educate, and counsel many in the Black community. Today, Zion serves not only as a place of worship, but as a people with a mission to serve as a source of encouragement, inspiration, and pride for members of the community for more than a century.

The 150 year history of Zion Missionary Baptist Church includes many pastors, challenges, and changes, but its unwavering commitment to being a place where the community gathers to help and support one another is to be commended. No matter the cause, event, or activity, God has used Zion to influence its community. Therefore, I close by asking you to support and pray for what God is doing at Zion Missionary Baptist Church. May it continue as a pillar of strength for the residents of Butts County for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 8, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month and the countless contributions of Hispanic individuals and organizations to the outstanding quality of life enjoyed by Northern Virginians. In 1968, Hispanic Heritage Week was established by President Lyndon Johnson; 20 years later in 1988, it was expanded by President Ronald Reagan to cover the 30-day period between September 15 and October 15 of each year.

This period includes several dates of great significance to the Hispanic community. September 15 is the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. October 12 is Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, and is celebrated in the United States as well as in many Latin American countries.

Each year since 1994, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has recognized Hispanic

Heritage Month. Prince William County also celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with events in schools and libraries. Of course, Hispanic individuals and organizations remain active year round to improve our community. Both the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Prince William Chamber of Commerce support active Hispanic Business Councils that promote and improve the Hispanic business community and forge strategic partnerships with local businesses, community organizations, governments, and elected officials. The annual Dulles Regional Chamber Council's Hispanic Business Reception welcomes hundreds of guests from the Greater Washington Metropolitan Region and attracts corporate executives, diplomats, elected officials and non-profit partners, who meet and develop working partnerships while enjoying Hispanic culture.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity and is enriched by our vibrant Hispanic community. Approximately 16% of Fairfax County residents and 21% of Prince William County residents are Hispanic or Latino. In the 11th District of Virginia more than 130,000 of my constituents identify as Hispanic or Latino.

A growing number of small businesses are Latino-owned; and MicroTech, one of the 10 Fastest Growing Hispanic-Owned Businesses in the nation is located here in the 11th Congressional District. The Fairfax Hispanic Firefighters Association, FHFA was established in the spring of 2003, to assist the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in the delivery of bilingual Life Safety Education programs. In Prince William, the "Panorama Latino TV Show" serves as a vital link between local governments, first responders, service providers, non-profits, and the Hispanic members of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and thanking the Hispanic-American community for their contributions to our community.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3230 AND H.J. RES 72

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 8, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to both H.R. 3230 and H.J. Res. 72, two bills which claim to fund our veterans and our National Guard and Reserve but are nothing but a political ploy and a piecemeal approach that do nothing to address many of the crucial services relied on by our military and veterans.

Let me be clear. Every member of Congress fully supports our National Guard and Reserve and our veterans. Yet neither of the two bills we considered today actually accomplish this objective.

Although H.R. 3230 does provide for the pay and allowances of military personnel in the reserve component who are in inactive status, it does not fund other essential programs and services to support our military, like equipment needed for readiness; military maintenance and procurement; and research and development for technological superiority of U.S. forces.

H.J. Res. 72 also neglects to fund several critical programs for veterans, including the