INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio, for anchoring this Special Order and rise to remember and mourn the millions of souls lost in the Holocaust, the worst instance of man’s inhumanity to man in human history.

Nearly 72 years have passed since the end of World War II but for those who survived, and the descendants and relatives of those who perished, the Holocaust is not ancient history but a reminder of the evil that can be unleashed when humans give into their worst instincts and appetites.

The Holocaust’s magnitude of destruction numbered more than 12 million deaths, including 6 million Jews and 1.5 million children (more than 2/3 of European Jewry), and the ramifications of prejudice, racism and stereotyping on a society.

A haunting quote in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum refers to the story of Cain and Abel:

The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground (Genesis 4:11).

The Holocaust forces us to confront uncomfortable questions such as the responsibilities of citizenship and the consequences of indifference and inaction, and the importance of education and awareness.

The Holocaust is a testament to the fragility of democracy.

We must resolve to resist prejudice and intolerance in any form.

It fills me with grief to know that the leaders of nations can destroy their own, as did the Nazi regime. Yet I hope that we can continue to strengthen the means by which we can pursue justice.

And I am saddened, outraged, and embarrassed that the current President of the United States could think it appropriate to issue a statement on Holocaust Remembrance Day that fails to make any mention of the defining crime of the 20th Century, the murder of 6 million persons for no reason other than they were Jews.

But the vast majority of Americans remember and are united in this prayer and promise: Never Again.

Thank you, Congresswoman KAPTUR, for holding this important special order.

I include in the RECORD the following statement from the President regarding International Holocaust Remembrance Day:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

[For Immediate Release—January 27, 2017]

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

It is with a heavy heart and somber mind that we remember and honor the victims, survivors, heroes of the Holocaust. It is impossible to fully fathom the depravity and horror inflicted on innocent people by Nazi terror.

Yet, we know that in the darkest hours of humanity, light shines the brightest. As we remember those who died, we are deeply grateful to those who risked their lives to save the innocent.

In the name of the perished, I pledge to do everything in my power throughout my Presidency, and my life, to ensure that the forces of evil never again defeat the powers of good. Together, we will make love and tolerance prevalent throughout the world.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF MRS. NANNETTE “NAN” ANTONELLI CRAVEN OF RICHMOND, VA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of Mrs. Nannette “Nan” Antonelli Craven of Richmond, VA on February 5, 2017. She is survived by her children, Tony Craven (Angelia), Debbie Craven Bragg (Sidney), David Craven (Kay), and Chris Craven (Heather); twelve grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Nan was known as a welcoming person to all who met her and a fiercely loving figure to all her friends and family.

She was an active member of her community, volunteering at Benedictine High School and serving as coordinator for the Night Out Against Crime at Regency Woods. She was also a longtime member of St. Paul’s and St. Benedict’s Church and was a current member of St. Mary’s Parish. Nan’s friendship, love, and sweet presence blessed all those who knew and loved her. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

CELEBRATING MASON DIXON HOMESCHOOLERS ASSOCIATION’S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL SHUSTER
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Mason Dixon Homeschoolers Association (MDHSA) on its 30th year of service to families in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The Mason Dixon Homeschoolers Association was founded in 1986 by two families in Franklin County, Pennsylvania who wanted to homeschool their children. Martin and Mary Hudzinski, along with Barbara and Michael Sniders, were surprised to find out that families all over Pennsylvania were being denied the right to home-educate their children. They began organizing with other families who wanted to see the law changed as opposed to leaving the state to educate their children elsewhere, as some families had done. Soon, the MDHSA had seven families, and its members along with other homeschoolers in Pennsylvania worked for the passage of Act 169, signed by the governor in 1988, which allowed parents and guardians the choice of homeschooling their children.

Today, the MDHSA’s membership has grown to support nearly 200 families. In 1997 they were authorized by the PA Department of Education to issue high school diplomas, and their first graduate was in 1998. Today, the MDHSA issues around 200 diplomas each year. In addition to providing their member families learning materials, they also provide their students with monthly assemblies for guest speakers to attend, classes taught by other homeschooling parents or outside experts in a particular field, field trips for its members, and even a yearly high school prom. Their graduates have become physicians, public school teachers, human rights workers, welders, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to congratulate the MDHSA on three decades of history and service to the Central Pennsylvania community, and to thank all who have helped this organization continue its success.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAUXEMONT COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Tauxemont Cooperative Preschool celebrating its 75th Anniversary on March 18, 2017, at its Diamond Jubilee. Tauxemont, a NAEYC accredited preschool located in the Fort Hunt corridor of Alexandria, Virginia, has been teaching preschool and kindergarten children a love of learning since 1942. The Tauxemont learning experience encourages parents to participate with their children during this major step away from home. At Tauxemont, the faculty is involved with their children both during school and at special events. Family involvement is what makes a child’s experience at Tauxemont unique.

Tauxemont’s primary purpose is to provide an environment for a child to grow emotionally, developmentally, physically, socially, and intellectually.

Tauxemont, therefore, allows them to: discover that school is a happy place, that learning is fun and rewarding and that teachers are understanding and stimulating human beings; learn how to work and play successfully with other children; learn to develop their own skills, talents, and interests, and to expand each of these to the fullest extent; develop a sense of personal worth and an understanding of the needs and rights of others; and to develop a sense of excitement and interest in

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sara O'Donnell, founder and Executive Director of the Cancer Resource Center of Mendocino County, who is retiring after 21 years of service.

Mr. Huffman. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sara O'Donnell, founder and Executive Director of the Cancer Resource Center of Mendocino County, who is retiring after 21 years of service.
Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tim Albrecht for being named a 2017 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 that 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 honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Tim is known for his solid reputation, strong work ethic and positive attitude. After years of honing his craft on numerous political campaigns, and four years serving as Communications Director to Governor Terry Branstad, Tim set out on his own in 2016 to establish Albrecht Public Relations. Additionally, Tim is a partner and co-founder of the bipartisan polling firm RABA Research. Tim lives in West Des Moines, with his wife Joni, their daughter Carissa, and two sons, Sam and Avery.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Tim a fellow resident of the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Tim on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Stanislaus County Chief Probation Officer, Jill Silva, who has announced her retirement after more than 27 years of service.

