

26,000 attending members of the 2008 Centennial Boulé to their founding place of Washington, DC.

PLANO WEST BASEBALL CAP-
TURES NATIONAL CHAMPS
TITLE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, recently I congratulated the new high school baseball national championship team—Plano West Senior High School.

I also want to recognize additional people who contributed to the Wolves. Coaches: Greg Pierce, Assistant Coach; Greg Coutermarsh, Assistant Coach; Denny Garver, Assistant Coach. Players: Dustin Ellis; Sam Roberson; Ronnie Cooper—Student Manager; Karen Clark—Bat boy.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
175TH ANNIVERSARY OF SALEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Salem Lutheran Church is celebrating its 175th anniversary; and

Whereas, the congregation of Salem Lutheran continue to be active, enthusiastic members of our community; and

Whereas, the 175th anniversary of Salem Lutheran Church has drawn new and old congregation members to Evans Creek, Ohio to celebrate the life of their church: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Salem Lutheran Church and its congregation for their unwavering commitment, dedication and contributions to their community and country in recognition of their 175 years.

HONORING THE NEIGHBORHOOD
REVITALIZATION TAX CREDIT
PROGRAM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

MR. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the achievements of the Neighbor Revitalization Tax Credit Program in New Jersey. This program allows New Jersey Corporations to allocate State corporate tax dollars to specific and approved nonprofit programs that revitalize a community.

Sanofi-Aventis pharmaceuticals took advantage of this program and dedicated \$1 million of their State corporate tax dollars to the Unity Square project. This project will acquire and develop 11 housing units for New Brunswick residents.

In addition to subsidizing the new housing, a portion of the funds will also be used to hire a nurse practitioner and a registered nurse to work extended hours at a local health clinic. The extended hours will enable the clinic to serve an additional 400 to 500 patients a year who would otherwise not receive medical care.

It is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Sanofi-Aventis, New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill, and the State of New Jersey for their dedication and creativity addressing unmet housing and medical needs.

PROMOTING HOMEOWNERSHIP AND
FAIR LENDING PRACTICES FOR
ALL AMERICANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution calling on Congress to support the goal of increased and sustainable homeownership in the United States. It is absolutely vital that Congress recommit itself to the importance of homeownership programs, fair lending laws, and fair housing laws in achieving the goal of homeownership.

My legislation has been updated from its previous introduction as H. Con. Res. 107 of the 109th Congress to reflect the current status of the housing market and the enduring need to improve access to homeownership. Once again, this resolution would put Congress on record recognizing fair lending and housing laws enacted to prevent and combat discriminatory practices which undermine homeownership efforts for all Americans.

Today, the current foreclosure crisis is a major stumbling block on the road to homeownership. Many are finding it increasingly difficult to achieve the American Dream of homeownership, which was beyond reach even before the emergence of our current crisis. When it comes to the health and vitality of America's communities, affordable housing is key. Congress has a responsibility to foster and promote an active, growing, and fair housing market in light of the significant stress this market experienced in 2007 and 2008. Most Americans' primary investment is in their home, and homeownership is the most common way for families to build and pass on wealth from one generation to another.

This resolution recognizes how important the establishment of homeownership programs and fair lending and housing laws have been to equalizing access to homeownership for all Americans. In particular, eliminating the disparities in homeownership rates between white families and minority families continues to be a goal of critical importance. In 2008, the homeownership rate for white Americans was 72 percent, but the rate was only 47.2 percent for African Americans and 49.7 percent for Hispanic Americans. With almost 4,000,000 fair housing violations occurring annually, we must continue to support efforts aimed at ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to own a home.

This resolution also recognizes the detriment of predatory lending practices, which principally occur in the subprime market, and

their contribution to the housing market's worst slump in 16 years. As many as 2 million Americans will see their mortgage rates increase in the next 2 years. We must address the plight of borrowers victimized by predatory lenders and high priced mortgage alternatives by advocating consumer protections against abusive practices.

Madam Speaker, I first introduced this legislation with a number of my colleagues in 2005 and eventually garnered the support of 31 co-sponsors. To once again express the commitment of Congress to promoting homeownership, I have made a few key updates to this legislation. They reflect the current status of the housing market marred by the residual impacts of predatory lending practices, primarily in the sub-prime loan market. This legislation has also been updated to recognize specific initiatives to stem the rise of foreclosures.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friends who have joined me today to introduce this legislation, as well as the National Fair Housing Alliance, Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, all of which have endorsed the resolution. I encourage my colleagues to support this necessary legislation and look forward to its expedient passage.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Special Olympics on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary. Special Olympics is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for athletes. In addition, every two years, athletes from all over the world come together to compete in the Special Olympics World Games. The United States and the State of Idaho are proud and honored to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. This event will attract more than 3,000 athletes from over 100 nations to compete in seven Winter Olympic-type sporting events. This will be the largest multi-sport event ever held in the State of Idaho.

On July 23, 2007, my colleagues in the House of Representatives and I unanimously passed a resolution commending Idaho on winning the bid to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. Among other things, this resolution expresses Congress's support for the 2009 Games, congratulates Idaho as the host of the Games, and applauds the goals of the Special Olympics to enrich the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through sports.

Madam Speaker, I have been privileged to work closely with Special Olympics and its staff both in Idaho and Washington, DC. I would like to commend the organization for the great work that it is doing on behalf of the thousands of Special Olympians throughout

the world. I would also like to thank the thousands of volunteers and coaches who donate their time and energy to support this great program. I am pleased to recognize Special Olympics International for 40 years of service and commitment to the many Special Olympians both in America and across the globe.

