

crucial for him to develop a veterans' spousal support group and network.

Beyond meeting the needs of the veterans, Ron educated a wide variety of MJC personnel about the challenges that veterans face on a daily basis as they acclimate to civilian life. Campus staff and faculty leaned on Ron to handle the most sensitive situations. The crisis responses he managed and resolved kept students in school and, for some, kept them alive.

It was a passion for Ron to remain connected with and support the heroes of our country. Ron is survived by his wife of 40 years, Jeanette; his sister, Janice Clair; brother-in-law, Duane Clair; nephew, Eric Cole & his wife Chris; & by many loving friends and relatives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Ron Tingley and all of his excellent contributions to veterans and the community.

NATIONAL HISPANIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Hispanic American Heritage Month. For more than 500 years, and long before the founding of the Republic, Hispanic Americans have made significant contributions to American life and culture.

Hispanic Heritage week was formerly proposed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the diversity throughout the United States with a variety of festivities across the country, including parades, festivals, art exhibits, and musical performances.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their communities.

Hispanics have played a vital role in the moments and movements that have shaped our country. They have enriched our culture and brought creativity and innovation to everything from sports to the sciences and from the arts to our economy.

The Hispanic community is an integral part of our country's rich history and economic well-being. According to most recent data Hispanic-owned businesses have generated \$351 billion in economic output towards the U.S. economy, along with creating 1.9 million jobs.

As the Member of Congress from the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored

to represent a district rich in cultural and ethnic diversity and with a substantial Hispanic population.

Mr. Speaker, Texas is home to more than 10 million Hispanic residents and there are 938,882 Hispanics in Houston, comprising 43.4% of the city's population, the third largest number of Hispanics of any city in the nation.

The projected population of Hispanics in the United States in 2060 is estimated to be 128.8 million. According to this projection, the Hispanic population will constitute 31 percent of the nation's population by that date.

Hispanics are greatly diverse people. They come from different countries bringing different cultures, language dialects and customs Hispanics have enriched our Union and shaped our character. Hispanics are hardworking individuals that try to better themselves but never forget their upbringings.

Hispanic Americans continue to impact every sector of our country, and are leading officials in all aspects of American life. Many Hispanic Americans serve as elected officials, members of the armed forces, police officers, judges, teachers, construction workers, business men and women, artists, athletes, and civic leaders.

A source of special pride to me is that Texas is the home state of 11 Hispanic recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Many contemporary Hispanic Americans have risen to occupy some of the most important positions in the nation, including U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor; Labor Secretary Tom Perez; U.S. Senators ROBERT MENENDEZ and TED CRUZ, White House Domestic Policy Director Cecelia Munoz; and my colleagues in the Texas House delegation, Congressmen RUBÉN HINOJOSA, HENRY CUELLAR, JOAQUIN CASTRO, BETO O'ROURKE, PETE GALLEGOS, and FILEMON VELA.

As the Hispanic community continues to enrich American society, I urge all Americans to take time during this month to commemorate the contributions of Hispanic Americans in shaping the United States.

The best way to honor National Hispanic Heritage Month is to continue cherishing and respecting the ethnic and cultural diversity that strengthens and enhances our nation.

We celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month to continually honor the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans to our nation.

Celebrating the National Hispanic Heritage helps keep a vivid image of all the hard work Hispanic individuals accomplished throughout history.

I encourage all Americans to join me in marking this important occasion.

THE UNITED STATES SUPREME
COURT'S DECISION IN MICHIGAN
V. BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on May 27, 2014 the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in *Michigan v. Bay Mills Indian Community*, wherein the Court affirmed the sovereign immunity of our Nation's federally-rec-

ognized Indian tribes for off-reservation commercial activities. Because the United States Constitution expressly and exclusively grants to Congress plenary authority over every one of our Nation's 566 federally-recognized Indian tribes, I rise to provide my views on this decision that can have serious ramifications for Indian Country.

As the Court's *Bay Mills* decision correctly observes, our nation's federally recognized Indian tribes are independent governments whose sovereignty pre-dates the United States Constitution. Our founding fathers wisely chose to subject Indian tribes solely to the authority of the United States Congress, to the exclusion of state governments, as well as the Executive and Judicial branches of the federal government. And though Indian tribes are subject to the authority of Congress, they retain all of their inherent and historic sovereign powers, except as those powers may be expressly modified by Congress. If Congress does not act to take away the sovereign powers of Indian tribes, those powers are retained.

One of the most important attributes of sovereignty possessed by Indian tribes is sovereign immunity from suit, including suits initiated by State governments. In addition to being consistently affirmed by decisions of our nation's highest court over the past two centuries, tribal sovereign immunity has been repeatedly acknowledged and confirmed in federal case precedent. Thus the Supreme Court correctly upheld the sovereign immunity of the *Bay Mills Indian Community*, and affirmed the express desire of Congress that Indian tribes retain the fullest extent of their immunity from suit.

Like state and federal governments, Indian tribes rely on their inherent sovereign powers, including immunity, to protect their treasuries and further their economies. These sovereign powers are vital for any government to provide essential programs and services for its citizens and are critical in maintaining the viability of our nation's Indian tribes, many of which are located in the most economically depressed regions of the country and have been under constant duress due to severe cutbacks in federal funding over the past several decades. For Indian tribes, sovereign immunity is necessary not only to protect the Tribes from private litigants, but also to prevent state governments from overstepping their constitutional authority and diminishing the rights and sovereignty of Indian tribes through litigation. As the Supreme Court acknowledged in the *Bay Mills Indian Community* decision, only Congress has the authority to diminish the sovereign rights of Indian tribes.

While I applaud the Supreme Court's decision affirming Tribal sovereign immunity, I am deeply disturbed by dicta in the Court's majority opinion that is not only at odds with the Constitution and prior Supreme Court precedent, but is an affront to tribal sovereignty. In its majority opinion, the Court suggests that a state may bring a suit for prospective injunctive relief against tribal officials for alleged violations of state law based on the doctrine of *Ex Parte Young*. Prior Supreme Court precedent, however, has made clear that the doctrine of *Ex Parte Young* only permits suit for prospective injunctive relief against government officials for alleged violations of federal law, not for alleged violations of state law. The basis for authorizing such suits against government officials is that federal law is supreme