

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

must be heard and acted upon by us all. The San Antonio Food Bank, and organizations like it, provide success stories that inspire us to action. While its new expanded facility is evidence of a growing need for emergency food services, it also demonstrates a will on the part of our community to address these needs.

On the occasion of the opening of the San Antonio Food Bank's new facility, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the organization's hard working staff on their service to the community and to congratulate them on their continuing efforts to ensure that all Texans are fed.

IN HONOR OF JANE ITOGAWA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a wonderful woman who has served the Federal government for over forty years. This week, Jane Itoigawa will be retiring from the Office of the Federal Defender, Eastern District of California after a distinguished career. As her colleagues, friends and family gather to celebrate her retirement, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding Sacramento resident and public servant.

In 1971 Sacramento's Office of the Federal Defender was established and E. Richard Walker was named the first Federal Defender. Within a year, a then Jane Hashiaka was selected to serve as the Secretary to the Federal Defender. Prior to that position Jane had worked for the Treasury Department, Department of Justice and the Department of Agriculture.

However, it was with the Office of the Federal Defender, where those unable to retain legal counsel are provided representation in front of the court, that Jane found a home that would last for 35 years. Since starting as the office's secretary, she has been promoted to Administrative Assistant and then the position of Administrative Officer. At each position Jane's colleagues remarked that her dedication to the office was unmatched and that she consistently went above and beyond the call of duty.

On June 1st 1976, Jane married Eugene Itoigawa. Last year the couple celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. They have one daughter, Michele Itoigawa. In her spare time Jane gives back to the community by staying active with the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, where she assists with the church's annual Japanese Food and Cultural Bazaar.

Madam Speaker, as Jane Itoigawa enters retirement, I am truly honored to pay tribute to a friend and dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Jane, her husband Gene and daughter Michelle continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING A.W. ZENGELER
CLEANERS ON THEIR SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 150th Anniversary of Zengeler Cleaners, a well established family-owned business in my district. The Zengeler family exemplify the highest work ethic and the very spirit of achieving the American Dream.

John Zengeler established "The New York Steam Dye Works," a clothing cleaning business, at 208 South Clark St. in Chicago in 1857. He then moved the business to S. Prairie St. in 1866, which was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. He rebuilt on S. Cottage Grove Ave. in Chicago and John's eldest son Arthur W. ("A.W.") Zengeler joined his father in the business in 1896. They opened a new location as A.W. Zengeler Cleaners in 1906.

In 1930, A.W.'s sons, Ralph, Art and Al, became active in the business, with Ralph becoming the third generation of leadership in 1948. Following that tradition, Ralph's son Robert became the fourth generation to lead the family business; and three of Robert's six children—Robert, Jr., Michael, and Thomas—became the fifth generation of the Zengeler family to join the business. Six years ago, Thomas Zengeler became President and the fifth generation leader of the family-owned company.

Over the years, Zengeler Cleaners has grown to seven stores in Lake and Cook Counties, with an eighth store planned to open later in 2007. The business is now home to 145 employees, 27 of whom have been with the company for 20 years or more. It is a strong contributor to our local economy in the 10th Congressional District of Illinois.

This year we pause to celebrate the company's 150th Anniversary and a proud history in which it overcame the Great Chicago Fire, the Civil War, two World Wars and the Great Depression, emerging as one of the premier fabric care specialists in the United States.

I commend the Zengeler family for successfully passing down their proud work ethic and commitment to quality for 150 years and through five generations.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN HALL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, this week, the Association of California of Water Agencies, representative of private and public water experts, marks the coming retirement of its Executive Director, Steven Hall. He is a person who knows that water is the life-blood of California, and has been a key figure in planning for our state's future.

Steven Hall has held that position since 1992 and has helped formulate and guide the development and allocation of the water resources upon which the entire California population and agricultural production are depend-

ent. Representing the urban and agricultural users of California, the association is the largest of its kind and has an enormous impact on citizens and consumers throughout the nation.

Prior to assuming his responsibilities at A.C.W.A., Steven Hall was Executive Director of the California Farm Water Coalition, which he founded. The Coalition was a first-of-its-kind coalition of agricultural water users and water agencies which developed strategic information and policy related to agricultural water use in the state. He was instrumental in enactment of major water transfer legislation and related issues.

For 4 years prior to his work at the Coalition, he founded and directed the Land Preservation Association which developed and implemented policy on irrigation and drainage in California. He helped develop policy and funding solutions for impacted agricultural land as well as serving on policy and technical work groups formulating recommendations to state and federal policy makers.

Perhaps his greatest achievement was lead negotiator in the three-way efforts between agricultural, urban and environmental water users that led to creation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. CALFED is a unique collaboration among 25 state and federal agencies with a mission of improving water supplies in California and the health of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, a body of water on which two-thirds of California's citizens depend for water. As a result of the early work of the program, the California Bay-Delta Authority was formed to oversee the program's implementation, and Congress adopted the plan in 2004. Steve Hall was a guiding force behind these accomplishments, and he leaves much of his work as his legacy.

Steve Hall is a friend and role model to all of us who know him. His passion for family and friends is well-known. Steve's ability to combine humor with work has made public policy efforts productive and enjoyable.

At the end of the day, we are all judged by how we handle success and adversity. No one has demonstrated any better than our friend Steve Hall on how we deal with life's challenges. Let the record clearly state that Steve Hall is a true gentleman and a class act.

I join the other members of the California Congressional delegation and all of Steve's friends in wishing him well, and congratulating him for the depth and scope of his accomplishments that have affected all California.

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S
HEALTH INITIATIVE OF NAPA
COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Children's Health Initiative of Napa County for the excellent work it has done to expand health insurance coverage to all of Napa County's children. By trying to ensure that every child in Napa County has some form of health insurance, the Children's Health Initiative is working to improve the quality of life for all children and families in Napa County.

The Children's Health Initiative was founded in 2005 with the goal of providing insurance