Chief Silva graduated from California State University, Fresno in 1986 with a Degree in Social Work. After graduation, she began her career as a Probation Aid with Fresno County Probation Department, served as a Mental Health Worker with Kings View Behavioral Health Systems, and then came to work with Stanislaus County in Adult Protective Services.

In April of 1989, Chief Silva started her career with Stanislaus County Probation Department as a Deputy Probation Officer assigned to the Juvenile Intake and Investigation Unit. She also worked with the Adult Supervision and the Juvenile Supervision Unit.

In 1996, she was promoted to Deputy Probation Officer III, as well as continuing to work with the Juvenile Intake Unit. She was then promoted to Supervising Probation Officer in 1999 and was assigned to the Juvenile Division’s Community Partnerships Unit.

Chief Silva’s excellent work ethic in public service was noticed as she continued to receive multiple promotions. In 2001, she was promoted to Manager III and then received another promotion in November of 2002 to Chief Deputy Probation Officer. In June 2007, she transferred to the Institutional Services Division and her position was reclassified as the Assistant Chief Probation in 2009.

Throughout her career, Chief Silva has served on various committees, including the Stanislaus County Children’s Council, Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Council, and the Stanislaus County Methamphetamine Task Force. She is also a member of the California Probation, Parole and Correctional Association (CPPCA), California Association of Probation Services Administrators (CAPSA), California Association of Probation Institution Administrators (CAPIA), and the Stanislaus County Peace Officers Association.

Chief Silva assumed the role of Acting Chief Probation Officer in December 2011, and on May 5, 2012, she was appointed Chief Probation Officer of the Stanislaus County Probation Department. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to Stanislaus County by Chief Jill Silva as we wish her continued success in her retirement.
HONORING SHERIFF JAMES L. KNOTT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my longtime friend and constituent, Sheriff James L. Knight as he retires at the end of February after serving 20 years as the top law enforcement officer for Edgecombe County, North Carolina and more than 33 years in law enforcement. Sheriff Knight is the first African American to serve in this position in Edgecombe County.

James L. Knight was born on July 19, 1959 in the Town of Macclesfield and is the youngest of nine children born to Annie Mae and Willie W. Knight. He attended Living Hope Elementary School in Macclesfield and South Edgecombe High School in Pinetops where he graduated in 1977.

After graduation, Mr. Knight enlisted in the United States Army and served as part of the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was a model soldier and was awarded the Parachute Badge, Expert Badge M–16, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and two letters of commendation. He was Honorably Discharged in 1980 having earned the rank of Specialist E–4.

Sheriff Knight began his law enforcement career with the Edgecombe County Sheriff’s Office in July 1984 as a Detention Officer. He rose through the ranks serving first as Deputy Sheriff and later as Detective, where he remained until he was appointed Sheriff of Edgecombe County by the Edgecombe County Democratic Party Executive Committee in 1997, when then-Sheriff Phil Ellis resigned from the position. Sheriff Knight has faithfully served the people of Edgecombe County as Sheriff for the last 20 years and has been re-elected to this office every four years since being appointed.

Sheriff Knight manages more than 100 employees, including over fifty certified officers. Under Sheriff Knight’s direction, these officers cover over 526 square miles and are charged with protecting nearly 60,000 Edgecombe County residents.

A dedicated public servant, Sheriff Knight implemented the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program within Edgecombe County Schools. D.A.R.E. is an officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches students how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives. There is no doubt that Sheriff Knight had a profound and positive impact on an entire generation of young people. His positive influence continues today.

Sheriff Knight has always been known as a true public servant who is always eager and willing to serve. His long held goal has been to provide effective and efficient law enforcement service while building strong and trusting relationships with the citizens. He has certainly achieved that goal and so much more. Sheriff Knight’s dedication to and impact in Edgecombe County is seen far beyond the walls of the Sheriff’s Department. He has been a strong catalyst in improving and positively impacting the lives of Edgecombe County citizens. In recognition of his selfless work, Sheriff Knight has received numerous awards including the Citizen of the Year, James B. Hunt, Jr. Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Volunteer Services, and a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Law Enforcement.

Sheriff Knight has served and continues to serve on several boards including the United Way, Boy Scouts of America, Governor’s Crime Commission, National Sheriffs’ Association, North State Law Enforcement Officers Association, and North Carolina Sheriffs’ Association where he served as the President of the executive committee. He even proudly represented his community as an Olympic Torch Bearer in the lead up to the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.

At every step along his storied life, Sheriff James L. Knight has been accompanied by his wife, the former Margaret Sharpe. The two were married on August 1, 1982. Together, they have two children, James Jr. and Jamina, and one grandson, Jayden. They attend Anderson Chapel Baptist Church in Macclesfield where Sheriff Knight serves on the Board of Deacons.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff James L. Knight has dedicated his entire adult life to public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedication and hard work displayed by Sheriff Knight over more than 30 years first as a soldier, then as a Corrections Officer, Deputy Sheriff, Detective, and finally as Sheriff of Edgecombe County. While Sheriff Knight is deserving of far greater accolades from a grateful public, my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in expressing our sincere appreciation for Sheriff Knight’s hard work and sacrifice.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM SCALES

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate William Scales for being named a 2017 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 that 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 honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders.

William is a member attorney at Whitfield & Eddy Law Firm in Des Moines, tirelessly advocating for his clients and passionate about making Des Moines a better community. Outside of his law practice, William is an Associate Fellow in the Litigation Counsel of America, and has been active with the Greater Des Moines Partnership’s Youth Leadership Initiative and several other community-centered organizations. William served in the U.S. Army as an Air Defense Officer from 2004–2008, and this year will be retiring in the love of his life, Erica.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like William in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him utilizing his talents to better both his community and the state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating William on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their enthusiastic support each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to rise today to recognize a legendary baseball player, great philanthropist, and outstanding citizen, Henry L. “Hank” Aaron. Hank and his wife, Billye, will be honored by the Mobile Area Mardi Gras Association (MAMGA) in Mobile, Alabama on February 26–27, 2017.

