

Ukraine or other European allies, and export facilities currently under construction will not be operational until late 2015, at the earliest. It is opportunistic and frankly not based in fact, to have natural gas companies and their allies in Congress using this crisis as a catalyst for increased LNG exports.

Further, the U.S. does not have a state run energy conglomerate like Russia, and we cannot simply turn our energy exports up or down following a single executive decree. LNG export terminals cost billions and the companies making these investments will not proceed with their construction unless they have already secured LNG supply contracts, typically with Asian countries, like Japan, China, and India, where high natural gas prices will result in the greatest profits. If our concern is ensuring Ukraine has reliable energy sources, we should be talking to our European partners about how best to accomplish that goal.

Again, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

HONORING THE MEMBERS OF  
STILLWATER TRINITY LU-  
THERAN CHURCH

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor members of Stillwater Trinity Lutheran Church and acknowledge their recent efforts to feed more than half a million people in a community food drive called “Meals from the Heart.” This ambitious initiative will provide nutritious meals to be distributed through a variety of organizations from the Saint Croix Valley all the way to Tanzania.

“Meals from the Heart” is a community-led, full-scale mission to address hunger—both here at home and around the world. Beginning in 2008, Trinity Lutheran Church, located in Stillwater, Minnesota, has partnered with churches, schools, nonprofits, and local businesses, including Andersen Windows, to provide meals for those in need. Working together, their benevolent efforts have produced impressive results. During the past five years, 10,500 volunteers have packed more than 3 million meals that have been delivered to diverse locations, ranging from a church in Saint Paul to an orphanage in Haiti.

Access to affordable, nutritious food is fundamental to the health and economic success of communities. Unfortunately, for far too many, access to nutritious food is not dependable. Food insecurity is rising at an alarming rate, causing regional conflicts and forcing 1 billion people worldwide to struggle with chronic hunger and disease. In America, economic strain from the Great Recession continues to place significant financial hardships on families looking to put food on the table.

Just last month, our nation celebrated the 50th Anniversary of President Johnson’s “War on Poverty.” While President Johnson’s call to action has resulted in profound change for a generation of Americans, our nation still must confront the stark reality that poverty, hunger, and income inequality persist today. To be successful in the fight against hunger, it will take collective action between public, private,

and community forces—just as we have seen with the “Meals from the Heart” program.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, recognizing the benevolent actions of local volunteers and businesses who have collaborated to make a difference in combating hunger across the globe and in our own neighborhoods in the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TULSI GABBARD**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, on March 12, 2014, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 118. Had I been present I would have voted “nay” on ordering the previous question.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DOMINIQUE GELIN

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women’s History Month, to recognize Dominique Gelin. Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Dominique is the proud daughter of immigrant parents. She has worked to shape policy and mobilize members of her community.

Dominique moved to Orlando to attend the University of Central Florida in the fall of 2008. It was there that she got her first taste of organizing her peers, encouraging them to vote and become a part of the process. After receiving her Bachelor’s degree, she continued her community service, becoming a Youth Outreach Director and extending her work to high school students and young professionals.

Over the years, Dominique has had the opportunity to work with organizations like Ruth’s List Florida, the National Congress of Black Women, and most recently, as an Aide at the Florida House of Representatives. In 2011, Dominique was awarded the Achievement Award by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women.

She looks forward to continuing her work by advocating for those with the most urgent needs through compassionate leadership.

I am happy to honor Dominique Gelin, during Women’s History Month, for her contributions to her community.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF SENATOR GERALDINE F. THOMPSON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women’s History Month, to recognize Florida Senator Geraldine Thompson. Senator Thompson began serving the people of Florida in 1970 when she worked as a Secretary for State Representative Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry, the first African American female to serve in the Florida House of Representatives. During her time with Representative Cherry, she learned that conditions could be changed and

lives improved through the enactment of legislation.

After working for several years, Senator Thompson enrolled at Florida State University from which she received a M.S. in Communication in 1973. She and her husband moved to Orlando and immediately became active in the Central Florida community. She later became the Assistant to the President at Valencia Community College where she served for 24 years. Among her many accomplishments was the establishment of the “College Reach Out Program.” The program enabled thousands of low income and disadvantaged students to fulfill their dream of going to college.

As a public historian, Senator Thompson’s passion for history led her to conduct research and compile documents which resulted in the publication of a book, *Black America Series: Orlando, Florida*, in 2003. She is also credited with preserving one of Orlando’s unique landmarks, The Wells’ Built Hotel, which housed some of America’s most prominent citizens, including Justice Thurgood Marshall, Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, Jackie Robinson and many more. She helped secure funds to convert the hotel into a museum which is known today as The Wells’ Built Museum of African American History and Culture.

In November 2006, Thompson was elected to serve as the first African American female to represent District 39 in the Florida House of Representatives. As a state representative, she worked to bring about change, including sponsoring legislation to give pregnant women protection under the Florida Civil Rights Act, and establishing a lottery Ticket for the Cure to benefit breast cancer victims. On November 18, 2008, she was unanimously selected by her legislative colleagues to serve as the Democratic Leader Pro Tempore, the second highest ranking Democrat in the Florida House of Representatives. In November 2012, Thompson was elected to the Florida Senate. In December 2012, Senator Thompson was elected Chairman of the Orange County Legislative Delegation. She is the first female and African-American to hold the position of Chair.

Senator Thompson has been recognized with numerous awards. She received the Florida Education Association’s Mary McLeod Bethune Humanitarian Award and the National Education Association’s prestigious Mary Hatwood Futrell Award for her outstanding human rights work toward the advancement and education of women and girls. She is also a recipient of the Executive Women Award, the Legislative Award from the American Cancer Society, and the Martin Luther King Award from the Greater Orlando Alliance of Black School Education. She is also an Executive Board Member of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

Senator Thompson enjoys every opportunity to give back, such as arranging to have 40 students from Jones High School in Orlando attend the inaugurations of President Barack Obama in 2009 and 2013. She is married to the Honorable Emerson R. Thompson, Jr. She has three children, Laurise, Emerson III, and Elizabeth, and is the proud grandmother of four.

I am happy to honor Senator Geraldine Thompson, during Women’s History Month, for her leadership and service to the Central Florida community.