

prepare for the next chapter of their life together.

IN SUPPORT OF THE UKRAINE,
AZERBAIJAN, AND GEORGIA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the actions of Russia in the Crimean Peninsula.

Now is the time for the United States to show our solidarity with former Soviet states such as Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, while encouraging these nations to continue to institute democratic reforms and modernize their economies.

Countries in the Caucasus region such as Azerbaijan and Georgia are located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe—a strategic location for U.S. foreign policy objectives given that Russia is to the north and Iran is to the south.

With the volatility and strategic importance of this region, the U.S. must continue to work with its allies such as Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Georgia to ensure their sovereignty is protected, especially in light of Russia's actions in the Crimean Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize the importance of our country's relationship with Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF THE
YOUNG CHILD

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the Week of the Young Child, which is celebrated this year from April 6 to April 12. I also rise to recognize the tireless work of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which was instrumental in launching this week in 1971, and which works every day to create a brighter future for our nation's youngest learners.

Mr. Speaker, the evidence is clear: strong investments in early education are vital to America's future. Young children experience astonishing brain growth, forming more neural pathways from birth to age five than at any other point in their lives. Investment in this phase of life pays serious dividends—not just individually, but societally as well. Studies have consistently shown that each dollar invested in quality preschool yields \$7 over the life of a child; and the urgent need for support in this area has never been greater.

Today, one in five American children begins their life in poverty. Among these children are the world's future doctors, scientists, teachers, astronauts, CEOs, innovators and outstanding citizens. As we observe the Week of the Young Child, these facts should give reflective pause to every member of this House. If we fail to provide each American child with a fair opportunity to succeed, we as a society will

fail to reach our full potential. The stakes are high, it is incumbent upon each of us to step up and do what's unquestionably right for America's future.

I would also like to note that when paired with quality child care, early education yields immediate and long-term economic dividends. Too often, American parents are forced to choose between joining the workforce and ensuring the healthy development of their child. The Child Care Development Block Grant reduces this gap by providing a modest subsidy to eligible working parents, allowing them to purchase quality child care for their children, join the work force, and contribute to our nation's economic prosperity. Last month, I was proud to lead 111 of my House colleagues in a letter to House Appropriators supporting this critical program.

In today's day in age, Mr. Speaker, I find it unacceptable that any child's zip code would determine whether they, or their parents, have a fair chance to reach for the American Dream. I look forward to the day when true equality of access to early education is finally achieved, and I'm proud to stand with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, as well as the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children, in working to make this future a reality.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MRS.
MARGARITA MUÑOZ

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a lifelong resident of my district on her upcoming centennial birthday. On April 11, 2014, Mrs. Margarita Muñoz will celebrate 100 years of life.

Born in 1914, Margarita is the middle sibling to two older brothers and two younger sisters. When she was a young girl, Margarita's family moved from Arizona to California in search of a better life and settled in downtown East Los Angeles. Margarita attended the local elementary and middle school with her brothers and sisters. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1932 where she met her sweetheart, Augustine Muñoz.

Margarita and Augustine married in 1935 and gave birth to their first son, Charles, in 1936. The young family was blessed with the birth of their second son, Robert, in 1937, daughter Dorothy in 1943, William and John in 1944 and 1950, and daughter Carol in 1955. In 1955, Margarita and Augustine moved their growing family from East Los Angeles to the city of Montebello. The children attended Eastmont Elementary and Montebello Junior High and Montebello High School. For Margarita and Augustine Muñoz, Montebello proved an ideal place to raise a family.

In 1964, Margarita's husband passed away from a sudden heart attack and was left to raise their children on her own. During this difficult time, Margarita demonstrated tremendous work ethic and resiliency; despite tremendous adversity, she succeeded in providing for her children and giving them a home in which to flourish.

Margarita's life revolved around her children. She dedicated herself to giving them the best

upbringing possible and made sure to instill in them strong values. With her support and guidance, all of Margarita's children went on to be successful members of their community; among many impressive achievements, two of her children earned their masters degrees.

Today, Margarita still lives in the same Montebello home where she and her family settled in 1955. She enjoys knitting, crocheting, gardening, and of course seeing her family, which has grown quite a bit since 1935. At family celebrations and holidays she has the joy of spending time with her 18 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Margarita Muñoz represents the best in our community. Margarita exemplifies the true meaning of family, and her community is grateful to have such a role model of commitment and dedication. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Margarita a very happy 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JC RISEWICK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize JC Risewick of Seneca Companies in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like JC in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Risewick for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating JC on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE CAREER AND
SERVICE OF DR. KULWANT S.
BHANGOO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a respected member of my Western New York community, Dr. Kulwant S. Bhangoo.