

prevented by law from learning to read and marriage between two slaves was not recognized by the state. It is argued that the effects of slavery have affected African-Americans and American society to this very day.

In 1807, Britain became the first European nation to ban the slave trade. France, Holland, and the United States soon thereafter passed legislation banning the trade. However, since Spain and Portugal did not follow this example, African slaves continued to be sent to countries in South America until near the end of the 19th century. Even with the end of the slave trade slavery would still be legal across a large part of the United States until the end of the Civil War.

I am compelled to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade because we as a country cannot ever forget this legalized horror and crime against humanity that was allowed to exist in our Nation. A horror that made our American union a less perfect one than it was initially set out to be. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

CONGRATULATING SHOWTIME
STORM DANCE TEAM FOR WIN-
NING THE UNITED STATES ALL
STAR FEDERATION'S WORLD
COMPETITION

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Showtime Studios Dance Team, Showtime Storm from Alamogordo, New Mexico on their success at the United States All Star Federation's World Competition (USASF). This is a competition where young people travel to Disney World to compete against the best dancers from around the world. These 18 students from the Showtime Studio's senior hip hop team showed their diligent work ethic and amazing talent by advancing to the world competition through a series of regional and national dance championships. The hip hop dance team set a high standard for others to follow since 2007 was the first year USASF held the Senior Hip Hop Gold Championship title. The team has overcome adversity on their journey to the championship and I commend them for their dedication and success.

I am proud to recognize the Showtime Storm dance squad for their accomplishments. I specifically want to congratulate, Kelsey Osterholm, Perla Alarcon, Michael Barber, Adam Berg, Samantha Burch, Marco Cardiel, Erica Clausen, Samantha Collins, Bryan Harris, Vanessa Hernandez, Raynee Hopkins, Shawna Jett, Kristina Joyner, Macey Marquardt, Ashley Pacheco, Sarah Santos, Whitney Weise, Lexi Wright, assistant coach Vickie Marquardt, and head coach Lorrie Black.

It is my honor as a Member of Congress to have the chance to congratulate this outstanding group of young people on an achievement their hard work has earned them. Congratulations to each of you, your family, your community, and your congressman are all proud of your achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING
OF THE EAST ALABAMA WATER,
FIRE, AND SEWER PROTECTION
DISTRICT COMPLEX

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate today the dedicated men and women of the East Alabama Water, Fire, and Sewer Protection District Complex for the Open House and Ribbon Cutting of their new facility on May 3, 2007.

The new resource protection complex in Chambers County will help provide greater fire protection and water supplies to the city of Valley and the rural areas of Chambers County. With the growing population in the area, the opening of the facility could not have come at a better time. The new facility has over 24,000 square feet and two buildings, which will help provide space for current operations and storage and add room to grow. Overseeing the operation and management of the new facility will be Mr. Tony Segrest, Ms. Beverly Story, Chief Byron Pigg, Mr. Neal Marberry, Mr. Pat Meacham, and Mr. David Martin.

I salute the men and women of the East Alabama Water, Fire, and Sewer Protection District Complex for their service to the community, and congratulate them at the dedication of this important new facility.

CONGRATULATING NUMBERSUSA
ON ACHIEVING THEIR 10-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to NumbersUSA on achieving its 10-year anniversary. For the past decade, NumbersUSA has worked to advocate for common-sense immigration reforms.

Formed in 1997 by Roy Beck, NumbersUSA has grown dramatically from 300 a decade ago to over 300,000 activist members today. They have provided a voice for the hundreds of thousands of Americans that expect their government to enforce our immigration laws and pursue policies that enhance the security, prosperity, and overall well-being of our Nation.

NumbersUSA honors our immigrant heritage and our commitment to the rule of law through its work toward a more sustainable national immigration policy.

So once again, Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Beck and the staff and members of NumbersUSA on the achievement of this important milestone, and wish them the best of luck in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to personal health reasons, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 270: "yes" rollcall No. 271: "yes", rollcall No. 272 "yes".

A TRIBUTE TO THE SAN ANTONIO
FOOD BANK

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the May 7, 2007 opening of the San Antonio Food Bank's new facility. The Food Bank is vital to those in the greater San Antonio area who need help providing food for themselves and their families. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to this charitable organization on the opening of its new and improved facility.

The Food Bank's new space will allow them to expand the critical services they provide to San Antonio and its neighboring communities. The Food Bank's food storage capacity will increase five fold—from two million pounds of food to storage space for ten million pounds. The facility will house a community center, enabling the center to enlarge its community outreach and improve access to its services. Its large cold storage capacity will allow the Food Bank to further diversify its food selection, maximizing the nutritional value of the products it provides. Additionally, a state-of-the-art kitchen, capable of preparing 50,000 meals is located in the new facility, greatly enhancing the organization's ability to offer Texans emergency food assistance during natural disasters or other emergencies.

This crucial organization began serving southwest Texas in 1980, and its operations continue to grow to meet the needs of Texans facing food-shortage emergencies. As one of the largest operations of its kind in the United States, the Food Bank works with its 380 partner organizations, which include senior citizen centers, church pantry programs, soup kitchens, emergency food shelters, orphanages, after school programs, day care centers and rehabilitation facilities spread across 16 southwest Texas counties, to make over 21 million meals available annually. The Food bank also delivers 40 pound boxes of food to over 40,000 Texas families each month.

The Food Bank is consistently recognized for its good work, including its effective use of funds. In fact, for two years in a row, the Food Bank has received a four-star rating for financial management from Charity Navigator, the country's largest independent evaluator of charities. I am very proud of the important work that the Food Bank conducts, as well as the effective manner in which such work is done.

The message of caring this organization sends through its gift of food to those in need