12TH ANNIVERSARY OF TWA
FLIGHT 800 TRAGEDY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, today is the 12th anniversary of the TWA Flight 800 tragedy, which took the lives of 230 men, women and children off the south shore of my district on Long Island.

We must keep alive the memory of those who perished over the Atlantic on July 17, 1996—just 12 minutes after departing for home, school trips, and to visit loved ones.

Just as important, the anguished families of the Flight 800 victims deserve our recognition. As do the emergency personnel, volunteers and other Long Islanders who selflessly worked for days on end in the recovery efforts.

As we recall that fateful day, we must also examine what steps the FAA has taken to safeguard the flying public and prevent a similar catastrophe from occurring as a result of defective fuel tanks.

After 12 years, the FAA finally issued a rule today requiring flammability reduction in new and existing fuel tanks, as well as new design standards and operating rules for retrofitting existing planes.

Madam Speaker, again, my deepest condolences go to the surviving families and friends of the Flight 800 crash victims. And my thanks to everyone who helped memorialize those who died 12 years ago today and who have worked toward making sure the flying public is safer today.

KATHERINE AYDEN HOLLINGS-
WORTH CREECH MAKES HER
MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zeke Creech, formerly of my staff, and his wife Bess on the birth of their first child, Katherine Ayden Hollingsworth Creech. Katherine was born on June 16, 2008, and weighed 7 pounds and 13 ounces. Faye joins me in wishing Zeke and Bess great happiness during this very special time in their lives.

As a father and grandfather myself, I know the joy, pride, and excitement that parents experience upon the entrance of their child into the world. Representing hope, goodness, and innocence, a newborn allows those around her to see the world through her eyes as a new, fresh place with unending possibilities for the future. Through a child, one is able to recognize and appreciate the full potential of the human race. I know Zeke and Bess look for-

ward to the changes and challenges that their new daughter will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch her grow.

I welcome young Katherine into the world and wish Zeke and Bess all the best as they raise her.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE
PROTECTION ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Health Insurance Coverage Protection Act. This bill addresses a serious problem for those Americans with chronic diseases or disabilities who have a lifetime cap on their insurance benefits and I'm proud to introduce this much-needed legislation.

Most people are unaware that more than half of all private health insurance policies in the U.S. have a lifetime cap on benefits. Once a cap is reached, these individuals are released from their healthcare plans and forced to pay for their expenses out of pocket, try to qualify for Medicaid or other State programs, or seek free care from hospitals or other providers. Some people who reach their limits may forego treatment or use fewer services, which can result in higher costs of care in the future. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation's 2007 Annual Survey of Employer Health Benefits, over half of employer-sponsored health plans set aggregate lifetime caps on covered benefits, which are most typically set at \$2 to \$3 million.

It's not a secret that medical expenditures have grown much faster than inflation, especially for those with chronic diseases and disabilities. Increasing the minimum lifetime cap will result in a net savings for Federal and State governments by allowing individuals with high medical costs to maintain private insurance rather than be forced onto Medicaid.

The Health Insurance Coverage Protection Act will phase in an increase in the lifetime caps placed on private group health insurance plans, reaching \$10 million in 4 years. The bill also calls for an Institute of Medicine study to determine the number of individuals that reach their lifetime caps.

People shouldn't have to job-hop in order to switch insurance plans or quit their job altogether to access Medicaid. This legislation will protect individuals who do have insurance and are still struggling to pay for expensive medical treatments due to their long-term medical conditions.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House on this bill and with Senator DORGAN, who has introduced the legislation in the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPECIAL
OLYMPICS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I rise today in recognition of an organization that is influ-

ential in the lives of millions across this Nation and around the world. Since 1968, the Special Olympics has celebrated those who triumph in the face of adversity and achieve victory despite insurmountable odds. This organization recognizes the ineffable beauty of human life and emphasizes the dignity of people with intellectual disabilities.

In 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded the Special Olympics in honor of her sister, Rosemary. The first games were hosted at Soldier Field in Chicago, and featured over 1,000 participants from the United States and Canada. Since that time, the Special Olympics has become one of our Nation's greatest exports, serving 2.5 million athletes in over 180 nations and offering year-round training and competition in 30 Olympic-type winter and summer sports.

The Fifth District of New Jersey holds two major venues of our Winter Games each year: Campqaw in Mahwah features cross country skiing and snowshoeing, while Mountain Creek in Vernon holds alpine skiing and snowboarding.

Earlier this year, I was honored to have John Rosati, a Special Olympics participant from Mercer County, visit my office. In addition, I would like to recognize one of my own constituents, Kelley Sue Martin of Closter. Not only does she compete in alpine skiing, bowling, and track and field, but she also serves as a spokesperson for Special Olympics New Jersey and speaks at community and fund-raising events throughout the state.

As the Special Olympics celebrates its 40th birthday on July 20, I join my colleagues in recognizing the indelible impact left by this exceptional organization. Over the past four decades, the Special Olympics has been an effective catalyst for social change. Special Olympians develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence, and a more positive self-image. Participants grow mentally, socially and spiritually. They exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm while enjoying the rewards of friendship and discovering new abilities and talents.

Few creeds sum up the American Spirit better than the oath of the Special Olympics: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." I applaud the Special Olympics for providing an arena for athletes to follow this creed.

TRIBUTE TO THE 40TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE SPECIAL OLYM-
PICS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Special Olympics. Special Olympics began through the dreams, work, and dedication of Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Mrs. Shriver, along with her son Timothy Shriver, and countless volunteers have made the dream of the Special Olympics a reality for 40 years now.

The Special Olympics embody the real American Dream—a world where everybody matters, where everybody counts and everybody gives their all. For four decades, Special