

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BRANDON JAMES  
HELLYER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon James Hellyer of Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Brandon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 6123, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Brandon has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon James Hellyer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING THE 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF TELACU AND  
THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
TELACU'S EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize TELACU, an organization based in East Los Angeles in my 34th Congressional District, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary and to recognize TELACU's Education Foundation on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

TELACU, which stands for The East Los Angeles Community Union, is a pioneer in empowering and revitalizing communities in our great State of California and throughout our Nation. In 1968, TELACU was born as a Community Development Corporation (CDC) through seed money appropriated by Congress. Since then, TELACU has grown to become the largest CDC in the Nation with more than \$500 million in assets.

For 40 years, under the innovative and dynamic leadership of David C. Lizárraga who serves as Chairman, President and CEO of TELACU, this corporation has provided our young people and families with the tools they need to achieve the American dream. Through its core businesses, TELACU has created thousands of jobs, affordable homes, loans to small businesses and families, and most importantly, numerous educational opportunities for our Latino community.

In response to crisis-level dropout rates for Latino students in college, TELACU created

the TELACU Education Foundation 25 years ago. Working in partnership with a vast network of colleges, universities, corporations and individuals, the TELACU Education Foundation has awarded millions of dollars in scholarships to thousands of deserving students.

As the centerpiece of the foundation, the TELACU Scholarship Program annually provides scholarships to 600 college and graduate students who are the first in their families to access higher education. Realizing that financial resources alone cannot fully meet these students' needs, the program also provides the scholars with comprehensive academic and career guidance to ensure that all of them graduate.

The foundation also serves an additional 2,000 elementary, middle and high school students, nursing students, and veterans. Through comprehensive educational programs, these scholars are not only inspired to pursue higher education, but are also equipped to meet the rigorous expectations of college. As a result, 100 percent of TELACU's high school students earn their high school diploma and continue on to pursue post-secondary education.

Madam Speaker, on the occasions of TELACU's 40th anniversary and its Education Foundation's 25th anniversary, I join today with fellow leaders throughout my State in commending David Lizárraga and these dynamic institutions for their extraordinary efforts to empower our young people and our communities, and I wish them many years of continued success ahead.

CONGRATULATING THE CHESTNUT  
LOG MIDDLE SCHOOL READING  
TEAM

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor another great accomplishment by students in my Congressional district. Congratulations to members of the Chestnut Log Middle School Reading Team of Douglasville, GA, for their back to back wins at the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. This competition was held at the University of Georgia in Athens on March 1, 2008.

For the competition, students read twenty books recognized as Georgia Book Award Nominees and earned the most points by correctly answering questions from each of these novels. Chestnut Log's team qualified for the state competition by first competing at the Douglas County Reading Bowl in January, followed by the regional competition at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton in February. Last week, they became consecutive state champions.

I want to recognize the members and coaches of the Chestnut Log Middle School Reading Team. Many of last year's winners

participated again including Seth Blair, Isaac Carter, and Zachary Fowler, as well as new participants Hannah Drosky, Jordan Raley, Rashard Leonard, Gavin Finch and Andrew Hater. I also wish to recognize coaches Jan Easterwood, Margaret Robbins and Susan Bissell for their continued guidance of this team and their strong devotion to fostering good reading habits among youth in the 13th Congressional District.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I am thrilled to once again recognize Chestnut Log Middle School's Reading Bowl team for their continued success. I want to commend these students for this achievement and I wish them much success in their future academic pursuits.

15TH ANNUAL PATRIOTIC DAY  
CELEBRATION

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Annual Patriotic Day Celebration at Kyrene Akimel A-al Middle School, taking place this Friday, April 4, 2009. The Parent Teacher Student Organization has organized this wonderful event for Kyrene Akimel A-al for the past 15 years.

Since its inception in 1992, Kyrene Akimel A-al has been committed to educating their students about the responsibilities of citizenship and about the sacrifices and bravery of those who make our freedom possible. In 1994, Kyrene Akimel A-al was named a World War II Commemorative School. It is the only middle school in Arizona to achieve this honor. This was also the first year that Patriotic Day was designated by Kyrene Akimel A-al to honor the contributions and sacrifices of all of America's Veterans.

I am hopeful that this event will teach the students of Kyrene Akimel A-al Middle School, and its surrounding community, to honor the actions of our nation's veterans for years to come. I commend the school and its excellent Parent Teacher Student Organization for taking on this amazing project.

SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION  
OF NATIONAL FOOT HEALTH  
MONTH

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Foot Health Awareness Month and the critical role that podiatric physicians play in our national health care system. Combined, two feet contain one

• 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.

quarter of all the bones in the human body, and an average day of walking puts the equivalent of several hundred tons of pressure on the feet. Given this degree of stress, it is perhaps no surprise that over half of all Americans experience foot pain at some point in their lives.

Podiatrists are at the forefront of expert foot health care. Podiatrists are physicians who specialize in foot and ankle care and who have been trained to diagnose and treat foot and ankle ailments. Their scope of practice includes performing foot and ankle surgery.