Henry Louis Aaron was born in Mobile, Alabama, on February 5, 1934, the third of eight children born to Herbert and Estella Aaron. Hank was interested in sports from an early age. Although he worked several jobs to help the family, he spent a lot of time playing baseball at a neighborhood park. He transferred to the Allen Institute in Mobile his junior year of high school to participate in the school’s organized baseball program. After graduating from high school, Hank began to make a name for himself playing with local amateur and semi-pro teams, including the Pritchett Athletics and the Mobile Black Bears. In 1951, Hank was signed as a short-stop for the Indianapolis Clowns, which was part of the professional Negro American League. In 1952, the Braves purchased his contract and he was assigned to Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Hank batted .336 and won the minor Northern League’s Rookie of the Year Award. He was then assigned to the Braves’ Jacksonville, Florida team, in the South Atlantic (Sally) League. Despite enduring racial insults from fans and fellow players alike, Hank batted .362, with 22 homers and 125 runs batted in. He was named the league’s Most Valuable Player in 1953.

In 1954, Hank began to play for the Braves’ major league team. After the 1965 season, the Braves moved to Atlanta, where on April 8, 1974, Hank hit his 715th career home run, breaking Babe Ruth’s 39-year-old Major League record. By the time he retired in 1976, Hank had raised his all-time homer output to 755. But although Hank had retired from baseball, baseball had not retired from him. He became Vice President and Director of Player Development for the Braves, scouting new team prospects and overseeing the coaching of minor leaguers, before becoming Senior Vice President for the team. Due to his efforts, the Braves became one of the strongest teams in the National League.

While many people know of Hank Aaron because of his accomplishments in baseball, it is...
Hank's philanthropy that truly sets him apart. In 1995, Hank and Bilye established the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation to give young people with limited opportunities a chance to pursue their dreams. While Hank had initially envisioned helping 755 youngsters, the Foundation has provided vital financial aid to more than 1,000 families every year. This year alone, Hank and Bilye, along with vesting a portion of the Chicago Cubs win the World Series, writing taking the form of an apology to my grandson, and the next generation of Americans. “Hamilton” reminded me of the combination of leadership and compromise demonstrated in the baseball world. And the Chicago Cubs showed us that, against the odds of history, if you improve competitiveness, you can compete and win. (And let the record show that all St. Louis Cardinals fans—can appreciate that feat!) Fortunately, what was the most disappointing election process in my history is behind us. My words are not aimed at one party or the other as I am equally frustrated by both sides. Our leaders spend too much time trying to defeat the opposing party instead of focusing on what is right for America. We must make sure that America competes and wins.

At 59 years old, my generation inherited the most competitive country in the world, and that competitiveness led to the highest standard of living in the world. We seem to have overlooked the direct correlation between a country's competitiveness and the standard of living of its citizens. The Cubs championship team stands as a first class example of how changing the way you compete results. If you want to improve your competitiveness, you adapt. New leadership made great draft choices that complemented wily veterans, ending more than a decade of losing. The same opportunities are afforded to this great nation (yes, it should be noted I remain optimistic about this country's future). However, what lies ahead won't be easy. It will require strong leaders like Hamilton, compromise by both parties and an understanding that it is all about competitiveness. Like it or not, our infrastructure is in a state of disrepair and we have not addressed its long term funding in more than 20 years. The build-out of our US highway system in the 1950's and 1960's has led to most economic booms in history. But we haven't re-invested. The road to progress still begins with a road, period.

We have gone from having one of the most competitive corporate tax rates in 1986 to being the laggard amongst OECD countries. While the rest of the world has gone to a territorial system, we are still living in the past with our worldwide system. With a corporate tax rate 56 percent higher than the average of other OECD countries, American companies have overlooked the direct correlation between a country's competitiveness and the standard of living of its citizens. At 59 years old, my generation inherited the most competitive country in the world, and that competitiveness led to the highest standard of living in the world. We seem to have overlooked the direct correlation between a country's competitiveness and the standard of living of its citizens. The Cubs championship team stands as a first class example of how changing the way you compete results. If you want to improve your competitiveness, you adapt. New leadership made great draft choices that complemented wily veterans, ending more than a decade of losing. The same opportunities are afforded to this great nation (yes, it should be noted I remain optimistic about this country's future). However, what lies ahead won't be easy. It will require strong leaders like Hamilton, compromise by both parties and an understanding that it is all about competitiveness. Like it or not, our infrastructure is in a state of disrepair and we have not addressed its long term funding in more than 20 years. The build-out of our US highway system in the 1950's and 1960's has led to most economic booms in history. But we haven't re-invested. The road to progress still begins with a road, period.

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Joan Baer, Jimi Hendrix, and a young New Jerseyan named Bruce Springsteen receiving his first guitar from his mother in 1964, the artists from the 1960s shaped the music landscape forever.

In the 1960s, a young, outspoken and politically active generation often told their story through music and art. As a young person during this era, I can attest to the importance of the messages conveyed by musicians about contemporary society and their unswerving belief in building a better America for future generations.

The State of New Jersey can bestow no higher honor on one of our citizens than induction into our Hall of Fame and I congratulate Tommy James, who helped to influence generations of musicians.

Mr. Speaker, with an award-winning music career spanning over three decades and countless contributions to our State and its citizens, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tommy James to his induction to the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS FOR BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS ACT OF 2017

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act of 2017, a bill that would require buildings that are either federally owned or leased to provide designated private and hygienic lactation spaces for nursing mothers. The bill was included in the Public Buildings Reform and Savings Act of 2016, which passed the House last Congress. For years, federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have encouraged breastfeeding. The benefits are so great that federal law now requires hospitals to provide a designated, non-bathroom space for employees to pump breastmilk for their newborns, ensuring that new mothers would be able to continue this essential practice even after returning to work. My bill would extend this requirement to include not just employees, but visitors and guests to federal facilities across the nation.

In Washington, D.C. alone, millions of tourists visit federal sites, such as the Lincoln Memorial. Increasingly, families understand the unique benefits of breastfeeding, and visitors to these buildings who have newborns and babies should have a private space to breastfeed or pump. The benefits of breastfeeding are well-documented. Breastmilk contains antibodies and hormones that boost babies’ immune systems, and studies have shown lower risks of asthma, diabetes, respiratory infections, and other diseases among breastfed babies. Moreover, breastfeeding also has benefits for nursing mothers, who, research has shown, have lower risks of diabetes and certain forms of cancer. Given the significant public health benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and baby, already recognized in federal law, there is a logical next step to ensure visitors to federal sites have access to clean, hygienic, and private spaces to nurse or pump.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which would provide access to designated lactation rooms for guests to federally owned or leased buildings.

