

years of connectedness of the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community and its commitment to fulfilling the mission of DC Black Pride, which is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of the African American LGBT community. Moreover, the theme expresses the resolve of the African-American LGBT community and its allies to come together to: fight for LGBT equality; celebrate our heritage and culture as members of both the Black and LGBT communities; and promote health and wellness for the community.

DC Black Pride is a project of the Center For Black Equity and is coordinated by Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. and Kenya Anthony Hutton with assistance from a volunteer Advisory Board, which coordinates this annual event and consists of: Andrea Woody-Macko; Genise Chambers-Woods; Re'ginald Shaw-Richardson; Joseph F. Young; Cedric Harmon; Jeffrey Richardson; Angela Peoples; Thomas King; C. Hawkins; and Sonya Hemphill as well as scores of volunteers.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in welcoming all attending the 25th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C., and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that the American citizens who reside in Washington, D.C. are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

PASS CHRISTIAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB-QATAR CENTER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the State of Qatar for its continued support of the Boys & Girls Club of the Gulf Coast Qatar Center at Pass Christian, Mississippi. We welcome the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United States, Mohammed Al-Juwari.

In 2005, the Mississippi Gulf Coast was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, resulting in the destruction of many of the Boys and Girls Clubs in South Mississippi. In June of 2009, through the generosity of a 5 million dollar donation from the people of Qatar, the Boys & Girls Club opened a new, beautiful, state-of-the-art facility in Pass Christian.

When the facility opened its doors in 2009, over 175 children enrolled in programs offered by the club. The staff has worked hard to provide the best care, programs and opportunities to benefit the children of the Gulf Coast.

The Qatar Center now serves well over 300 children daily, and it continues to grow, giving children the opportunity to reach their full potential. It helps allow the Boys and Girls Club to fulfill its mission to "enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens."

Today, with Boys & Girls Club locations all along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Pass Christian location continues to provide the perfect model for other centers to follow.

Once again, I would like to thank the people of Qatar for their generosity to the Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIE HERBST, EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVANT, TEACHER, MOTHER, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the family of Marie Herbst upon her passing on April 23, 2015. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to describe the range of accomplishments Marie achieved during her amazing life. A wife of 63 years, a mother of 5, a schoolteacher for 37 years, and on top of that a record of public service at the state and local level that spanned decades.

As one of the most dedicated citizens of Vernon, Marie stood as an activist for her town's needs in the area of education. This commitment to the Vernon community was not limited to activism, as Marie saw the need to serve her constituents locally and ensure that her neighbors' voices were heard.

Marie was elected to the Board of Education, Town Council, as Mayor of Vernon and served for over eight years as a State Senator representing her friends and neighbors in Hartford. She demonstrated further dedication to her fellow citizens after she left the Connecticut General Assembly to resume her position on the Town Council.

During that time, Marie focused on her most abiding passion: the welfare of the Town of Vernon. During her tenure, the town saw new schools, fire stations, police headquarters, roads and bridges. Never one to duck controversy, she nonetheless had an extraordinary record of political success due in large part to her integrity and honesty. In a word, people trusted Marie, even if they did not always agree with her.

At the end of the day we can all look back on her life and marvel at her energy and passion for helping others through her service in public office. At the same time, she never shortchanged her husband Paul, her children Paul, Debra, Kate, Laura and Janet or the students that she taught in the East Windsor school system. She set a high bar of excellence that all citizens and public officials should strive to match.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Marie's life and expressing our deepest sympathies to Paul and to the Herbst family.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF JOHN KELLY HARRIS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of John Kelly Harris, who recently passed away at the age of 61. A respected leader in Central Florida, John will be remembered for his enthusiastic involvement in our community.

John was born in Owensboro, Kentucky. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a BA in Elementary/Special Education and from Troy State University with a Masters in Public Administration.

John had a very active professional, political, and civic life. He worked for the Orange County Florida government for over 22 years. John was well known throughout Orange County as a community builder and for his ability to connect people. Some of his favorite projects included the Orange County Targeted Community Initiatives in South Apopka, Holden Heights, and Englewood. He also helped build the Taft Community Center.

The founding president of the Rotary Club of Lake Nona and a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, John was always civically involved. He was active with the Greater Apopka Habitat for Humanity, Anthony House Homeless Shelter, American Society for Public Administration, Tiger Bay Club, County Watch, and countless other neighborhood, nonprofit, and community efforts.

John loved photography, telling jokes, and helping people. He leaves behind his wife and best friend, Susan Denton Harris, and his beloved daughter, Lee Collier Harris.

John Kelly Harris' integrity, vision, wisdom, and passionate outlook on life touched the lives of many and made Central Florida a better place. I am humbled to honor the memory, life, and outstanding achievements of John Kelly Harris.

MINNESOTA REMEMBERS THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on April 24th I was honored to be invited to join members of the Armenian-American community from across Minnesota for a service of remembrance at St. Sahag Armenian Church in St. Paul. That evening we remembered the victims of the Armenian Genocide and it was my privilege to deliver the following remarks.

Today we join the people of Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora around the world in commemorating a historic reality, a historic truth, a historic crime. One hundred years ago a campaign of cruelty was waged against Ottoman Armenians that resulted in suffering and death of such a profound magnitude that it continues to be felt today.

The entire world—all nations and peoples—need to stand with Armenians everywhere in commemorating the Armenian Genocide, acknowledging the horror of its cruelty, and recognizing the generations of pain it has caused. But this goal cannot be fully realized until truth triumphs over denial; until the historical horrors are acknowledged by the government of those responsible. We need to strengthen condemnations of the past and recognize the important relationship that the United States shares with Armenia today.

The Armenian people were exposed to torture, starvation, deportation, abduction, and massacre. In addition to mass killings, millions of Armenians were forced into deportation and were expelled from their historic homeland. The framework for the United Nations Convention of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was, in part, based on this unbelievable crime. Many survivors of this genocide have passed away now, and we are