Throughout April, podiatrists will be engaged in a national awareness campaign titled "Podiatrists Keep America Walking," timed to coincide with National Foot Health Awareness Month. This year's "Podiatrists Keep America Walking" campaign will focus on children's foot health. Consistent with this theme, podiatrists will educate expectant mothers about foot ailments experienced by pregnant women, and parents about steps they can take to protect their children from foot abnormalities.

Foot pain is no mere inconvenience, and it should not be treated lightly or ignored. In many cases, persistent foot pain or recurring injuries can be the first sign of a serious condition, such as diabetes, anemia, arthritis, and certain circulatory disorders. Paying close attention to foot health, and taking regular advantage of the care provided by a podiatrist, can often aid in the early diagnosis of these and other conditions.

Americans living with diabetes must be particularly mindful of foot health. Diabetes is a chronic and potentially life-threatening illness impacting approximately 21 million Americans. Foot care is especially important for those living with diabetes because the risk is great for developing a foot ulcer that could become infected, and might ultimately result in amputation.

In fact, diabetes is the leading cause of non-traumatic lower extremity amputation, and experts estimate that 86,000 lower limbs are amputated every year as a consequence of diabetes-related complications. Among those living with diabetes, Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics and older men are most vulnerable to foot ailments. However, regular and expert foot care can significantly reduce the likelihood of amputation by helping to ensure early diagnosis and successful treatment.

The growing epidemics of diabetes and obesity and their concurrent complications are among many reasons why podiatric physicians are an important part of America's health care team. Madam Speaker, I applaud doctors of podiatric medicine for their vital contributions to the health of all Americans, and urge all Americans to be vigilant not only during National Foot Health Awareness Month, but throughout the year.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. FORBUSS

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert Forbuss, who is being honored by the Clark County School District in the naming of the Robert L. Forbuss Elementary School.

Robert is a native Nevadan who has served this community for nearly four decades as an educator, elected official, businessman, and community advocate. After earning his degrees in Political Science and Public Administration from Long Beach State University, Robert returned to Las Vegas and began his professional career as a teacher at Bishop Gorman High School from 1972–1979. He then served on the Clark County School Board of Trustees for eight years and was an influential advocate for education initiatives in Southern Nevada.

While working as a teacher, Robert became an Emergency Medical Technician and worked during his summer breaks for Mercy Medical Services, a company he would later own. Under Robert's leadership, Mercy became a model operation for paramedic services. In the business community, Mr. Forbuss has served as both a board member of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and as its Chairman. He is also the founder of Commercial Bank of Nevada now called Colonial Bank. Today, Robert is the President of Strategic Alliances, a consulting company working in the area of government relations, business development, strategic planning, and issues management.

Additionally, Mr. Forbuss was a Board Member of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority for six years, a member of the Clark County Master Transportation Plan Funding Committee, the Mayor's Committee for a Better Community, Chairman of the Las Vegas Housing Authority and the Governor's 2007 Transition Team.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Mr. Robert L. Forbuss and I congratulate him on this well deserved distinction by the Clark County School District.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 2008 CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARDEES FOR MINNESOTA'S SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 14 exemplary high school students from every corner of Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. Last week, I had the privilege of meeting several of them when I presented them with the Congressional Certificate of Merit. This program is a time-honored tradition that so many Members of Congress have used throughout the years to recognize the academic achievements and outstanding citizenship of America's high school students.

Far too often, the evening news and daily papers are littered with stories of young America gone awry. It is easy to forget that these are just stories of the few bad apples. But just being in the presence of these tremendous students is enough to renew anyone's faith in our future. These young adults are shining stars, with strong academic records, extraordinary talents, great ambitions, and limitless energy.

It was a true honor to be able to present these students with this recognition: Geoffrey Bible, Apollo High School; Matthew Brown, Elk

River High School; Erika Bullert, Holdingford High School; Melissa Cedarholm, Woodbury High School; Jessie Hansen, New Life Academy; Laura Kant, Delano High School; Kayla Kastanek, Kimball Area High School; Jennifer Klippen, Becker High School; Meggie O'Keefe, Andover High School; Kyle Oliverius, Monticello High School; Elizabeth Swanson, Stillwater Area High School; Dana Van Bruggen, Buffalo High School; Rebekah Wolden, Rivers Christian Academic; and Jacob Young, Howard Lake Waverly Winstead High School.

Each of these students was nominated by his or her school principal. Each of them has earned our accolades and admiration.

#### HONORING AARON JOSEPH FOY

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Joseph Foy of Liberty, Missouri. Aaron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Joseph Foy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Israel on its 60th anniversary of independence on May 14, 2008.

Since Israel's birth it has been a beacon of inspiration and hope for oppressed people all across the globe, and Israel has continued to flourish by striving for peace and prosperity even in the face of the violence that has tormented it since its declaration of independence.

Israel and the United States have been close friends and allies for the past 60 years.

Our relations have evolved from an initial American policy of sympathy and support for the creation of a Jewish homeland in 1948 to a key partnership based on common economic interests, common security interests, and most of all, common values. We must continue to cultivate this relationship.

For the last 60 years, Israel has also been a leader in technology and innovation as they have helped lead the way in science, technology, medical, and agricultural breakthroughs. I applaud Israel for these efforts.