OPPOSITION TO H.J. RES. 43 AND H.J. RES. 69

HON. KAREN BASS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, in order to attend a previously scheduled event I had to return to California; however, if I had been present today, I would have continued to voice my strenuous objections to the use of the Congressional Review Act to invalidate a seemingly endless number of agency rules. Today, I would express my opposition to and voted against H.J. Res. 43 and H.J. Res. 69. Use of the Congressional Review Act in the month of February to employ regulations thereby barring their return in substantially the same form as in some instances negated years of work on the part of agency officials, stakeholders, advocates, and the public. H.J. Res. 43 represents another vehicle to prevent families from having legitimate access in every state to the Title X program, which has been in effect for over 40 years.

Title X of the Public Health Services Act is the only dedicated source of federal funding for family planning. It provides grants to both nonprofit and public entities that, in turn, provide a wide range of both preventative and family planning services. These clinics have provided service to over 4 million men, women and children. The services include preconception health services, contraceptive care as well as breast and cervical cancer screenings and prevention. H.J. Res. 43 would prevent the implementation of a final rule by the Department of Health and Human Services that would have ensured that these patients continued to have access to all qualified Title X providers.

At a time when there has been a call to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which will result in 20 million Americans losing insurance, and negatively impact the benefits currently received by those with insurance and no viable replacement option being put forward. Our efforts should be spent addressing this issue. Instead, we are voting on a measure that will only serve to decrease access to health services that impact the long term health needs of families.

As for H.J. Res. 69, it represents yet another effort to use the Congressional Review Act to eliminate agency regulations. Stakeholders, advocates, and agencies to address an issue. The promulgation of the rule by the Fish and Wildlife Services addresses Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures. In effect the rule is designed to eliminate public participation and recreational killing of species like grizzly bears and gray wolves unless there is full compliance with existing federal law as well as compliance with the purposes of the refuge. At this time those who have opposed this rule have not provided a scientific basis or sound science as the final rule issued by the Department of the Interior.

For these reasons and more, I would have opposed H.J. Res. 43 and H.J. Res. 69.

HONORING HAL D. PAYNE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate and honor Mr. Hal D. Payne who is retiring from Buffalo State College after 27 years of service. He will be missed by all at Buffalo State and his years of work will not be forgotten, nor will his tireless commitment to broadening and enhancing the educational opportunities of Western New York.

Mr. Payne joined Buffalo State College in 1990 when he began to work as the assistant Vice President of Student Affairs. After a year he was promoted to Vice President. Under Mr. Payne’s leadership, Buffalo State College has upgraded many of the many facilities such as the Frank C. Moore Apartment Complex, the Student Apartment Complex, Cassety Halls, and the Towers as well as the renovation of Houston Gymnasium.

In the summer of 2000, Mr. Payne completed the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ Millennium Leadership Initiative, this program provides leadership development and allows individuals the chance to develop skills and build an advanced network. This program has aided Mr. Payne’s work of advancing Buffalo State’s connections within and outside of the state of New York.

Before coming to Buffalo State, Mr. Payne served as Senior Associate for the Council for opportunity in Education in Washington, D.C. and the Chief of Staff to U.S. Representative Louis Stokes of Ohio. He currently acts as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education, expanding his range of work to support education across America. His commitment to his work was recognized in 2010 by Governor David A. Paterson to the New York State Council on the Arts. Hal Payne’s education at Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, and at the Institution for Educational Management at Harvard University, has edified his knowledge and passion for advancing education.

Mr. Payne is the recipient of numerous awards which attest to the fact that his work has not gone unappreciated or unnoticed. Hal Payne earned the Oberlin Medal, which is the highest individual honor that is awarded by Oberlin College. In addition to the Oberlin Medal, Mr. Payne received the Walter O. Mason Jr. Award from the Council for Opportunity in Education. This national award is presented to those who exhibit distinguished service and leadership.

Outside of his work at Buffalo State College, Mr. Hal Payne has done a great deal of work for the greater Buffalo area. He currently participates in many organizations including the Buffalo Club, the leadership Buffalo Class of 1995, and is an active member of the Board of Arts Services Initiative of Western New York. His passionate work within Western New York will be remembered for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me the chance to honor and recognize the legacy of Hal D. Payne’s years of invaluable work. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Payne on an accomplished career and to commend him for his 27 years of committed work at Buffalo State College.
HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE WILLIAMS

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Joe Williams, who passed away on February 6, 2017, at the age of 79. Joe was a loving husband, father and grandfather, who dedicated much of his life to public service. He was a leader in the community, eventually becoming the first African-American elected to the Fresno City Council in 1977. Joe was a friend to many, a mentor, and trailblazer. His presence in the community will truly be missed.

Joe Williams was born on May 8, 1937 in Biloxi, Mississippi to Brooke Lee Starks and Charlie Williams. At the age of nine, his parents, along with Joe, his brother George, and his sister, Audrey, moved to Fresno, California. He attended Edison High School and enlisted in the United States Army upon graduation in 1956. After his service, Joe enrolled in Fresno City College. He would go on to earn a scholarship to play football at Fresno State, where he graduated with his Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Welfare.

After graduating, Joe began his career with the Fresno County Welfare Department. In 1968, he went to work for the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC), as the Director of the Fresno County Head Start Commission, where he would go on to work for 26 years. After two years, Joe was named Executive Director of Fresno EOC. He was the longest tenured Executive Director, serving in that role from 1968 until 2005. During his tenure, Fresno EOC expanded its budget from $1.8 million to $37 million, with 35 programs to provide services to 130,000 low income families annually. With the help of over 670 staff members, Fresno EOC was able to implement many programs including Palm Village family homeless shelter, open the first rural health clinic in Fresno County, and start a Meals on Wheels program for seniors. A sanctuary program and a Wheels program for seniors. A sanctuary program and a Meals on Wheels program for seniors. A sanctuary program and a Wheels program for seniors. A sanctuary program and a Wheels program for seniors.

