

bring vital prevention education to more youth throughout San Diego County. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Victories of Spirit event, the recipients of the Victories of Spirit award, and all those who assisted in making this event a success.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4262, THE
SOLVE ACT OF 2004

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4262, the SOLVE Act of 2004, that reforms our nation's immigration laws. This legislation was introduced yesterday by Congressman GUTIERREZ and I am proud to be one of its many original cosponsors.

This bill reunites families by reducing the years or decades of family separation caused by backlogs and harsh restrictions.

Under this bill, immigrants waiting more than 5 years will be given a visa outside the per-country limits. In addition, immediate relatives would no longer count against the 480,000 limit on family-based visas. If we truly value the family unit, we cannot keep in place policies that tear it apart.

We must reward work by granting immigrants who work hard and pay taxes the opportunity to earn a green card.

This bill will allow immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for 5 years and worked for 2 years to be eligible for legalization, including spouse and children.

Also, immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for less than 5 years would be eligible for a 3-year visa. The visa will allow immigrants to live, work, and travel legally in the U.S., and apply for a green card after two years of work history.

Congressman GUTIERREZ' bill respects workers by protecting wages and working conditions for U.S. workers.

This proposal creates a new visa for low-skilled workers, such as agricultural farm workers. These workers will be paid a prevailing wage so that Americans do not suffer from lower wages, and the bill makes sure companies hire American workers first.

The confusing system we have today is so difficult to navigate that it encourages many to immigrate illegally as a first resort.

According to the Department of Labor, our economy will need a stable supply of legal immigrants to maintain our economy.

Hospitals in California are importing nurses from South East Asia and Latin America because of a nursing shortage. Restaurants and other service jobs are hiring immigrants to fill in thousands of vacancies.

The fact is that we can reduce illegal immigration by having fair and reasonable immigration laws.

Our government must work hard to prevent people and businesses from violating our laws. That is why we must support comprehensive immigration reform.

Our current system loves immigrants one day and hates them the next. We need a system that is logical, orderly and sympathetic to human needs. This system forces the average Mexican and Filipino to wait over ten years before being reunited with their spouse.

Some people will claim that this bill opens our borders. That is false. The SOLVE Act simply brings order to an immigration system that is broken.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BROWN V. BOARD
OF EDUCATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision.

This month we honor and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, a landmark decision that not only desegregated public schools, but led to the desegregation of every segment of our society. Half a century ago, on May 17, 1954, the Brown decision advanced the Constitutional principle that every American should be guaranteed equal protection of the laws.

In this decision, the United States Supreme Court declared, "in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place." It was Brown that reversed Plessy v. Ferguson, the case that established this "separate but equal" doctrine, which stamped Africans Americans with a badge of inferiority as articulated by Judge John Marshall Harlan, the lone dissenter in Plessy.

Brown commenced an era that began to strip African Americans and other minorities of this badge of inferiority. With Brown, millions of minorities and women would be afforded educational opportunities. This decision also provided momentum to the Civil Rights Movement and this nation would come to realize change not just within the realm of education, but in other segments of society as well.

The Brown decision helped lead to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which advanced the idea that discrimination in the workplace and in public establishments would not be tolerated. The decision also helped lead to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which promotes every American's right to participate in the political process and the Fair Housing Act of 1968 which promotes equal and fair access to housing for every American.

Fifty years after Brown, however, the pursuit for equal rights and equal opportunity for every American citizen continues. This notion can best be evidenced by statistics that reflect the socio-economic disparities within the African American community:

In March 2004, the Department of Labor reported that 10 percent of African Americans were unemployed, compared to 5 percent of white Americans.

In 2003, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) or "the nation's report card" indicated that 60 percent of African American fourth graders were not reading at a fourth grade level, compared to 25 percent of white American fourth graders.

In 2003, the Kaiser Family Foundation estimated that 20 percent of African Americans were uninsured, compared to 12 percent of white Americans.

In 2003, United for a Fair Economy (UFE) reported that 24 percent of African Americans live in poverty, compared to 8 percent of white Americans.

