

trusted ally of the United States and shares with us the ideals of freedom and democracy. I still remember in 1996, when I first came to Congress, Taiwan held its first democratic presidential election in history. Today, Taiwan has emerged as a beacon of democracy and free enterprise in East Asia and our peoples have enjoyed a close friendship forged by our political, economic, cultural, and strategic ties.

The U.S. Congress has continuously played a unique and important role in supporting U.S.-Taiwan Relations. The Taiwan Relations Act passed by Congress in 1979, remains to be the cornerstone of our bilateral relations. It codifies America's commitment to support the people of Taiwan as they seek a safe and secure place in the world. Earlier this year, Congress passed a bill (H.R. 1151) in support of Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Subsequently, Taiwan has been invited as a guest to the ICAO assembly this year.

Looking forward, I believe that our government should further strengthen this important partnership by sending Cabinet level officials to Taiwan, as well as welcoming high-level officials from Taiwan to meet with their American counterparts, so that the Administration can witness first-hand the strategic and economic benefits this relationship has produced.

I am confident that our relations with Taiwan will continue to grow and flourish, and I heartily congratulate the people of Taiwan on their 102nd anniversary.

HONORING LISA MAKI

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Lisa Maki, who will be honored with the 2013 Inspiration and Impact Award presented by Imagine LA.

Imagine LA's unique program pairs individuals exiting out of homelessness with mentors to provide critical support as these people enter the next chapter of their lives. As a board member with a personal experience overcoming homelessness, Lisa has taken a leadership role to ensure Imagine LA achieves its mission—to empower families to transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Immediately after being admitted to the California State Bar in 1992, Lisa opened her own legal practice dedicated to protecting consumers and enforcing our State's civil rights law. Lisa currently serves as the President of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA) because of her unceasing advocacy to protect our citizens' rights.

For her tireless work, Lisa has received countless awards and titles that highlight her expertise and character and further emphasize her prominent standing among top attorneys across the State. Her accolades include the 2006 Orange County Trial Lawyers' Association's Employment Lawyer of the Year, the Consumer Attorneys of California's first ever "Street Fighter" Award and nominee as Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles for four consecutive years.

I am delighted to congratulate my friend Lisa, on this most recent accomplishment as

the recipient of the 2013 Inspiration and Impact Award. I am confident that she will continue to be an active and effective leader in the discourse of civil rights and a champion in the struggle to combat homelessness in California.

ON RECOGNITION OF THE WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO ITS COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to once again recognize the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, this time on the occasion of its Seventy-fifth Anniversary of service to the residents of the Greater West Bloomfield community. Just two years ago, I was honored to recognize the Library as it was awarded a National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an award given to only five libraries each year and which is the top honor that can be bestowed upon a public library.

The residents of West Bloomfield Township and its neighboring cities are fortunate to have access to this great educational and community resource. What began as a small project by the Keego-Cass Women's Club in 1934 has grown into a library system with a 63,000 square feet state-of-the-art main branch and a satellite branch in the Westacres subdivision that serves residents in the northern area of the township.

Public libraries occupy a vital function in our communities; they equalize the access to information, making it accessible to everyone in the areas they serve. The West Bloomfield Township Public Library is an exemplary institution that embodies this important role—providing computers to assist residents with job searches, helping seniors with Internet access, implementing outreach programs that provide residents with opportunities to build important life skills, and creating programs that foster a lifetime of literacy and love of reading in our children.

For the Greater West Bloomfield community, its library has been an important part of its residents' lives—providing programs that help them attain the American Dream. For children, the Library has created its Grow Up Reading program, which works with youth from birth to the elementary school years and partners them with a family member, childcare providers or educators to cultivate literacy skills that will assist them later in life as they grow and join the American workforce. As part of its commitment to the newcomers to our nation, the Library offers English as a Second Language discussion groups that assist them on their journey to become Americans. For students, the library assists them with preparation for SAT, ACT and AP exams by providing physical and electronic study materials. And to help all residents, the Library offers career empowerment classes that help them hone their job skills and increase their ability to obtain employment.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly proud to celebrate and recognize this award-winning community

institution that continues to make a positive impact on the lives of all residents in the Greater West Bloomfield community. Seventy-five years is a great milestone in the Library's service to its community and I congratulate its staff and trustees on all of the accomplishments they have made in fulfillment of its mission. I know their passion, their advocacy and their determination to will continue to result in future generations of West Bloomfield residents that possess a lifelong love of reading and I wish them success in the Library's future endeavors.

FARM BILL

HON. TED S. YOHO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, farmers and ranchers all over this country need certainty. Each year, farmers put their property on the line in order to feed our nation and the rest of the world.

Agriculture is a unique enterprise, affected by both market and weather conditions. That is why we need to pass a 5 year farm bill and we need to pass it before the year is out.

I represent the 3rd district of Florida, with thousands of acres of farmland with millions worth of production each year. This farm bill will ensure that those farmers can continue to produce the safest, most affordable food source in the world.

Let us not forget, that a nation is not truly a nation unless it has a secure and abundant food supply—that has been the reason for the existence of the farm bill since the 1930s and it is still the reason we need a farm bill today.

I urge all my colleagues in the House and the Senate to begin a conference so that American farmers and ranchers have the security they need for the next 5 years.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PHOENIXVILLE, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Phoenixville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of its 175th anniversary.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, boasting a rich history stretching back to February of 1838, is part of the Phoenixville Historic District and is particularly famous for its 19th Century Gothic Revival architecture. St. Peter's is also well-known for providing a home for The Clinic, a free-service medical facility for the uninsured located in the former rectory next to the Church. The St. Peter's Food Pantry, sponsored by Church volunteers, feeds more than 80 people every other week from its Prospect Street entrance. These are just two programs sponsored by St. Peter's that have had an enduring, positive impact on the Phoenixville community. Since the day the