In 1977, Joe was elected to the Fresno City Council, making him the first African-American elected to the council. He served two terms between 1977 and 1985. Joe was voted as Mayor Pro-Tem from 1984–1985. In 1994, Joe joined Richard Heath and Associates, a privately owned company that aims to provide energy efficiency programs for underserved communities, serving as CEO until 2005 and serving as board president through 2016. Along with his lifelong friends James Hendricks and Dr. James Aldredge, Joe formed HAW-Fifty Six, which provides services and housing in West Fresno. HAW-Fifty Six developed the Edison HAW Plaza and the multi-family apartment complex in West Fresno, in collaboration with the Fresno Housing Authority. Joe volunteered his time, serving on numerous boards, including Community Medical Center Board of Trustees, California State University, Fresno Foundation Board, and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

Joe is survived by his wife of 40 years Laura, their children Michael and his wife Sonya, Winston, and Terri, his brother George, his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Joe Williams. He will be remembered for the selfless way in which he lived his life, always looking to help those in need of the community who were in need. I join his family in honoring his life, for his community, and service to his country. He will be greatly missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUALITY FOR ALL RESOLUTION

HON. ANDRE CARSON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as Americans, we pride ourselves on being the most free and open society the world has ever known. Yet, for far too long, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans have been forced to live in the shadows because of who they are. Year after year, we see attacks on the LGBT community as governments at all levels look to institutionalize discrimination in the name of religious freedom. In 2015, we witnessed my home state of Indiana enact the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, giving businesses the right to refuse service based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

It is clear that the vast majority of Americans oppose this type of discrimination. After Indiana’s law passed, the public and the business community came together to express outrage and successfully overturned Indiana’s discriminatory law. However, we are still in need of a federal law to affirm the rights of all individuals to be protected from discrimination. That is why I am introducing the Equality for All Resolution to encourage Congress to take actions that ensure all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, know they are valued members of our society. From housing to employment to education, they deserve to live their lives like any other American, free from intolerance because of who they are.

A TRIBUTE TO AZURE CHRISTENSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Azure Christensen for being named a 2017 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 that 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 honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field.

The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Azure is the Foundation Executive Director for HCI Care Services and Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa. In her 15-year career in non-profit development, she has helped raise over $50 million for organizations in Central Iowa. The many causes she has worked hard to benefit include: creating opportunities for young children with cancer so that they can lead normal lives during difficult treatments, ensuring women have access to affordable healthcare, and providing easy access to quality higher education.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Azure in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Azure on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

RECOGNIZING MS. ANDREA BROWN AS THE 2016–2017 OKALOOSA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Andrea Brown as the 2016–2017 Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year. For 18 years, Ms. Brown has served the Okaloosa County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. It is recognized that their profession is one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Ms. Brown has exceptionally performed her teaching duties, while also striving to be an active and supportive member of her team at Baker School.

Most recently, Ms. Brown has served as a Title One Remediation Teacher for both math and reading. Through her work, she has helped countless students improve their reading and writing skills. The effects of her guidance and instruction will continue to have a profoundly positive impact on her students for many years.

Her support and outreach extends beyond the classroom as well, through her service on the Homecoming Committee, involvement with the Aspire after school program, and with Okaloosa Online. Ms. Brown has displayed remarkable compassion and devotion by spending time outside the classroom helping others. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most, the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of her admirable contributions, I am truly proud to have Ms. Brown as a constituent in Florida’s First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms.
Andrea Brown for her accomplishments and her commitment to excellence in the Okaloosa County School District. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES “DEEDLE” WALKER
HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles “Deedle” Walker who will be turning 90 years old on March 4, 2017. Deedle Walker was born in East Tennesse in 1927.

He helped operate his older brother’s gas station when the United States was at war during WWII.

He once entered a free throw contest shooting under-handed and managed to finish second after sinking 24 out of 25 free throws.

After graduating from Carter High School, he was offered a basketball/football scholarship at the University of Alabama. Unfortunately, he became ill from spinal meningitis and did not go there. However, he was lucky to later attend Carson-Newman College.

He hitchhiked to college daily to attend class and starred in basketball and baseball under the tutelage of legendary Coach Frosty Holt. He also signed a minor league contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

More importantly he met his future wife, Martha Dale Kitts, of Knoxville, Tennessee while at Carson-Newman.

While attending a friend’s wedding, in which Martha was a bridesmaid, in Washington, D.C., Martha and Deedle became engaged. They were married later that day at the Capitol Hill Baptist Church on August 5, 1950.

Martha Walker later taught English and was the librarian at Carter High School where Deedle attended. Deedle enjoyed a 40-year career with the telephone company Southern Bell and its successors, and he was also a longtime basketball referee in the Knoxville area.

Deedle is an early riser and a hard-working man. In fact, he still greets anyone who sleeps past 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning with “Good afternoon.”

Martha and Deedle had five children: Mark, Laura, Christopher (died in infancy), Joel and Andrea Brown. They now have eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, with another one on the way.

I hope everyone will join me on March 4th in wishing Deedle Walker a Happy 90th Birthday.

CELEBRATING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF RAYMOND HOLUB
HON. BRIAN BABIN
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a great man for his military service, Mr. Raymond Holub. Mr. Holub is a 92 year old veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. Born in Pleak, Texas, Mr. Holub spent his teenage years working with the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Mr. Holub bravely volunteered to become a Paratrooper and served in the 17th and 82nd Airborne Divisions during World War II from 1943 to 1946. His ship was involved in a collision at sea and hundreds of lives were lost. After overcoming the dangers of the Atlantic, and his fellow soldiers reached Germany. Upon reaching Essen and Berlin, Holub was reassigned to General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force, as an Honor Guard. Mr. Holub left the Army in 1946, only to reenlist and serve his country a second time, in the Korean War from 1950 to 1951. He received the Bronze Star for his military service.

He has been a resident of Liberty, Texas for 56 years. Mr. Holub remains an active member of the American Legion Post 658 in Crosby, Texas and VFW Post 912 in Baytown, Texas.

It is a tremendous honor to represent Mr. Holub in the U.S. Congress and I thank him for his selfless military service to this great nation.

A TRIBUTE TO TRINA FLACK
HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Trina Flack for being named a 2017 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 that 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 honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Trina is a National Sales Manager at the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, where she is responsible for attracting meetings and events to the Des Moines area. She finds herself busy outside of work with her involvement in many city, planning, cultural and leadership organizations. An Iowa State alumna and avid Cyclone football and basketball fan, Trina lives in Ankeny with her husband Adam, and their three children, Natalie, Tyler, and Emma.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Trina in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Trina on receiving this esteemed honor.