It is because of such disparities that this resolution calls upon Congress to do more than celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Brown decision by noting its historical significance. This resolution asks Congress to renew its commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown with a pledge to acknowledge and address the modern day disparities that perpetuate a separate and unequal society.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUTH
SUMMONS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Ruth Summons. Ruth's long life of one hundred years saw many changes, and her kind soul touched many lives. Her journey ended in Colorado, a place that she loved dearly, and where she chose to spend her retirement. As her family and friends mourn her passing, I believe it appropriate to call to attention her legacy before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Ruth was born to a family of eight children in Louisiana, where she attended a one-room schoolhouse. Her adventurous spirit carried her to Texas for business school, and then on to Denver, where she worked as a secretary in a law firm for forty-seven years. Ruth met her husband Harold at a singles dance for seniors in Denver, and they married and moved to Grand Junction to enjoy their retirement. Ruth lived her life in such a way that her husband will forever remember her, saying: "there wasn't a better woman on Earth."

Mr. Speaker, Ruth Summons lived a long and full life, and she will be sorely missed by those fortunate to have known her. It is my honor to recognize her life before this body of Congress and this nation. I would like to extend my heartfelt respects to her family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

HONORING NORA BUTLER OF
CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor the contributions that Ms. Nora Butler, one of our most active community members, has made to the 36th Ward in the 5th Congressional District and Chicago's North Side.

At 91 years young, Ms. Butler still is going strong. She is an instrumental volunteer at Alderman William J.P. Banks' service office, and still serves as a precinct captain for the ward. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm during this past March's primary election would have been remarkable for someone even half her

age, and I cannot wait to see the results that her renewed efforts will bring in November.

Born in San Bernardino, California, Ms. Butler was raised in Springfield, Illinois, and moved to Chicago after high school seeking employment. During her younger years, she served in a variety of posts for the Chicago Park District.

For the last 40 years, Ms. Butler has worked as a precinct captain and assistant precinct captain for the 36th Ward. She loves reaching out to people and is willing to do whatever it takes—from placing lawn signs to driving residents to and from the grocery store—all to make her community a better place.

Alderman Banks' staff at the 36th Ward Office look toward Ms. Butler as an inspiring example of a truly dedicated public servant through her spirit of volunteerism and her commitment of time two days per week to provide assistance to the staff with correspondence, answering phones, and constituent service.

Mary Aiello, an aide to the Alderman, put it best in her description of Ms. Butler's personality and grace: "No matter where you go with her, she is always friendly, gracious and interested in helping anybody who needs or wants anything. She is always conscious of other people's needs and concerns."

Ms. Aiello also provided an example that underlines Ms. Butler's selfless dedication. Each year she is charged with the important assignment of organizing Alderman Banks' annual senior citizens' function. Instead of just relaxing and enjoying the event, Ms. Butler serves food and does everything she can do to make sure the other seniors are having a good time. She is also involved with the monthly senior citizens' meetings at the Mont Clare Baptist Church.

Ms. Butler's positive outlook and uplifting sense of humor are evident to all who know her. Although residents of the 36th Ward are often surprised to learn that the woman helping them is 91, she recently said, "They always tell me I should run for office."

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Butler for her many years of dedicated service and for the assistance she has given to so many residents of the 5th Congressional District. I hope her uplifting spirit, warm smile, and infectious personality will remain a presence in the 36th Ward for many more years to come. I am very proud to represent Nora Butler.

IN RECOGNITION OF CINCO DE MAYO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Cinco de Mayo, an important day in the Mexican community. In recent years the holiday of Cinco de Mayo or The Fifth Of May has gained much popularity in American culture. However, it is not, as many people believe a celebration of Mexican Independence. Mexico's actual Independence Day is September 16. Cinco de Mayo memorializes the Mexican army's triumph over the French at The Battle of Puebla in 1862. Cinco de Mayo pays homage to an ill prepared militia of about 4,500 overcoming what appeared to be the in-

surmountable well outfitted French army of 6,500 soldiers. This victory was a glorious moment in Mexican history, thus Cinco de Mayo is remembered.

Cinco de Mayo's increased popularity is apparent in the innumerable celebrations along the U.S.-Mexico border and in parts of the U.S. that have a high population of people with a Mexican heritage. In these areas the holiday is a celebration of Mexican culture, of food, music, beverage and customs unique to Mexico. This date provides me with a welcome opportunity to recognize and appreciate the contributions being made by the growing Mexican-American communities across the United States. We in New York City and in my community are benefiting from the dynamic presence of this vibrant culture.

It is important that on this day of remembrance that we do not let the message of triumph in the face of adversity be overridden by festivals, food, and music. Let us never forget the great contributions that Mexican-Americans have made and continue to make to our nation. Their presence is apparent in politics, arts, athletics, entertainment, military excellence, science, culinary arts, and embedded in the American language.

On this important day we must recognize that the Mexican-American contribution to our nation is similar to the many other immigrant groups that came to our great nation with the same hopes of self-betterment and the pursuit of the American Dream. On Thanksgiving we commemorate the Pilgrims and Native Americans overcoming the harshness of winter and settlement into the New World, which speaks to the overcoming the seemingly insuperable.

Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the power of faith in the face of adversity. It is rooted in our nation's history that in order to achieve greatness we must find the power within ourselves and never give up. If we are able to work hard and never lose faith then the sky is the limit. It is this exact belief that Cinco de Mayo truly embodies. Thus, this date has yet to receive the official recognition that it deserves. I sincerely hope and believe that one day Cinco de Mayo will be a designated national holiday.

COLONIAL HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT—IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Colonial Heights Fire Department, in celebration of their 75th Anniversary.

The Colonial Heights Fire Department was organized in 1929, and operated with 12 volunteers. The first Fire Chief was Benjamin Keys. Today there are 45 career personnel and 35 volunteers for the department. The fire department has been instrumental in saving lives during times of natural disasters, as well as other disastrous occasions.

The fire department has worked closely with the community to ensure the best quality of care for the citizens of Colonial Heights. In times of disaster, the community has been able to rely on the dedicated and dependable men and women of the fire department. In

1982, the Colonial Heights Fire Department was instrumental in the evacuation of North Elementary School, and the chemical cleanup that ensued for two weeks.

When other agencies are unable to respond, the fire department ensures that the citizen's emergencies are given proper attention. With the establishment of the Emergency Medical Services in 1987, the fire department has been able to expand the services that it provides. Prior to 1987 the department received approximately 300–350 calls per year. Over 7,000 calls were received last year related to medical needs, public service and fire assistance.

In addition to the life saving efforts of the Colonial Heights Fire Department, two scholarship programs have been established for students wanting to pursue careers in either a medical or fire fighting related field. In recognition of their many valiant efforts, the fire department has been recognized by the American Legion, the Optimist and the Moose.

Throughout the 75 years of operation in Colonial Heights, the fire department has been persistent in delivering quality care and service to those in need. The community has benefited immensely from the Colonial Heights Fire Department's resounding success, and distinguished years of service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Colonial Heights Fire Department in celebration of their 75th Anniversary of loyal and dedicated service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHET ALLEN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Chet Allen of Grand Junction, Colorado. His efforts and vision earned his business, Boomers nightclub on Main Street in Grand Junction, the designation "The Best of the West places to go for people over thirty" by Daily Sentinel readers. Since opening Boomers in 2002, Chet has helped revitalize Main Street, as well as spread his love of Blues, Jazz, and art, all of which figure prominently in Boomers atmosphere.

Chet came to Grand Junction in 1981 as an engineer for the Rio Grande Zephyr Railroad. He and his wife Janet fell in love with the town and decided to stay, but felt the town was somewhat lacking in nightlife. In 2000, he and his wife purchased and renovated an old furniture warehouse on Main Street, expecting to lease it to someone who would turn it into a downtown hotspot. When the first tenants failed, Chet and Janet took the task upon themselves, and thanks to their responsiveness to the community needs, Boomers has thrived since opening in September 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Chet Allen before this body of Congress and this nation. Through his vision and determination, he has made remarkable contributions to his community. I sincerely thank him for his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.