Alongside award-winning journalist Joe Galloway, who was in la Drang as a war correspondent, LTG Moore documented his experiences during the battle in the highly acclaimed 1992 book, We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young. The book received such recognition that it has been made into the film, We Were Soldiers. The proceeds from the book helped establish the la Drang Scholarship Fund, which aimed to help the children and...
Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, the nearly 730,000 people in Georgia’s 2nd Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation to Lieutenant General Hal Moore, an outstanding leader who, in addition to his selfless service and instrumental role in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, has the respect, admiration, and affection of his brothers-in-arms. Indeed, LTG Moore leaves behind a distinguished legacy of service and leadership in the United States Army.

RECOGNIZING BALDWIN COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION

HON. JODY B. HICE
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Baldwin County Family Connection, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children across the great State of Georgia. This organization has done outstanding work to revitalize a county hit hard by the Great Recession. In 2011, Baldwin County faced an unemployment rate of 16.5 percent and Harrisburg, one of its communities, suffered an unemployment rate of 25 percent. However, through a community of partners who were willing to work together and share their resources, the Baldwin County Family Connection was able to secure funding for a community garden, a walking trail, and a pavilion, providing places for families to gather and thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful to have an outstanding organization that restores health and vibrancy to the local community in my home district. It is my honor to congratulate and applaud the Baldwin County Family Connection for its commitment to serving children and families in the Tenth District of Georgia.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL KRANTZ

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Michael Krantz for being named a 2017 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 that are making an impact in the communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Michael is the CEO of Adventureland Resort in Altoona, Iowa. He has played a key role in constructing the new Monster roller coaster and bringing the popular Jolly Holiday Lights event to Adventureland, where it has received record attendance. Michael also helped to develop and launch Spectator’s Sports Bar and Grill in Altoona, and has been given the Tidrick Honor for his contributions to the Mentor Iowa program in 2016. Michael and his wife, Kim, have two children, Jack and Emery.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Michael in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Michael on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. LARRY PISTORESI, JR.

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Mr. Larry Pistori, Jr., one of Chowchilla’s finest residents and an exceptional leader of his community. Throughout his life, Mr. Pistori, Jr. strived to support and enrich the people of Chowchilla. His selflessness and devotion to family, church, and community have undoubtedly left the world a better place.

Larry Pistori, Jr., was born on August 16, 1947, raised in Altoona, Iowa, and has been given the Tidrick Honor and a 4th generation native of Chowchilla, in Madera County. In his youth, Mr. Pistori was an active and accomplished athlete, having played on both the football and golf teams at Chowchilla Union High School until his graduation in 1969. Mr. Pistori attended college at Santa Clara University and The University of Washington and later served in the United States Army after dedicating himself to his college ROTC program. Mr. Pistori was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1967, where he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Mr. Pistori returned to Chowchilla after his discharge and worked at Pistori Chevrolet Oldsmobile with his father, Larry Pistori, Sr., grandfather, Pete, and uncle, Monte, as a car salesman. Something of a sales maverick, he consistently proved that nothing was too big or small to make a favorable deal for his clients. Mr. Pistori then set his sights on real estate development, and proceeded to undertake a transformative plan for the Chowchilla area by devoting more than 10 years of his life to planning the construction of the Greenhills Estates neighborhood, which nearly doubled the Chowchilla city limit. He also led the effort to establish the Pheasant Run Golf Course, which provides an excellent communal space for the many people seeking new recreational outlets.

Beyond his professional commitments, Mr. Pistori was involved in a host of public service engagements, including sitting on the Chowchilla Elementary School Board, serving multiple terms as a Chowchilla City Councilman, and served as Mayor of Chowchilla from 1975 through 76.

Larry Pistori, Jr. joins his father, Larry Pistori, Sr., and his mother, Betty Pistori, and is survived by his stepmother Velma Pistori, stepbrothers Jerry and Kent Daniell, his wife of 47 years Linda Pistori, his daughter Laura Pistori, his son Daniel Pistori and wife Frances and son Bradley Pistori. He also leaves behind his loving grandchildren Samuel, Jackson, Noah, Stella and Micah, and countless friends and colleagues. His patriotism, altruism, and infectious personality will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Mr. Larry Pistori, Jr., illustrous and decorated role model for the people of Chowchilla, and an exemplary family man and friend. His life personifies the anecdote that sometimes a small pond needs a big fish to grow wider.

HONORING VELMA JEAN TIDWELL CONDIT

HON. JEFF DENHAM
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the passing of Velma Jean Tidwell Condit. A beloved community member, Mrs. Condit dedicated her life to serving others.

After moving to Ceres from Oklahoma with her husband in 1967, she served the ministry with love and devotion. She spent her Sunday mornings teaching Sunday school, was a loyal member of the Women’s Fellowship, and throughout her life supported her husband, Pastor Adrian Condit, as they served the Village Chapel Free Will Baptist Church.

With a medical career spanning more than three decades, Mrs. Condit provided patients with compassion and care as a nurse at the Ceres Memorial Hospital and Scenic General in Modesto. She was equally as devoted to her work as she was to her community.

Although she is widely known for her service, she is also beloved by her family for her fried chicken and birthday pies. Mrs. Condit’s greatest joy was cooking for and spending time with her family. Even after being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 2014, and soon after developing dementia, she continued to be a loving wife and mother and will be deeply missed. I offer my sincerest condolences to Pastor Adrian Condit, their children, and family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Velma Jean Condit as we recognize her tremendous contributions and honor her incredible life.
Ending the trade in random source dogs won’t halt or harm much-needed research. Most researchers have stopped using animals from Class B dealers, and researchers will still be able to procure purpose-bred research animals from a number of more reliable, more humane, and more reputable sources. But, it still ensures those beloved pets doesn’t end up in a Class B dealer’s hands.

The Animal Welfare Institute and the Humane Society strongly support this legislation. In fact, the Animal Welfare Institute and the Humane Society have been actively engaged in trying to end this abuse for years, and they know more about this problem than anyone else. I’m grateful to them for their efforts to raise public awareness about this problem, and to enact legislation to end it.

Class B dealers across this country violate the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act every day and cause needless suffering for thousands of dogs and cats, many of which were once beloved family pets. Class B dealers starve, beat, and kill these animals, and they deserve to be shut down.

I urge my colleagues to join me in enacting the Pet Safety and Protection Act so we can put an end to this unnecessary and abhorrent practice.

A TRIBUTE TO DYLAN MULLENIX

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dylan Mullenix for being named a 2017 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 that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under thirty years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Dylan serves as the Assistant Director for the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. With his leadership, the organization has developed The Tomorrow Plan, a long-range plan for the sustainable development of the Greater Des Moines area.

In addition, Dylan was instrumental in the creation of the Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Plan. He also serves on other local regional planning organizations. Outside of work, Dylan enjoys following University of Iowa athletics and spending time with his wife, Erin, and son, Jack.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Dylan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dylan on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

LATIN AMERICAN ARTICLES

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues several articles that I have written over the years regarding Latin America. As a Member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs, these pieces serve to outline and inform discussions that our Committee will cover in the 115th Congress. I include in the RECORD the attached articles.

WHAT REAL PROGRESS ON CUBA SHOULD LOOK LIKE

By Mel Martinez & Francis Rooney

When President Obama stepped off Air Force One in Havana, many focused on the historic nature of his visit to Cuba—the first since President Calvin Coolidge. Coverage is focused on a thaw in the War animosity, and images of President Obama stropping the Malecon and meeting with Raúl Castro are being broadcast around the world. However, behind those scenes the Cuban people continue to suffer under a regime that denies them the rights, the freedom, the opportunity, and the dignity they deserve. Without addressing human rights, economic freedom, and freedom of expression, President Obama’s trip is likely to be nothing more than speeches and photo ops.

President Obama should make it clear that further opening of ties between the U.S. and Cuba is contingent upon further political, economic, and social reforms. These preconditions would make it clear to the Cuban regime that despite the restoration of diplomatic ties, the benefits they seek from trade, investment, and tourism from the United States are destined to benefit the Cuban people—not to buttress a repressive regime.

In Havana, we hope that President Obama reminds the Cuban people that despite the restoration of diplomatic ties, the benefits they seek from trade, investment, and tourism from the United States are destined to benefit the Cuban people—not to buttress a repressive regime.

More importantly, it must be made clear to the Cuban regime that their restrictions on political freedom, civil rights, free expression, and the rule of law are on the wrong side of history.

To this end, President Obama should push the Cuban regime to begin significant shifts toward the rule of law that require the creation of an independent judiciary free of Communist Party influence. Protections of human rights, property, and dignity must come before the interests of the Cuban Communist Party. Furthermore, with party poised to hold its Seventh Congress next month, President Obama should suggest that further rapprochement requires that Congress to chart a path towards free and fair elections, and not to serve as a rubber stamp for the next generation of Communist apparatchiks.

More importantly, it must be made clear to the Cuban regime that the United States will not tolerate the continuing brutal detention of human rights regime opposition. In the lead up to President Obama’s visit, 300 people have been arrested.
Since March 8th. Dozens of the Damas de Blanco were arrested before Obama’s arrival over the weekend. Their “crime” is to demand the freedoms and rights that are not just for the Cubans but rather fundamental American values. If the harassment and persecution of these reformers continues, President Obama should let the Cuban regime know that even the least frozen, if not significantly rolled back. On the economic front, the U.S. private sector cannot be the successor to the Soviet Union and Chavez’s Venezuela in propping up the Cuban regime. The Helms-Burton Act will continue to remain the law of the land, and Cuba will remain dependent on its oil. Furthermore, President Obama should make it clear that it is not acceptable for the Cuban government to serve as a pass-through middleman who receives investments in dollars or euros, and pays workers in Cuban Pesos that represent a fraction of the value of worker labor. If U.S. firms do invest in Cuba, they must be allowed to pay their workers directly—in dollars. Additionally, if further investments are made conditional on the removal of obstacles and if data connections between the U.S. mainland and Cuba are bolstered, the U.S. government should insist that the Cuban people have access to the Internet, free, and in its current version. Improved telecommunications need to be contingent on ensuring that Cubans can join the global digital commons and communicate freely. Furthermore, with U.S.-Cuba increased data traffic on the horizon, the Obama Administration should make it absolutely clear that Cuba and its government will not be allowed to use this megaphone to propagandize to Cuba’s masses for Russian and Chinese signals intelligence and cyber espionage aimed at the United States.

We still believe that the Cuban regime has demonstrated far too little in the way of reform or openness to warrant the version of the Internet. Improved telecommunications need to be contingent on ensuring that Cubans can join the global digital commons and communicate freely. Furthermore, with U.S.-Cuba increased data traffic on the horizon, the Obama Administration should make it absolutely clear that Cuba and its government will not be allowed to use this megaphone to propagandize to Cuba’s masses for Russian and Chinese signals intelligence and cyber espionage aimed at the United States.

While we still believe that the Cuban regime has demonstrated far too little in the way of reform or openness to warrant the steps the Obama Administration has taken in opening to Cuba, we feel that these actions would ensure that his trip to Havana can bring about real benefits for the Cuban people.

US Needs Plan Colombia for Central America

(BY Mel Martinez and Francis Rooney)

One of the many positive items within the budget omnibus deal reached by Congress and approved by the president is the $750 million for assisting the countries of Central America that have been beset by crime and instability—which has, in turn, sent vast numbers of unaccompanied minors northward to the United States to seek safety and economic opportunity.

The $750 million allotted to help El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras will help to target the violence that has plagued these nations, combined with efforts to promote the rule of law, reduce corruption, and improve governance in these countries. This assistance will be much needed from the United States, but this crisis cannot be solved with American largesse alone.

Over the past year we have led a project focused on criminal trends from the last decade of Latin American geopolitical trends, and how these trends affect the relationships between the United States and its hemispheric neighbors. One key insight from this timeframe is how US assistance is only one part of the equation for addressing criminality and corruption. A willing partner on the ground is just as important—if not more important—than the total sum of US assistance.

During the worst years of narcoviolence in Colombia, the Plan Colombia provided (check sum) to the Colombian government for countering the cartels. This assistance included training for police forces and military, and high tech surveillance and precision weaponry to target cartel infrastructure and leadership. However, the money and equipment that worked to solve one crisis was being used because they were accompanied by political and military leadership in Colombia willing to make the sacrifices in blood and treasure to defeat the cartels. Furthermore, in conjunction with the Obama administration, Congress has provided $500 million for anti-drug and anti-corruption assistance to the Guatemalan government over two fiscal years, which combines approximations for improving border security and anti-corruption efforts.

In our overview of the region, we also looked at how Latin American nations are, themselves, emphasizing the importance of the rule of law and reforms to governance that improve not only security, but also economic performance and political freedom. In this sense, while US assistance can provide financial and technical support, it is also incumbent upon the US to work with its other hemispheric partners to stabilize these countries.

Again, Colombia’s experience and success in this area makes it a potential exporter of security expertise and assistance to the region. Reforms and economic structures implemented throughout the region, particularly among the nations of the Pacific Alliance, are also tools that can better integrate Central American economies into the regional economy. This combination of improved security and economic opportunity can starve the flames of gangs and corrupt politicians of their fuel.

Around the region, the growth of a vocal middle class has also increased the pressure on corrupt political leaders of Latin America who have demanded more of their political class. The only nations in the region, the assistance the Central American countries receive from the US and other regional partners should also address the need for improved civil society and the independent institutions that foster good governance and the rule of law.

Finally, in confronting the human cost of those fleeing Central America for opportunity elsewhere, we must remember that other nations are our partners in addressing this challenge. The vast majority of those crossing our southern border come from these Central American countries, not the US. The Macri administration in Argentina are now net migrants out of the United States. With the flow of migrants out of Central America, Mexico also finds itself seeking to better secure its southern borders.

Solving this problem—and ensuring that young children do not fall victim to gangs of human traffickers—will require cooperation, not confrontation with Mexico.

The $750 million appropriated to help Central America is a positive first step, but to maximize the return on this investment, it will be necessary for the U.S. to take a regional approach to stabilizing those countries.

Argentina’s Fork in the Road: Choosing Between Competing Narratives

(BY Francis Rooney and Max Angerholzer III)

When the Argentine people go to the polls in October, they will have an opportunity to reject the protectionism and populism that are the hallmarks of current President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner’s government. If they vote for candidate Daniel Scioli, Argentina is set for a more conservative government and policies that will return the country closer to its role as one of the G-20. Whether the new administration can have any impact on Latin America’s current economic model is still an open question. Many believe that with the back-and-forth between the current administration and its American success stories that point towards a more hopeful path, to include the examples set by more conservative governments like those in Colombia and Mexico. There are also several countries that are both geographically and ideologically closer to home for Argentina. Such countries as Brazil, Chile, and Peru will also be watching closely. For one, the future of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas, which includes Brazil and Venezuela, could be determined by the election. Second, President Michelle Bachelet and former President Ricardo Lagos of Chile should also be watching closely. The recent Latin American economic and political turmoil in Argentina should also be more closely integrated into the country into international trade.
and financing institutions. U.S. think tanks that nurture democratic and free market reforms should also do their part. The next Argentinean president will need all the help we can muster to reverse the country of the Kirchner brand of cronyism and statism.

The United States has similarly offered assistance to Colombia and Panama as they implemented comprehensive economic, legal, and security reforms. Greater security and stronger democratic institutions in those countries have led to increased foreign investment, making their economies more globally competitive. As noted, Argentina can also look hopefully at the example of Peru, which has similarly transitioned from a stagnant economy beholden to one that embraces free trade, foreign investment and closer engagement with the United States.

Ultimately, change will have to begin at home with the choice of the Argentinean people in the upcoming election. If the next president decides to break with the past and muster in weaning the country off of the Kirchner brand of cronyism and statism.

Peru, which has similarly transitioned from an economy that nurtured democratic and free market re-

vitalization and a focus on the Middle East and South Asia, propelled by the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, it may have been forced to react to events, many of which are dictated by nations openly hostile to the United States.

Whatever the outcome of November 6th might be, the victor has the opportunity, and the responsibility, to build a vision for the reshaping and revitalizing our relationship with the Western Hemisphere. For the increasingly busy post-campaign transition staffs of President Obama and Governor Romney, it is not too soon to begin laying the groundwork for such a vi-

sion.

In a recent exercise we conducted regarding our Western Hemisphere policies and a way forward, the key items for an economic agenda towards the region.

The OAS, long the main multilateral institu-

tion for the Western Hemisphere, is now on life sup-

port. While it is often an issue that divides the U.S. from other nations in the region, it must also be understood that the oppression, intellectual bankruptcy, and the aging re-

gime of Cuba present a security risk to all of the Americas.

Beyond these economic and security con-

cerns, the vacuum created by the lack of consistent U.S. attention requires a shift in our political approach to the hemisphere. The OAS, along the main multilateral institu-

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port for the OAS, the next President must also build a close multilateral relationship with the leaders from the region. While it is true that many question the utility of the region the President can set forth a U.S. vision for the Western Hemi-

sphere through a summit with the Presi-

dents of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, and the Prime Minister of Canada.

A VISION FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Consider a region with growing economic and geopolitical importance, home to several of our neighboring trading partners with significant migration into and out of the region, and present-

ing security challenges vital to our interests. One would think that such a region would be at the top of the list of our foreign policy priorities.

In reality, this region exists in the Western Hemisphere our attention. Latin America has been sporadic and episodic since the 1980’s and early-1990’s. As we moved away from our Cold War-era attention to the region, we also began to pursue non-traditional means with efforts at greater regional integration. However, we failed to follow these initial ef-

forts with needed follow-on measures and consistent policy, due to divisive and dis-

tracting issues of domestic politics at home and a focus on the Middle East and South Asia, propelled by the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, it may have been forced to react to events, many of which are dictated by nations openly hostile to the United States.

Whatever the outcome of November 6th might be, the victor has the opportunity, and the responsibility, to build a vision for the reshaping and revitalizing our relationship with the Western Hemisphere. For the increasingly busy post-campaign transition staffs of President Obama and Governor Romney, it is not too soon to begin laying the groundwork for such a vi-

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dents of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Such a vision can revitalize our policies and partnerships with the Western Hemi-

sphere. No longer can we take this region for granted. In the coming years, we can view the opportunities presented by a vi-

brant, integrated Western Hemisphere.
I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jill on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.